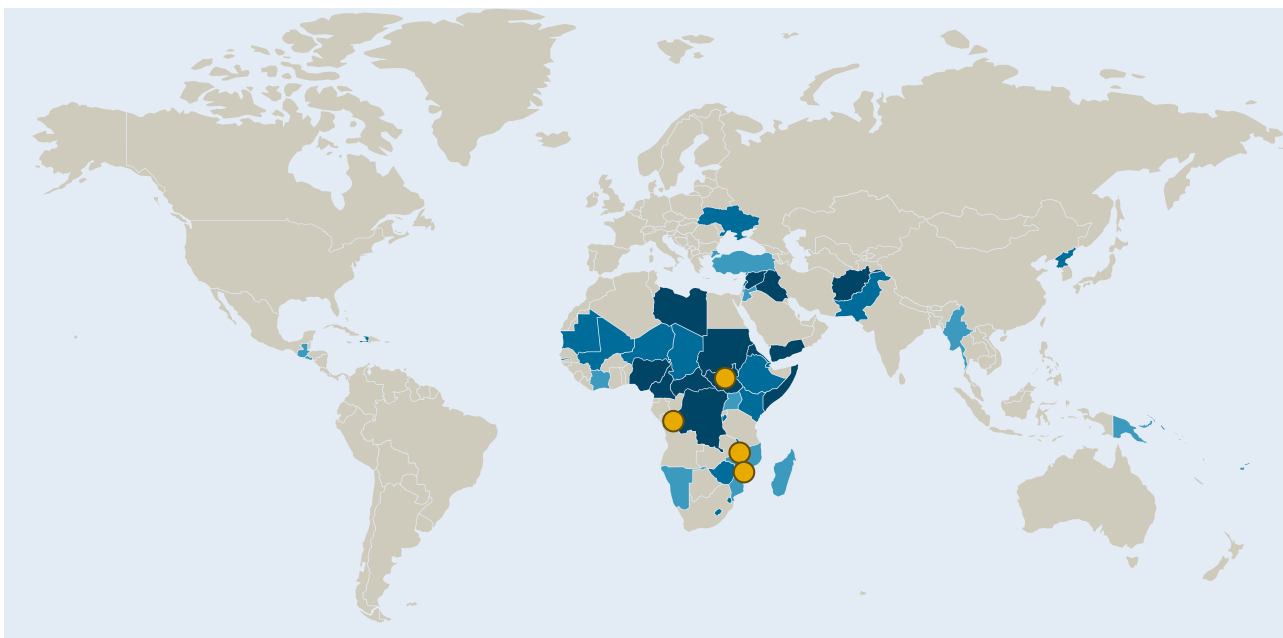




GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

March 2016



Snapshot 2–8 March 2016

Malawi and Mozambique: Flooding and drought have led to the most severe food crisis Malawi has faced in a decade: 2.8 million people face acute food insecurity, including 900,000 facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. In Mozambique, an estimated 600,000 people are in Crisis due to drought. In addition, 9,300 Mozambicans in Malawi who fled armed conflict need WASH, health and shelter assistance.

DRC: On 2 March, armed men abducted three humanitarian workers in Lubero, Nord-Kivu. Several organisations have suspended activities in the area. In Rutshuru, intercommunal tensions also led to the suspension of activities. Attacks on humanitarian organisations increased by almost 20% between 2014 and 2015.

South Sudan: In Pibor, Jonglei, 2,000 have people fled to the UN base while thousands more have fled to the bush, after fighting between government forces and armed youth at the end of February. Five humanitarian facilities were looted and markets in the town were burned. Urgent health and WASH needs are reported.

Updated: 08/03/2016. Next update: 15/03/2016.

Severe humanitarian crisis

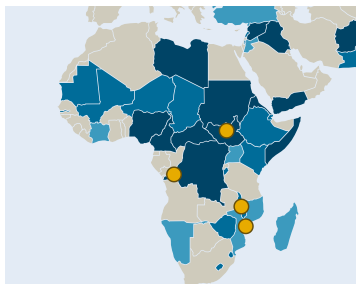
Afghanistan	Nigeria
Cameroon	Somalia
CAR	● South Sudan
● DRC	Sudan
Eritrea	Syria
Iraq	Yemen
Libya	

Humanitarian crisis

Burundi	Lesotho
Chad	● Malawi
Colombia	Mali
DPRK	Mauritania
Djibouti	Niger
Ethiopia	oPt
Gambia	Pakistan
Haiti	Swaziland
Kenya	Ukraine
Lebanon	Zimbabwe

Situation of concern

Côte d'Ivoire	● Mozambique
El Salvador	Myanmar
Fiji	Namibia
Guatemala	PNG
Jordan	Turkey
Madagascar	Uganda



AFRICA

CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 08/03/2016. Last update: 29/02/2016.

KEY FIGURES

- 2.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 1.5 million of whom are in the Far North (OCHA 12/2015).
- 158,300 IDPs, mostly displaced by Boko Haram attacks in Far North region (IOM 27/11/2015).
- At least 341,434 refugees (UNHCR 21/01; UNHCR 01/02).
- 2.4 million people are reported to be food insecure; around 250,000 are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or 4) (OCHA 12/2015; 24/09/2015).
- 250,000 children are malnourished (OCHA 12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Almost 1 million people are in need of protection assistance, predominantly in the Far North. 60% are children (OCHA 31/12/2015).
- Food security, due to structural vulnerabilities exacerbated by population movements and general insecurity (OCHA 07/12/2015).
- Nutrition: more than 67,000 children under five were severely malnourished in 2015 (OCHA 07/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Conflict in both Nigeria and CAR continues to displace vulnerable refugees to Cameroon. The Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria is also spilling over and causing insecurity and internal displacement in the Far North region – 1,200 people have been killed by BH in the Far North since 2013. Some 2.9 million people, 10% of the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in Far North, Adamaoua and East regions.

Politics and security

The armed Islamist group Boko Haram (BH), based in Nigeria, began to intensify attacks in Cameroon in December 2014, focusing on the Far North region (ECHO 06/01/2015). The departments of Logone-et-Chari and Mayo-Sava are most affected (OCHA 31/12/2015). Since the start of 2016, the Far North region has been hit by more than 30 suicide attacks (UNHCR 25/02/2016). In January 2016, explosive violence killed at least 128 civilians (Action on Armed Violence 12/02/2016). In December 2015, 23 people were killed in seven BH-related incidents (ACLED 02/02/2016). In 2015 more than 1,300 people were killed in more than 30 BH-related incidents (ACLED 05/02/2016).

The hunt for food appears to be part of what is pushing Boko Haram deeper into Cameroon. By early February 2016, since January 2015, Boko Haram was estimated to have stolen at least 4,200 cattle in Cameroon and killed an unknown number, four times more than in 2014. BH has repeatedly taken hostages and forced them to raid cattle from other villages. In early January, BH members stole livestock and kidnapped six people to help lead the animals back into Nigeria (New York Times 04/03/2016, VoA 18/01/2016).

A military campaign by Cameroonian and Nigerian troops has pushed BH fighters out of villages: throughout the region, entire villages have emptied and markets shut down (New York Times 04/03/2016). National authorities have prohibited public gatherings in Far North region (UNICEF 21/10/2015). The government denies BH

holds any territory in Cameroon (Reuters 11/12/2015). Nevertheless, in mid-December, the government was reportedly urging men to join self-defence groups in the northern areas affected by BH. The same reports suggest the government has made provisions in its 2016 budget to support these groups (VOA 15/12/2015). Vigilante groups established by the authorities have foiled BH attacks, but have also reportedly committed exactions against minorities (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

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. Although Boko Haram's insurgency started in Nigeria, during 2015 cross-border attacks became more common, transforming the group into a regional security threat. Despite Boko Haram being significantly weakened by joint military operations, it continues to target civilians in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. While offensives during early 2015 drove Boko Haram out of many previously occupied territories, ongoing sporadic atrocities and the destruction of remote villages demonstrate the group's resilience and enduring threat (R2P Monitor 20/01/2016). Precise numbers are not known, but BH's strength is estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty 13/04/2015). Senior BH militants have originated from Cameroon (DIIS 05/01/2016). As of 16 September, between 3,000 and 4,000 Cameroonians were estimated to have joined the group (Amnesty International 16/09/2015).

Cameroonian Armed Forces

8,500 troops are deployed in the Far North (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). There are reports that suggest the government has made provisions in its 2016 budget to support self-defence groups in the north (VOA 15/12/2015).

On January 26 2016, Nigerian civilians claimed the Cameroonian troops killed at least 40 civilians around Gwadale border, in Northeast Nigeria. Since November 2015, the Cameroonian troops have been accused of killing Nigerian civilians in cross-border pursuit of Boko Haram. The Cameroon government has denied these claims. (US News, 26/01/2016; Associated Press, 30/01/2016).

Multinational Joint Task Force

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has 8,700 military and civilian personnel,

including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (BBC 03/03/2015). The scope and remit of the force remains unclear (AFP 11/06/2015; 25/04/2015; 20/03/2015). Military forces from Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria began joint operations in January. Benin and Chad are still deploying troops (UNSC 22/12/2015). In September France said it would provide intelligence and equipment to the MNJTF (R2P Monitor 20/01/2016).

United States

On 24 September the United States announced it would supply \$45 million in defence services, including military training, to support Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, in their efforts to defeat Boko Haram (R2P Monitor 20/01/2016). In October 2015, the United States announced plans to deploy 300 soldiers to Cameroon to conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations to help counter Boko Haram violence. The goal is to set up a drone base in Cameroon (International Media 14/10/2015, 15/10/2015). The US is also supplying equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military (VoA 12/12/2014; Reuters 17/02/2015).

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).

Recent incidents

On 19 February, two suicide bombers killed at least 24 people and injured 112 others in a market in Meme, northern Cameroon (Reuters 19/02/2016). On 13 February, 13 civilians were killed in a Boko Haram attack at Toumboum-Kare in the Far North (Afrique sur 7 13/02/2016). On 10 February, at least six civilians were killed and over 30 injured in a double suicide attack during a funeral in Nguetchewe village, Far North (AFP 10/02/2016). On 2 February, five women were kidnapped by Boko Haram in Tolkomari, in the Far North (Journal du Cameroun 02/02/2016). The same day, two civilians were killed, another was injured, and some cattle were stolen by BH in Mayo Moskota, Far North. (Camer 10/02/2016). These follow four separate suicide attacks in the Far North in January, in Kerawa, Bodo, Nguetchewe, and Kouyape, that killed at least 52 people and injured 91 (AFP 28/01; Le Point 26/01/2016; AFP 18/01/2016; Reuters 13/01/2016; AFP 13/01/2016).

During November and December 2015, an increase in suicide attacks resulted in the deaths of at least 56 civilians (UNHCR 17/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Displacement

Cameroon hosts 158,300 IDPs, over 341,434 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Central

African Republic, and 30,000 returnees (UNHCR 21/01/2016; UNHCR 01/02/2016; IOM 27/11/2015). 35,000 Nigerian refugees are expected to arrive in 2016 (UNHCR 07/12/2015).

IDPs

158,000 IDPs are in Cameroon as of 19 November 2015. 87% have been displaced by Boko Haram-related violence, and 13% by flooding and other natural disasters. 49% were displaced in 2015. The main movements have been within the Far North. An estimated 84% live in host communities, and the rest live in spontaneous settlements.

In total, 553,000 people were hosting refugees and/or IDPs in December 2015 (OCHA 31/12/2015). Logone-et-Chari hosts the most IDPs (91,930), Mayo-Danay 26,670, Mayo-Sava 18,094, and Mayo-Tsanaga 18,020. Some villages empty at nightfall, as residents flee to the bush in fear of BH attacks (IOM 27/11/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 30 September, 341,000 registered refugees were reported in Cameroon (UNHCR 21/01/2016; UNHCR 01/02/2016).

Central African Republic

Cameroon is currently the country with the highest number of Central African refugees (OCHA 31/12/2015). 267,148 refugees from CAR are reported as of 31 January (UNHCR 31/01/2016). The majority are in the East and Adamaoua regions and need lifesaving assistance (UNHCR 21/01/2016; UNICEF 30/10/2015). Over 138,000 have arrived since December 2013, most of them Muslim Peul (Fulani) (UNHCR 29/01/2016). Many refugees have not been registered (UNHCR 13/10/2015).

More than 70,000 CAR refugees live in seven camps near the CAR border: 12,540 in Borgop, 12,063 in Lolo, 11,344 in Mbile, and the rest in Ngam and Timangolo camps (UNHCR 29/01/2016). The rest are scattered among host communities (IRIN 14/09/2015; UNHCR 31/10/2015, 01/11/2015). The Cameroonian government has reportedly arrested CAR refugees, put them in camps, and instructed families not to host CAR refugees, on the grounds that some have been involved in kidnappings and cattle theft (VOA 13/08/2015). Longer-term refugees had been making progress in building their own livelihoods, but this has stalled since the influx of new refugees. (OCHA 31/12/2015).

Nigeria

As of 5 March, 72,168 Nigerian refugees are registered in Cameroon. More than 3100 refugees entered the country between January and March 2016 (UNHCR 05/03/2016). Since July 2014, more than 60,000 have entered the country (UNHCR 24/01/2016). 15,000 live in host communities (UNHCR 07/12/2015).

Minawao refugee camp (Mayo-Tsanaga), with a planned capacity for only 15,000, as of 5 March hosts 56,316 people, around 70% of the total Nigerian refugee population (UNCHR 05/03/2016). All the refugees are registered upon arrival and do not have access to employment in local communities for security reasons (OCHA 31/12/2015). Approximately 63% of camp residents are under 18, and 53% are female (UNHCR 07/12/2015). Insufficient policing and lack of psychosocial support are reported (UNHCR 30/09/2015). **On 29 February, the Nigerian government announced that plans have been finalised to repatriate all the Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp (News Ghana 01/03/2016).**

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access challenges related to security are mainly in the Far North region and to a lesser extent in some areas in the eastern region (OCHA 31/12/2015). The limited number of humanitarian actors and the insecurity in the Far North has made humanitarian intervention almost impossible (OCHA 31/12/2015; UNICEF 30/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Security constraints have made access to vulnerable populations in the Far North and in areas close to the border with the Central African Republic extremely difficult (OCHA 10/04/2015; UNICEF 26/01/2016). Bad road conditions also delay the provision of assistance (USAID 21/08/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

The number of food-insecure people has more than doubled since June 2015, to reach a total of 2.4 million. Around 250,000 are in severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or 4). 58% of the food insecure are children. The most affected areas are the East, Adamaoua, and the Far North. The situation in the Far North may deteriorate during 2016 due to the impact of the conflict and El Niño-related drought forecast (OCHA 31/12/2015).

In the Far North, the number of people in need of immediate food assistance has quadrupled since June 2015 (OCHA 27/01/2016). In the Far North, food insecurity has spiked to affect one in three people (UN 14/09/2015; WFP 14/10/2015; OCHA 31/12/2015). In the border departments of Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava, and Mayo-Tsanaga, where there is a big concentration of refugees from Nigeria, food insecurity has increased from 23% to 38% (WFP 05/02/2016). At least 17% of the food insecure are IDPs and refugees and at least 550,000 are from the host population (OCHA 31/12/2015).

1.4 million people are food insecure in the areas most affected by the weather conditions caused by the El Niño (OCHA 31/12/2015).

Food availability

The government estimates that 2015 cereal production in the Far North was more than 50% lower than in 2014 and more than 75% lower than in 2013 (OCHA 31/12/2015). In Logone-et-Chari department, the cereal deficit is about 50 billion metric tons. Since January 2016, cereal prices have increased by 10-15% compared to 2015, because of reduced supply (WFP 05/02/2016)

Livelihoods

According to an assessment conducted by WFP, security constraints are limiting land access for over 60% of farmers in North and Far North regions (FAO 27/10/2015). In addition, 4,200 cattle were stolen by BH in 2015, compared to around 1,200 in 2014 (VoA 18/01/2016).

Refugees in Minawao camp have limited opportunities to engage in income-generating activities. Approximately 25% of the refugee population were farmers in Nigeria, but access to land around the camp is very limited (UNHCR 07/12/2015).

Health

1.1 million people will be in need of health services during 2016, 20% more than in 2015. 5% (41,200) of the female population and 20% (164,800) of children are in need of health services such as perinatal health and vaccination. At the end of 2015, 6,293 people were vulnerable to cholera and 482,200 to measles because of poor sanitary conditions (OCHA 31/12/2015).

In refugee camps, 12 boreholes, 1,692 latrines and 2,739 additional showers remain to be built to meet the needs in all sites. Construction of 305 boreholes and 828 latrines in host villages is still needed (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Healthcare availability and access

Insecurity in the Far North is disrupting access to health services for 366,200 people, as at least 25 health facilities have closed (OCHA 31/12/2015; OCHA 21/10/2015). Cameroon's Far North, North, Adamaoua, 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). Funding shortages are preventing health assistance (WHO 01/11/2015).

Nutrition

More than 430,000 people, most of them children under five, are projected to be vulnerable to malnutrition. 258,000 children are expected to be acutely malnourished in the country in 2016, a 25% increase in comparison to 2015 (OCHA 31/12/2015).

228,000 people were estimated to be acutely malnourished in 2015, including 195,000, in the priority regions of Far North, North, Adamaoua, and East. Some 33,000 are refugees (OCHA 05/09/2015).

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceed 13% in Cameroon (WFP 11/01/2016). Estimates of acute malnutrition in the Far North and Adamaoua regions have drastically increased, as 2.2% of the children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (UNICEF and Government of Cameroon 17/11/2015). At 30 September, around 69,865 children were reported with SAM in 2015 (UNICEF 21/10/2015).

WASH

1 million people are expected to be in need of WASH during 2016. 40% are refugees and IDPs (OCHA 31/12/2016).

In the Far North and the East, access to safe water is at 53% to 70% and access to basic sanitation ranges from 22% to 64%. Access to WASH in refugee camps hosting CAR refugees is on average 18 litres of drinking water per person per day, and 20 people per latrine. In camps hosting Nigerian refugees, this is less than 15 l/p/d and 20 people per latrine (OCHA 31/12/2016).

Water

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).

During the November–February dry season, as the Mayo Louti River dries up, supplying safe drinking water to Minawao camp and the surrounding communities requires seven water truck deliveries per day. A 27km pipeline and distribution network is planned (USAID 22/12/2015; UNHCR 17/12/2015).

Sanitation

In Minawao and Gawar camps, 375 new latrines are needed due to new arrivals (UNHCR 08/11/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Almost 1 million people are estimated to be in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA 31/12/2015).

IDPs families are renting rooms or living in the same property as their hosts (IOM 27/11/2015). The limited capacity of Minawao camp does not provide adequate shelter and NFIs for the average 100 to 200 new arrivals per week (UNHCR 07/12/2015).

Education

327,000 children are estimated to be in need of education in the East, Adamaoua, and the Far North. Around 200,000 are refugee and displaced children (OCHA 31/12/2015).

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 school attendance (UNHCR 24/09/2015; OCHA 24/09/2015).

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

Protection

Almost 1 million people are in need of protection assistance, predominantly in the Far North. 60% of them, more than 500,000, are children (OCHA 31/12/2015). Significant protection concerns have been raised over the circumstances of return of Nigerian refugees from Cameroon and mistreatment by allied security forces in Cameroon (UNHCR 05/11/2015). **Distrust of Nigerian refugees, IDPs and communities ethnically affiliated to Boko Haram supporters has led to inter-communal clashes (Wall Street Journal, 18/02/2016).**

Forced returns

The attacks in the Far North region have created an environment of suspicion towards Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR 30/09/2015). Cameroon decided in mid-2015 to increase deportations of undocumented migrants, leading to a surge in registration (USAID 21/08/2015). More than 20,000 Nigerian refugees have been forcibly returned to Nigeria (OCHA 31/12/2015). 12,000 Nigerian refugees are expected to be repatriated from Cameroon (local news 10/01/2016). Nigerian refugees are being forced to leave behind their belongings when returning from Cameroon (International Peace Institute 20/01/2016).

Arbitrary detention

Since 2014, at least 1,300 people suspected to have links with BH have been detained. Most of those in custody are teenage boys and men. Overcrowding has led to poor conditions (IRIN 06/01/2016).

The whereabouts of 130 people arrested on 27 December 2014 in the villages of Magdeme and Doublé, are unknown. At least eight people, including a child, were killed during the

operation, more than 70 buildings were burned down, and many possessions were stolen or destroyed. 25 people died in custody (Amnesty International 26/12/2015).

Gender

Almost 700,000 people are estimated to be in need of protection against gender-based violence (GBV), 11% of them are children. 6.2% of displaced women have reported sexual violence against them and 66% are victims of psychological or verbal violence (OCHA 31/12/2015). Boko Haram is using women and girls to carry out suicide attacks (UNHCR 07/12/2015). **As a result, women and girls are subjected to stigmatisation, which has led to an increased social acceptance of sexual and gender-based violence and harmful cultural practices, including early and forced marriage (UNHCR 29/02/2016).**

Children

Approximately 1,500 children have been abducted by Boko Haram in Cameroon since late 2014 (AFP 04/06/2015). Children in particular in the Far North are under serious protection threats, including family separation, exploitation, abuse, underage marriage, arbitrary detention, and abduction (UNICEF 27/01/2016; OCHA 31/12/2016).

As of the end of December, 2,242 children are separated or unaccompanied. 35 Nigerian and CAR refugee separated or unaccompanied children are in detention, without any support or legal system in place for their protection. Many separated or unaccompanied children lack documentation (OCHA 31/12/2015).

In July 2015, families hosting IDPs and facing food shortages were reportedly using children to find food, exposing the children to dangers such as sexual exploitation and abuse (UN Human Rights Council 29/09/2015).

Updated: 08/03/2016

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY



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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 March: 12 people were killed in a series of attacks on villages surrounding Bambari, Ouaka. The attacks are thought to be related to tensions between pastoralists and farmers (Reuters)

29 February: The number of IDPs decreased by 4% in January to 435,000 as people

gradually begin to return to their homes (OCHA).

29 February: 2.1 million people are estimated to be moderately food insecure, including 600,000 severely food insecure. IDPs staying with host families in the west and centre of the country are particularly affected (OCHA, FEWSNET).

KEY FIGURES

- 2.3 million people in immediate need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 29/02/2016).
- 2.1 million people are food insecure and 600,000 are severely food insecure (FEWSNET 29/02/2016; WFP/FAO 29/02/2016).
- 435,000 IDPs, including 67,000 in Bangui (OCHA 29/02/2016).
- 454,840 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- The prefecture of Ouham, and the sub-prefectures of Mbres (Nana-Grebizi prefecture), Boda (Lobaye prefecture), Bambari (Ouaka prefecture) and Kouango (Ouaka prefecture) are thought to have the greatest humanitarian needs (OCHA 11/02/2016).
- Protection, particularly among the IDP population and enclaved Muslim communities.
- Humanitarian access is severely limited particularly outside Bangui, due to poor infrastructure, armed groups' control of the roads, and targeting of humanitarian actors.
- Food security is closely tied to displacement as farmers are unable to return home to harvest their crops

OVERVIEW

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. Protection, humanitarian access, and food security are priority needs, as continued violence, looting, and displacement cause further deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation across the country.

Politics and security

The security situation in Central African Republic remains highly volatile. In January, a surge in attacks by armed groups was reported in Haute-Kotto, Mbomou, and Haut-Mbomou provinces (OCHA 12/02/2016).

September 2015 saw the biggest surge in violence since October 2014: at least 79 people were killed and 512 injured (OCHA 16/10/2015). Despite multiple efforts at disarmament, many disparate armed groups continue to exist (OCHA 31/11/2015).

Elections

Presidential and legislative elections were held on 30 December (MINUSCA 31/12/2015). Voter turnout is estimated at 79% and no major incidents were reported (AP 07/01/2016; AU 02/01/2016; AFP 02/01/2016). On 25 January, the constitutional court ruled the results of the legislative election invalid due to electoral irregularities and rescheduled them 14 February to align with the presidential run-offs (Reuters 29/01/2016). The elections passed peacefully and voter turnout was 61% (AFP 14/02/2016; 21/02/2016). On 20 February, Faustin-Archange Touadera, Prime Minister under President François Bozizé, was declared winner of the presidential election, with 62.7% of the vote. The runner-up said he would not challenge the results (AFP 20/02/2016).

During the constitutional referendum in mid-December, approximately 90% of voters voted in favour of the new constitution (AFP 31/10/2015; 17/12/2015; UN News 18/12/2015). Violent clashes during voting in Bangui's PK-5 neighbourhood killed at least five people and wounded 20 others (AFP 14/12/2015). Incidents of intimidation were reported in other parts of the country and voter turnout was particularly low in Ndele, Birao, and Kaga Bandoro (AFP 13/12/2015).

Stakeholders

Ex-Seleka: Seleka was an alliance of parties based in the north of the country, created in 2012. It advanced south and took the capital in March 2013; Michel Djotodia took the presidency, and dissolved Seleka in late 2013. Many fighters remained active and were dubbed 'ex-Seleka'. Most moved out of the capital, but remained in control of much of central and northern CAR in 2014, with Bambari, Ouaka, reportedly becoming their headquarters. 17,114 fighters were confined to three military camps in Bangui (IRIN 17/09/2014). Conflict among Seleka factions, involving in particular the Front Démocratique du Peuple Centrafricain (FDPC), grew over 2015, weakening the alliance significantly (IRIN 12/01/2015; international media 30/09/2014; Enough 17/06/2015). The Popular Front for the Renaissance of Central Africa (FPRC) is considered to be among the most vocal of the Seleka factions, FPRC is based in Kaga Bandoro town in Nana-Grebizi prefecture and is thought to have 500–700 fighters (AFP 05/12/2015). Its leader Nourredine Adam has declared an autonomous state in the north (Reuters 16/12/2015).

Anti-balaka: Many members of the armed forces, the FACA, left to join the anti-balaka

(anti-machete) militias that formed to counter the Seleka in 2013. There are around 75,000 anti-balaka, though the numbers are contested (IRIN 12/01/2015).

LRA: The Lord's Resistance Army, a faction of Ugandan insurgents, is active in eastern CAR (Stratfor 26/08/2015; LRA Crisis Tracker 22/09/2015). **A surge in LRA activity has been reported in the beginning of 2016, with LRA forces abducting 217 people** and committing at least 16 attacks (**Invisible Children 03/03/2016**; OCHA 29/01/2016; Invisible Children 21/01/2016; 30/09/2016). There have been reports of large groups of armed LRA insurgents crossing into eastern CAR from South Sudan in January 2016 (UNICEF 31/01/2016). A senior LRA commander was captured in Mbangana in the northeast on 6 February (AFP 11/02/2016). In 2015, LRA was responsible for 103 abductions in CAR, the lowest level of violent LRA activity in CAR since 2011.

Interim government: A transitional government was installed in January 2014 and is set to step down on 31 March following the swearing in of the new president on 30 March (DW 16/02/2016).

UN peacekeeping mission (MINUSCA): MINUSCA officially took over peacekeeping operations on 14 September 2014. MINUSCA took over from African Union forces (MISCA) backed by France, who were deployed in December 2013. 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 March 2015, the total number of peacekeepers to 13,000 uniformed personnel (Reuters 26/03/2015). 1,140 extra troops were sent to bolster security around the elections (AFP 10/11/2015). MINUSCA forces have been accused of sexual abuse, and deaths of civilians (UN 14/08/2015; Reuters, 12/08/2015; Aljazeera 11/08/2015). The head of the mission has been replaced, peacekeepers have been repatriated, and had their salary suspended (United Nations 11/09/2015). The unit from the Democratic Republic of Congo is being withdrawn following allegations of rape by DRC peacekeepers (Reuters 09/01/2015). New allegations of sexual abuse committed by members of units are currently being investigated (Reuters 09/01/2015; UN 11/11/2015; NYT 29/01/2016; AFP 18/02/2016).

French forces: The French peacekeeping operation was formally handed over to MINUSCA on 19 May (French Ministry of Defence 22/05/2015). Around 900 French soldiers remain in the country (Reuters 09/01/2015; AFP 05/12/2015). French officials say that they intend to draw their troops down to pre-crisis levels of around 300 by the end of 2016 (Reuters 31/01/2016).

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; R2P Monitor 20/01/2016).

US forces: The US is providing logistical support, special forces, and advisers to African troops operating against the LRA (WP 29/09/2015).

Conflict developments

Fighting persists between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka, Muslim and Christian communities, and pastoralists and farmers. December and January saw an increase in attacks on IDP camps. About a million cattle have been reported killed or stolen, and around 1,000 livestock farmers belonging to the Mbororo ethnic group have been killed by anti-balaka since the start of the current crisis in March 2013 (AFP 02/09/2015).

Bangui: Violence in the capital over 26–30 September left at least 79 people dead and injured 512 (OCHA 16/10/2015). Violence rose again in mid-October, with clashes between armed groups and communities. Dozens of people were killed and hundreds of homes burned (AFP 16/10/2015, 27/10/2015, 31/10/2015, 02/11/2015; OCHA 02/11/2015). Hospital sources counted 232 people injured between 29 October and 11 November 2015 (Health Cluster 12/11/2015). At least 100 people have been killed in the predominantly Muslim PK-5 neighbourhood since 25 September (HRW 26/11/2015). On 11 February local defence groups from the districts of PK5 and Boeig signed a non-aggression pact (UNDP 11/02/2016).

Mboutou: On 2 and 3 February armed groups raided the villages of Mabo and Balama, 40km west of Bangassou. In an attack on the town of Mabo, 20 people were taken hostage, 9 of whom were later released (OCHA 08/02/2016).

Nana-Grebizi: Two new armed groups have emerged between Bakala and Azene. On 3 and 4 February, militants from one of these groups killed two people at the Mbres health centre (OCHA 08/02/2016).

Ouaka: 12 people were reported dead on 6 March after a series of attacks on villages surrounding Bambari. The attacks are thought to be related to tension between pastoralists and farmers (Reuters 06/03/2016).

Ouham Pende: The presence of armed groups, particularly in the Paoua area has grown in 2016. An armed group has established a presence at Pougat, west of Paoua (OCHA 08/02/2016). On 4 January, a group of armed men set fire to houses in the villages of Ndjore and Bedere-Elevage (OCHA 15/01/2016). About 87 houses were set on fire, causing the majority of the populations to flee to Paoua and in the nearby bush (OCHA 29/01/2016).

LRA attacks

The LRA killed one person and abducted 30 during raids on a diamond mine near the village of Diya, about 600km east of Bangui from 9–10 January. Six of the abducted have been released (Reuters 12/01/2016).

On 22 January the LRA killed 30 people in an attack in Bagawa village (OCHA 29/01/2016). Also in January, LRA forces abducted 15 people in Tamboura village in Haute

Mboumou (Invisible Children 26/01/2016).

Displacement

Currently in CAR there are 435,000 IDPs, and 7,661 refugees. 454,840 CAR refugees are in neighbouring countries (OCHA 29/02/2016; UNHCR 29/02/2016).

IDPs

435,000 IDPs are estimated to be in CAR, about 55% of whom have been displaced within the last year (OCHA 29/02/2016; WFP 31/12/2015). The number of IDPs decreased by 4% during January due to returns in some parts of the country, including Ouham, where at least 1,500 people returned to their homes (OCHA 29/02/2016).

Priorities for IDPs include food security, healthcare, WASH, shelter, and basic household items (OCHA 31/08/2015). 53% of IDPs are thought to be with host families (FAO 14/01/2016). The host communities need shelter and NFI assistance (UNHCR 20/11/2015).

Bangui: As of 29 February, approximately 67,000 IDPs are in Bangui, up from 27,315 prior to the surge in violence in September (OCHA 29/02/2016; UN 27/09/2015). The displaced are spread across 36 sites (OCHA 16/10/2015).

Mpoko IDP site at the airport still hosts an estimated 19,000 IDPs, about 7,200 of whom were displaced at the end of September 2015, despite the government's intention to close the site (OCHA 27/11/2015; OCHA 01/10/2015). IDPs in other sites are also at risk of eviction.

Haute-Kotto: Recent attacks by LRA in eastern Haute-Kotto have displaced more than 3,000 people. The majority are staying with host families (OCHA 16/02/2016).

Ouaka: Renewed violence in Bambari since September 2015 displaced 30,000 people to a spontaneous site 12km from the town (UNHCR 20/11/2015). On 6 November, an attack on Awatche village, 25km from Bambari, caused 900 people to flee to a refugee camp for South Sudanese in Pladama Ouaka (UNHCR 13/11/2015). **An attack on the IDP site of Ngakobo on the night of 3 December killed an additional 8 people (OCHA 07/12/2015). According to local leaders at the site, approximately 2,850 people have arrived in Ngakobo since the beginning of November, the majority fleeing violence in the surrounding villages (ACTED 15/12/2015). On 13 December, about 536 households arrived in Maloum, the majority fleeing Sibut in Kemo prefecture in anticipation of attacks (OCHA 31/12/2015).**

372 inhabitants fled Mobu in the Mboutou sub-prefecture during a raid on the town in early February. Most fled to the bush, but some also fled to the towns of Bangassou and Loungouba, 17km away (OCHA 08/02/2016).

A fire at the Notre Dame des Victoires IDP site in Bambari on 22 January destroyed 156 shelters. A fire on 20 January at the S site destroyed seven huts. On 14 February, a fire destroyed 28 shelters at Cotonnerie site (OCHA 25/02/2016).

Ouham The presence of armed groups around the village of Kambakota on 6 and 7 January prompted the entire population of the village to flee to the bush (OCHA 15/01/2016). 3,800 people have since returned and are in urgent need of safe water, health services, and education (OCHA 03/02/2016).

Hot and dry conditions have led to a number of accidental fires at IDP camps. At Batangafo IDP camp, 493 shelters were destroyed at the beginning of February (OCHA 26/02/2016). At least five people were injured (MSF 12/02/2016; OCHA 08/02/2016). In Kaga-Bandoro, a fire on 2 February at the Catholic Mission site destroyed the shelters and belongings of over 1,069 households (OCHA 26/02/2016). **Another fire at the Catholic Mission site on 25 February destroyed 85 huts and damaged 75. 758 people are in need of shelter, and are living in schools and at the town hall (OCHA 01/03/2016).**

Ouham Pende: At least 710 people from the village of Pougol have fled to Paoua due to insecurity. An additional 6,000 displaced people are in Yelewa, 2,500 displaced people are estimated to be in Bocaranga subprefecture, 3,000 in Kouï, and 750 in villages along the road between Bocaranga and Bouar (OCHA 15/01/2016; OCHA 08/02/2016). 2,000 people fled Yelewa in January (UNICEF 31/01/2016). On 21 November, fighting in the towns of Bouzou and Sangre prompted the inhabitants to flee towards surrounding villages of Mokonzi-Wali, Yade, and Mbikamba (OCHA 07/12/2015).

Nana Grebizi: On 2 February 1,069 shelters were partially or totally destroyed by a fire at L'Eveche IDP camp in Kaga-Bandoro (OCHA 08/02/2016).

Nana Mambere: Clashes in Bouar have displaced 6,500 people since late November. IDPs are in urgent need of WASH and healthcare (OCHA 22/12/2015).

Bamingui-Bangoran: On 31 January, 400 people from the village of Gozamar moved in with host families in Ndele following clashes between pastoralists and farmers (OCHA 08/02/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 31 December, 7,661 refugees are hosted in CAR (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

CAR refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 29 February, 454,840 CAR refugees were reported in neighbouring countries: the majority in Cameroon, followed by DRC, Chad, and Congo (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is severely limited, particularly for people in enclaves such as PK-5 and in affected communities outside Bangui, due to armed groups' control of the roads and threats against humanitarian actors (UNHCR 31/12/2015; OCHA 20/10/2015). Truck drivers in Cameroon periodically refuse to transport food and humanitarian assistance into CAR during surges in violence (VoA 20/10/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

More than 200 attacks were perpetrated against humanitarian organisations in 2015 (OCHA 31/12/2015). Since the start of conflict in September 2013, 19 humanitarian workers have died in the course of their activities (OCHA 31/11/2015). Humanitarian organisations have been increasingly targeted since September 2015 (UNHCR 20/11/2015). 75 security incidents affecting humanitarian access were reported in January 2016, up from 53 in December, but lower than the 91 reported in November (OCHA 12/02/2016). The main causes of insecurity are conflict/armed groups (13%), attacks on aid workers and the population (43%), and looting (23%) (OCHA 15/01/2016). UN, NGOs, and private vehicles are regular targets on main roads (IOM 02/02/2015). Kidnapping of humanitarian workers is frequent (USAID 27/04/2015; OCHA 20/10/2015).

Physical and Security Constraints

Physical constraints on the roads limit access to many parts of the country, including east of Sibut and north of Kaga Bandoro (Logistics Cluster 11/02/2016). **Poor airstrip conditions also severely restrict humanitarian access, particularly in parts of the country where the delivery of aid by road is not possible during the rainy season, which lasts from April to Septmeber (Logistics Cluster 04/03/2016).** Severe damage to roads and bridges hinders access to the cities of Bangassou and Rafai in Mbomou prefecture, Mobaye (Basse-Kotto prefecture), and Zemio (Haut-Mbomou prefecture) (OCHA 12/02/2016). In the prefecture of Ombella-Mpoko, Yaloke sub-prefecture, roadblocks guarded by armed men prevent humanitarian access (OCHA 15/01/2016).

Many humanitarian actors have stopped delivering assistance to the estimated 19,000 people in Mpoko IDP camp on the outskirts of Bangui, due to security concerns (HRW 17/12/2015). Many humanitarian actors have stopped delivering assistance to the 19,000 people estimated to be staying in Mpoko IDP camp on the outskirts of Bangui, due to security concerns (HRW 17/12/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

As of December 2015, around 36,000 Muslims are trapped in seven besieged communities (UNHCR 31/12/2015; UNICEF 30/12/2015). Anti-balaka fighters regularly carry out attacks on these communities and prevent access to the distribution of medical supplies, food, and humanitarian aid (UNICEF 31/12/2015; OCHA 30/11/2015; ODI 20/11/2015; Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect 15/09/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

2.1 million people in CAR are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure (OCHA 29/02/2016). Of these, 600,000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure as of February, an increase of about 12% from the number of severely food insecure in 2014. IDPs staying with host families in the west and centre of the country are particularly affected (FEWSNET 29/02/2016). 26% of the residents of Bangui are food insecure, or 216,000 people, 33,000 of whom are severely food insecure. The highest rates of food insecurity are found in the prefectures of Nana-Mambere (77%) Haut-Mbomou (75%), Mambere-Kadei (73%), Ouham (69%), Vakaga (64%), and Nana-Grebizi (61%) (FAO 14/01/2016; WFP 31/12/2015).

Food access

Purchasing power shrank by one-third between 2012 and 2015, as prices for food staples have increased (FAO/WFP 01/03/2016).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods 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). 75% of Central Africans rely on agriculture for their food and income (FEWSNET 01/01/2016). **The country's overall crop production in 2015 was 54% below the pre-crisis average (FAO/WFP 01/03/2016). The livestock sector has also been devastated, with many cattle driven away or slaughtered (VOA 04/03/2016).**

Health

2.1 million people need access to health services (OCHA 31/11/2015). Malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, and physical trauma are the biggest health issues among displaced people and in host communities (WHO 20/11/2015). Thousands of people in enclaves or cut off from services by violence are not able to securely access healthcare facilities and depend on visits from mobile clinics (Reuters 24/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Nationwide, 23% of health centres are not functional and 80% of health services are provided by humanitarian actors (OCHA 31/11/2015). There are only 250 medical doctors in the country, which amounts to five for 100,000 inhabitants (WHO 20/11/2015). Logistical gaps in Bangui often hinder the timely transportation of injured people to hospitals (Health Cluster 12/11/2015).

Monkeypox

As of 5 February, 13 cases of monkeypox, an infectious viral disease, had been confirmed

in Mbomou prefecture (ICRC 19/02/2016). At least two deaths have been reported (Government 18/01/2016; ICRC 19/02/2016). Suspected patients are being quarantined (OCHA 29/01/2016; 18/01/2016). The national health authority declared an epidemic on 28 December (OCHA 29/01/2016).

Nutrition

200,000 people are in need of nutrition (OCHA 31/11/2015). In 2015, 23,489 children were admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition, in similar numbers to the previous year (UNICEF 31/12/2015). A SMART survey of enclaves and IDP sites in Kaga Bandoro, Bambari, and Batangafo indicated in 2015 that global acute malnutrition was approaching 9.2%, and SAM at 2.2% (UNICEF 08/09/2015).

WASH

1.4 million people are in need of WASH. Only 22% of the urban population and 34% of the rural population have access to safe drinking water. 94% of the rural population does not have access to latrines and WASH needs are most severe in the areas that are especially prone to conflict, including Bambari, Kaga-Bandoro, and Batangafo (OCHA 30/11/2015).

Assessments conducted in Bedaya 2, Bedogo 1, Bembo, and Bedam villages, in Ouham Pende, indicated that around 98% of the population practice open defecation. Only 5% of households have access to soap (Danish Refugee Council 06/08/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

600,000 people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA 31/11/2015). Shelter needs increased in the second half of 2015. Those displaced since the violence in September are in need of shelter (Shelter Cluster 31/12/2016; Reuters 29/09/2015). Over 40,000 houses are estimated to have been damaged or destroyed in Ouham, Nana Grebizi, Kemo, Ouaka, and Ombella Mpoko prefectures (Shelter Cluster 31/12/2105).

Shelter conditions are insufficient in most IDP sites. In Cotonniere, near Bambari, 79% of the 10,019 IDP households are in abandoned factory buildings and 21% 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.

The need for NFIs is particularly high in conflict areas (Solidarités International 01/09/2015; OCHA 31/11/2015).

Education

800,000 people are in need of education (OCHA 31/11/2015). There has been a 6.5% decline in the number of children enrolled in school from the 2011-2012 pre-crisis levels. In

total, less than one-third of children are enrolled (UNICEF 27/01/2016; OCHA 31/11/2015).

Since the start of the crisis in late 2012, 38% of schools in the country have been attacked or looted (UNICEF 12/02/2016). In Nana-Grebizi, 25% of schools are functional, 50% in Ouaka and 63% in Sangha-Mbaere (OCHA 31/11/2015).

Schools in Bangui's PK5 officially reopened for the first time in two years on 3 February (Finn Church Aid 02/02/2016).

Protection

2.35 million people are in need of protection (OCHA 31/11/2015). Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been reported. Protection concerns are highest in Ouham, Nana-Grebizi, Ouaka, Mambere-Kadei, Haute Kotto, Ouham Pende, and Haut-Mbomou (OCHA 30/11/2015).

36,000 people are estimated to be trapped in enclaves and unable to move around freely, including 26,000 in PK-5 in Bangui, 8,374 in Boda, 523 in Carnot, 229 in Yaloke, 1,200 in Bouar, 115 in Dekoa, and 425 in Berberati (UNHCR 31/12/2015; UNICEF 30/12/2015).

Ex-Seleka and anti-balaka groups are both listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence. The ex-Seleka are also listed for attacks on schools and/or hospitals (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 01/02/2015).

Gender

More than 60,000 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were registered by the UN Population Fund during the first ten months of 2015 (UNHCR 10/12/2015). 9,685 cases of gender-based violence were reported in October 2015, up from 6,396 in September 2015 (OCHA 30/11/2015). Rape of women in Mpoko IDP camp by anti-balaka, for carrying out business with Muslim traders, has been reported (VOA 16/01/2016; HRW 17/12/2015). There have been 42 allegations of sexual abuse or exploitation perpetrated by UN personnel in CAR since 2014 (Washington Post 27/02/2016). At least 10 allegations involve minors (AFP 11/09/2015; HRW 04/02/2016).

Female genital mutilation is estimated to affect 24% of women and girls between 15 and 49 (Protection Cluster 24/07/2015).

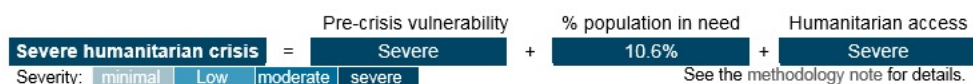
Children

At 2.4 million, children make up half of the population affected by crisis in CAR including food insecurity, protection, and access to basic services (UNICEF 31/12/2015). 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; UNICEF 12/02/2016). Between August and October 2015, 369 children were released from armed groups (UNICEF 30/11/2015).

The administrative weakness of the transitional authority has resulted in many citizens not being able to access important documents including identity documents, property deeds, and birth certificates (OCHA 30/11/2015). Refugee children who do not have access to birth certificates are at risk of statelessness (OCHA 28/05/2015).

Updated: 07/03/2016

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



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 March: Armed men abducted three staff of Save the Children in Lubero, Nord-Kivu, on 2 March. Several organisations suspended their activities in the area (ECHO; OCHA).

3 March: Cholera cases have tripled in the last two weeks in Kabondo Dianda, Bukama territory, Haut-Lomami. Access to safe drinking water and latrines is extremely limited, and recent flooding may exacerbate the situation (OCHA).

3 March: Over 120 schools have been destroyed by February flooding in Bukama territory, Haut-Lomami (OCHA).

29 February: 13 civilians were killed in Ntombi, in northeast Beni, by suspected ADF in the last week of February. The fighters looted a local health centre (AFP)..

KEY FIGURES

- 7.5 million people need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 07/12/2015).
- 1.5 million IDPs (OCHA 31/01/2016).
- 2.5 million children under five are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (WHO 27/09/2015).
- 7.3 million school-aged children are not attending school (Radio Okapi 13/01/2016).
- 6.5 million people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes (IPC 17/11/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security, particularly in Punia (Maniema), Nyunzu and Manono (Tanganyika), Irumu (Ituri), Beni and Walikale (Nord-Kivu) and Shabunda (Sud-Kivu).
- WASH in flooding-affected Tshopo, particularly in Isangi.
- Protection, especially in the conflict-affected border areas between Rutshuru, Walikale, and Lubero territories, Nord-Kivu.
- Health: cholera response in the health zones of Fizi (Sud-Kivu), Kipamba (Haut-Lomami), Ikela (Tshuapa), and Lubumbashi (Haut Katanga).

OVERVIEW

A complex emergency has persisted in DRC for more than 20 years. Conflict between foreign, self-defence, and other armed groups, mainly impacting the eastern provinces, has left the country in a state of prolonged, severe humanitarian crisis. Although the security situation has improved slightly since 2013, when FARDC defeated M23 in Nord-Kivu, humanitarian needs remain and conflict continues to cause displacement. Clashes between armed groups and the DRC armed forces (FARDC) are affecting populations mainly in Sud- and Nord-Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika, and Haut-Katanga provinces. Food security is a priority: the number of people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) rose by a half-million in 2015. Health is a priority due to recurrent measles, cholera, and malaria outbreaks, and protection concerns are high because of serious human rights violations perpetrated by armed groups and the FARDC in the eastern provinces. Access remains volatile in the east, and lack of infrastructure is a general problem across the country.

Politics and security

The ruling coalition is attempting to prolong President Kabila's time in office beyond November 2016, when his constitutional two-term limit is due to end. The government wants presidential polls to be delayed by two–four years, to enable necessary measures to be put in place (International Peace Institute 27/10/2015; Reuters 01/11/2015). In November, Kabila announced a 'national dialogue' would be set up to facilitate organisation of the elections. Opposition parties are refusing to participate (ICG 01/12/2015).

Decentralisation became official in July 2015 (The National Law Review 07/10/2015). It may cause tensions, particularly in the former Katanga province, where the new divisions mean that impoverished northern areas will not benefit from the redistribution of resources from southern areas. **Polls to elect governors for the newly created provinces will be**

held on 26 March (ICG 01/03/2016).

Rwanda and DRC began a new round of security talks in September 2015. The two countries have said they are committed to cooperating on the repatriation of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) combatants as well as former members of M23 (Africa Times 27/09/2015).

Stakeholders

At least 70 armed groups operate in eastern DRC. Groups usually number less than 200 soldiers and recruit largely along ethnic lines (Congo Research Group 25/11/2015). They range from local militias set up initially as self-defence groups (including the Mayi-Mayi) to secessionist groups, and forces first set up by fighters from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi. Armed groups' main interest is control of natural resources. Efforts to demobilise armed groups are ongoing (Radio Okapi 06/04/2015).

The armed forces of DRC (FARDC) comprise 120,000–130,000 fighters (Defence Web 2013).

Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF/NALU) is a militant group founded in the 1990s in Uganda. Their main interest in DRC is to make use of gold mining and logging to support their activities.

Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) are Hutu Rwandans allegedly linked to the 1994 genocide. An estimated 1,500 fighters are active, primarily in the Kivu regions (IBT 13/07/2015). Despite an FARDC offensive since January 2015, FDLR's positions in Nord- and Sud-Kivu have not weakened (Radio Okapi 28/10/2015).

Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI) was set up in November 2002 from among the Ngiti ethnic group to fight for the region's natural resources (TRAC 2015). Attacks increased in Irumu, Ituri, in 2015, after a failed disarmament programme at the end of 2014 (OCHA 19/04/2015). FARDC launched an offensive against the group in June 2015 (AFP 24/06/2015).

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was founded by Joseph Kony in Uganda in 1989 and spread to South Sudan, then to DRC and CAR (IBT 29/10/2015). **Attacks have decreased since August 2015. LRA is active in DRC mainly with the aim to loot and collect ivory tusks in the Garamba National Park (Save the Children 03/03/2016).**

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 in one group. They target civilians and UN peacekeeping forces for looting (AFP 2013; Irin 15/06/2010).

The Patriotic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (FPLC) has a few hundred combatants

and is active in Nord-Kivu (IBT 29/10/2015).

The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) is composed of over 19,000 troops, as well as military observers and police units (UN 29/12/2015). The initial mission, MONUC, was established after the 1999 peace agreement between DRC and five neighbouring countries. In March 2014 its mandate was expanded and an Intervention Brigade was created to fight against armed groups (RFI 20/10/2014). **In February 2016, MONUSCO resumed cooperation with FARDC, which had ceased for almost a year due to allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by FARDC. Their primary targets are ADF and FDLR (ICG 01/03/2016).**

Conflict developments

Despite ceasefire agreements following conflicts in the 1990s and 2000s, many armed groups continue to exist and fighting between them, and with FARDC, mainly in Ituri, Nord- and Sud-Kivu, Tanganyika, and Haut-Katanga.

Nord-Kivu

13 civilians were killed in Ntombi, northeast Beni territory, by suspected ADF in the last week of February. The fighters looted a local health centre (AFP 29/02/2016).

Clashes between the IDP and host community occurred in Nyanzale, Rutshuru, at the end of February. 40 houses have been burned and at least four people killed. The fighting broke out after an IDP was found dead (Radio Okapi 28/02/2016).

At the end of January, presumed FDLR kidnapped 50 families and burned down their homes in Bushalingwa, Ikobo, in the border area between Walikale and Lubero. The FDLR has been occupying the village since mid-October and has been fighting Mayi-Mayi groups since November 2015 (UNHCR 29/01/2016; Radio Okapi 27/01/2016).

Hutu–Nande conflict

Lubero territory: Ethnic violence between the Hutu and Nande is worsening. At least 21 people were killed and 40 wounded in clashes in Mukeberwa – a village held by Hutu FDLR – on 7 February. 17 were killed in Miriki on 7 January (AFP 08/01/2016; Radio Okapi 07/01/2016). Looting, abduction, and rape were reported. At least 70 houses were burned and an unconfirmed number of people displaced. Nande chiefs are opposing the return of displaced Hutus to the region. There is a risk of large-scale violence because both sides are supported by armed groups: Hutu by the FDLR and Nande by two Mayi Mayi: the Union of Patriots for the Defence of the Innocent (UPDI) and Nduma Defence for Congo (NDC) (AFP 08/02/2016; UNHCR 08/02/2016; Newsweek 09/02/2016).

Rutshuru: Tensions between Nande and Hutu communities are also being reported in Nyamilima, after eight Nande leaders were accused by the court in Goma of setting fire to

a Hutu leader's house in May 2015 (Radio Okapi 27/01/2016).

Sud-Kivu

Fighting between Mayi-Mayi and ex-Republican Federalist Forces (FRF) in Hauts-Plateaux, Uvira, has displaced over 10,000 people since January. FRF is a militia from Sud-Kivu allied with FDLR. Clashes between the police and Raia Mutomboki in Shabunda caused another 10,000 people to flee in mid-February (OCHA 17/02/2016; Irin 15/06/2010). On 25 December, FARDC launched an offensive against Raia Mutomboki, which has been occupying at least seven villages in Kalehe territory (Radio Okapi 07/01/2016).

MONUSCO has increased the number of troops along the border with Burundi due to the crossing of Burundian FLN fighters into DRC (UN 29/01/2016).

Tshopo

In Opala territory, clashes between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi groups have been ongoing since 31 January (Radio Okapi 05/02/2016).

Haut-Katanga

Clashes between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi in Mitwaba, Haut-Katanga, are reported since the beginning of January 2016 (Radio Okapi 09/02/2016).

Natural disasters

Floods

The rainy season, which began in October, has caused flooding in Tshopo, Maniema, Mongala, Haut-Lomami and Haut-Katanga provinces. 250,000 people have become homeless in Tshopo, more than 75,000 are staying in schools and host families in Isangi. More than 25,900 houses have been destroyed. 67 schools and 49 health centres have been badly damaged (OCHA 26/01/2016). 65,500 people lost shelter and harvest in Maniema, and another 55,000 in Bumba territory, Mongala (OCHA 08/01/2016; Radio Okapi 03/01/2016). Over 2,500 people in Luena, Bukama territory, Haut-Lomami have lost shelter or are staying in houses at risk of collapse (OCHA 04/02/2016). They are in need of health and WASH. Over 200 houses have been destroyed in Kashobwe, Haut-Katanga (Radio Okapi 13/02/2016).

Displacement

Displacement occurs repeatedly and almost daily, mainly due to armed attacks and inter-communal clashes, but also from natural disasters. At the end of December, 1.5 million IDPs were reported; less than half are in Nord-Kivu and the rest are mainly in Sud-Kivu, Maniema, and the former Katanga province. Returnees often find their houses have been looted or burned down (Congo Research Group 25/11/2015; OCHA 31/01/2016). Over 1.2

million IDPs live with host families (OCHA 27/10/2015).

DRC hosts nearly 250,000 refugees (OCHA 21/10/2015).

IDPs

Internal displacement can be short-term, but is frequent. From October to December, 114,000 people were newly displaced due to armed clashes and flooding – half the number displaced from July to September. Most newly displaced are in Nord-Kivu and Maniema. More than 82,000 returnees were registered October–December, the majority in Tanganyika and Haut-Katanga (OCHA 27/10/2015).

Nord-Kivu

Nord-Kivu hosts 675,000 IDPs as of December: 465,750 live with host families. The number of IDPs was 60,000 lower than in October (OCHA 12/02/2016). 190,000 IDPs live in 52 displacement sites coordinated by IOM and UNHCR. They come mainly from the border area between Masisi, Rutshuru, and Walikale territories (IOM 25/01/2015). 78,000 new IDPs were registered between December 2015 and January 2016 due to FDLR–Mayi-Mayi conflict (Radio Okapi 13/02/2016).

Lubero: 70,000–82,000 people from Walikale have fled to south Lubero territory since November 2015 due to clashes between FDLR and Mayi-Mayi groups (UNHCR 29/01/2016). They are mainly in need of food and health. They are staying with host families that are already overstretched. High tensions are reported between host and displaced communities (Radio Okapi 16/01/2016; OCHA 08/01/2016; ICRC 15/02/2016). Local authorities closed the IDP site in Mokoto on 12 January and 4,000 IDPs were expelled (WHO 20/01/2016).

Sud-Kivu

337,000 IDPs are in Sud-Kivu as of December. The vast majority lives with host families. 13,000 were displaced October–December in Kalehe (8,630) and Walungu (4,480) territories (OCHA 12/02/2016). 10,000 people were newly displaced in January–February due to clashes between Mayi-Mayi and ex-Republican Federalist Forces (FRF) in Hauts-Plateaux, Uvira. The place is accessible only by helicopter. In February, 12,700 people have fled to northern Shabunda due to imminent threat of attacks by Raia Mutomboki. **80% of the 10,000 people displaced in Kaligila, Kamangu, and Mintoko in Shabunda from mid-February, after clashes between police and Raia Mutomboki, have returned (OCHA 03/03/2016).** IDPs staying in Minova, Kalehe, for more than three years are in urgent need of food and health (Radio Okapi 18/02/2016).

Ituri

IDPs from Nord-Kivu staying between Komanda and Luna, Irumu, claim that there

has been discrimination favouring the local population in the distribution of international aid (Radio Okapi 28/01/2016).

Haut-Katanga

Haut-Katanga hosts 90,720 IDPs, 4,680 of whom were displaced over October–December in Mitwaba. An increased number of returnees arrived in Pweto and Mitwaba in October–December due to increased security: 25,850 in Mitwaba, and 19,000 in Pweto (OCHA 12/02/2016). Over 450 people have fled to Lumbwe, Lualaba, due to clashes between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi in Mitwaba. The majority are women and children. Major needs are shelter and health. Cases of severe malnutrition, malaria, and diarrhoea are reported among children (Radio Okapi 09/02/2016).

Tanganyika

Tanganyika hosts 166,000 IDPs. 74,000 returnees were registered October–December, mostly in Manono (25,583) and Kalemie (10,946) (OCHA 12/02/2016). Fighting between Luba and Twa displaced more than 100,000 people between 2014 and 2015. The majority live with host families (OCHA 14/01/2016). 40% of IDPs in Tanganyika face food insecurity (Food Security Cluster 31/01/2016).

Tshopo

At least 500 people have been displaced in Opala territory due to clashes between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi groups. Many are living in the forest without any humanitarian assistance (Radio Okapi 05/02/2016).

Maniema

Over 33,000 people were displaced in Maniema October–December, due to flooding and conflicts over land, most in Kindu (10,280), Lubutu (9,020) and Punia (7,360) (OCHA 12/02/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

DRC hosts nearly 250,000 refugees. 103,000 are in Nord-Kivu, over 90,000 in Sud-Ubangi, Nord-Ubangi, and Mongala, and Sud-Kivu hosts over 30,000 refugees (OCHA 21/10/2015). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities. New arrivals are registered mainly from CAR, Burundi, and South Sudan. 117,300 Rwandan refugees are in DRC (UNHCR 28/02/2015; UN 30/12/2014).

From CAR: 105,750 CAR refugees mostly in five camps established in Nord- and Sud-Ubangi and Bas-Uele (UNHCR 30/11/2015). In 2015, 10,000 arrivals were reported (OCHA 26/11/2015; WFP 09/12/2015). 36% of CAR refugee households face food insecurity (Food Security Cluster 31/01/2016).

At the beginning of December, anti-balaka militias crossed the border from CAR and attacked several villages hosting CAR refugees in Bosobolo territory, Sud-Ubangi (Radio Okapi 07/12/2015).

From Burundi: Over 21,180 Burundian refugees have arrived in DRC since April 2015, including 1,700 in 2016. Half are under 12 years old. The rate of arrival is low but steady, at 20 persons per day (UNHCR 28/12/2015). Priority needs are WASH and health. The majority are in Sud-Kivu, with **14,770 in Lusenda camp, Fizi territory (UNHCR 04/03/2016). The camp is hosting over 140,000 refugees, of which 83% face food insecurity** (Food Security Cluster, 31/01/2016, **UNHCR 28/12/2015; 04/03/2016**). Fighters from the Burundian National Forces of Liberation (FNL) have reportedly crossed to Uvira territory, Sud-Kivu. Their presence affects relations between the host community and Burundian refugees (WHO 20/01/2016).

From South Sudan: Nearly 7,000 people have arrived from South Sudan since mid-November including 4,160 refugees and 2,017 DRC returnees, in Dungu, Haut-Uele. 90% are women and children. Most stay with host families. They are in need of shelter, food, NFIs, and medical care. Very few humanitarian organisations are present in the province (UNHCR 07/12/2015; Radio Okapi 05/01/2016; OCHA 14/01/2016; WHO 20/01/2016).

DRC refugees in neighbouring countries

Some 495,000 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Congo, South Sudan, Angola, Zambia, and CAR. 5,455 refugees returned to DRC in 2015 (UNHCR, 30/11/2015). Over 33,600 refugees mainly from Nord-Kivu and Ituri crossed into Uganda during 2015, the majority women and children (EastAfrican 21/11/2015; UNHCR 27/01/2016). 1,009 DRC refugees crossed to Kenya in 2015 (UNHCR 04/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

Insecurity is a major constraint in the east, and accessibility changes according to conflict dynamics. Most security incidents and attacks against relief agencies' personnel and facilities occur in Nord-Kivu. Another major issue is the lack of infrastructure and bad road conditions across the country. Access worsens during the rainy season.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Attacks on humanitarian organisations in Nord-Kivu increased by 19% in 2015, 12 workers were abducted. On 2 March 2016, armed men abducted three staff of Save the Children in Lubero. Several organisations suspended their activities in the area. Intercommunal tensions in Rutshuru led to the suspension of activities of other humanitarian organisations (ECHO 04/03/2016; OCHA 04/03/2016).

Security and physical constraints

Roads are impassable due to rains or flooding across Ituri; between Bukama and Kamina, Bukama and Malemba Nkulu, and Malemba Nkulu and Manono in Haut-Lomami; between Mbuji-Mayi and Kabeya Kamuanga in Kasai Oriental; between Walikale and Masisi in Nord-Kivu; and between Kalemie and Nyunzu in Tanganyika (OCHA 31/12/2015; Logistics Cluster 10/02/2016; 04/02/2016 Radio Okapi 01/02/2016; 02/02/2016). Traffic between Kinshasa and Kananga has been disrupted due to a collapsed bridge on the Lukula River, Kasai-Oriental. The local population fears food prices will increase (Radio Okapi 18/01/2016). Over 10,000 IDPs and returnees are at risk of losing access to humanitarian assistance in Malemba Nkulu, Haut-Lomami, and Manono, Tanganyika, due to a severely damaged bridge in Mukoloji, Malemba Nkulu (OCHA 04/02/2016).

Armed group activity is constraining access in all five territories in Nord-Kivu, as well as on the road between Nyunzu, Mukembo and Kiambi in Tanganyika (OCHA 31/12/2016). Kidnappings of people for ransom between Mambasa, Biakato, and Bella in Ituri have been rising sharply since mid-2015. It may hamper the humanitarian access and affect the delivery of food assistance to 14,000 IDPs living in the area (OCHA 25/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

6.5 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes as a result of armed conflict and displacement (IPC 17/11/2015). Irumu (Ituri), Punia (Maniema), Shabunda (Sud-Kivu), Manono and Nyunzu (Tanganyika), and Beni and Walikale (Nord-Kivu) are all in Emergency. Some 1.05 million people are in Emergency, 500,000 more than in January 2015 (IPC 17/11/2015). In February 2016, an additional 188,600 people in Emergency have been identified in Bafwasende (58% of the population), Tshopo, and Mambasa (46% of the population), Ituri (OCHA 11/02/2016; Food Security Cluster 31/01/2016). Around 26,000 IDPs remain extremely vulnerable to food insecurity in Nord-Kivu due to limited access to agricultural lands (WFP 31/12/2015).

The refugee influx from Burundi has put pressure on the food security situation in Sud-Kivu. Decreased agricultural production in Zambia may increase prices of maize in DRC. As of December, food price inflation was at 3.3% (Food Security Cluster 31/01/2016). At least 6,250 people are at risk of food insecurity in Bisemulu, Kailo, and Meya, Pangi in Maniema because parasites have destroyed their crops. Kailo territory is already in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (OCHA 17/02/2016).

Food availability

Food and NFI prices have increased sharply in Masisi, Nord-Kivu, and Shabunda and Kindu, Sud-Kivu, due to bad road conditions (OCHA 21/12/2015; Radio Okapi 25/11/2015; 22/01/2016).

Food security in Punia and Lubutu territories, Maniema, could deteriorate as little

assistance is being provided. Both territories are already in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity (OCHA 08/01/2016).

Violence has negatively impacted agricultural output in the former Katanga region; 385,000 people cannot cultivate due to insecurity. Manono and Nyunzu in Tanganyika are most affected (OCHA 14/01/2016).

Health

A cholera outbreak is ongoing. A lack of health services is reported, mainly in the Kivus, the former Katanga, and Orientale provinces. Malaria, intestinal parasites, acute respiratory infections, and diarrhoea are the most frequent illnesses detected among the arrivals from Burundi (UNHCR 17/11/2015). Malaria remains a main cause of illness in all CAR refugee camps (UNHCR 31/01/2016). South Sudanese child refugees in Haut-Uele are suffering from respiratory infections and gastro-intestinal diseases (WHO 20/01/2016).

Healthcare availability and access

Tshopo: The general hospital in Ubundu lacks infrastructure, including radiography and echography services (Radio Okapi 31/01/2016).

Haut-Lomami: Lubao reports lack of medicines for tuberculosis. At least ten people have died in the last four months due to the lack of medicine (Radio Okapi 26/01/2016).

CAR refugee camps: Critical shortfalls of anti-malarial drugs are reported, especially in Inke camp. Essential drugs are lacking in Mboti camp (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Mental health

Mental health needs are high in Nord-Kivu with many patients displaying post-traumatic symptoms, but there is only one mental health centre in the province. There is a social stigma associated with mental health problems, and people seek traditional healers (Irin 05/01/2016).

Cholera

The epidemic is concentrated in eastern Haut-Lomami and Lualaba and western Haut-Katanga, and along the eastern border from Tanganyika to Ituri (UNICEF 25/01/2016). **67 suspected cases, including nine deaths (case fatality rate 13%) have been reported in Tshopo. Two thirds of the cases were reported in Basoko health zone, where October flooding completely destroyed health infrastructure (OCHA 25/02/2016).** Cholera outbreak has been declared in Katuba, Likasi, Kikula health zones (Haut-Katanga), Bukama (Haut-Lomami), Bunia (Ituri), and Fizi (Sud-Kivu). **Bunia is badly affected, with 201 cases, including seven deaths, between 18 January and 29 February (OCHA 25/02/2016).** The spread is mainly due to lack of safe drinking water. **Between 1 January**

and 21 February, 229 cholera cases, including 10 deaths, were reported in Kabondo Dianda, Bukama territory, Haut-Lomami. The cases have tripled in the last two weeks. Access to safe drinking water and latrines is extremely limited, and recent flooding could exacerbate the situation (OCHA 03/03/2016). All the big cities in the east report cases, including Bunia, Goma, Bukavu, Lubumbashi, Kalemie, and Kolwezi (WHO 17/11/2015; 20/01/2016; 07/02/2016; UNICEF 25/01/2016).

An increased number of cases in Likasi could aggravate the epidemic in Lubumbashi due to population movements between the two places (OCHA 04/02/2016). A high number of cases in Sud-Kivu is worrisome; the epidemic could spread quickly through the Burundian refugee camps (WHO 17/12/2015).

In January 2016, 1,738 cases, including 25 deaths, were reported, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.44% (WHO 07/02/2016). 21,584 cases of cholera, including 329 deaths, were recorded in 2015, with CFR 2% (WHO 20/01/2016). Maniema, Sud-Kivu, and Nord-Kivu accounted for two-thirds of cases (UNICEF 21/01/2016). The total number of cholera cases in 2015 surpassed that of 2014 (WHO 17/12/2015; OCHA 30/11/2015).

Diarrhoea

26 people have died of diarrhoea in Ikela health zone in Tshuapa since the beginning of January. More than 400 patients have been admitted for treatment. The local hospital is overstretched and lacks medicine, mainly rehydration salt (Radio Okapi 25/01/2015; 05/02/2016).

More than 190 cases of diarrhoea have been reported in Nundu health zone, Sud-Kivu. 75 cases come from Lusenda camp, where Burundian refugees are staying (WHO 20/01/2016).

Monkeypox

Monkeypox is similar to but milder than smallpox. CFR is 10% (CDC 2016). 51 new cases, including two deaths, of monkey pox were reported in Aketi territory, Bas-Uele, in the first week of February. The total number of cases reported in Bas-Uele has reached 195, including eight deaths, since the beginning of 2016. Lack of doctors is a major concern (Radio Okapi 10/02/2016).

Nutrition

As of September, 2.5 million children under five are severely malnourished (WHO 27/09/2015). Acute global malnutrition is at 8% (OCHA 07/12/2015). The situation has been static over recent years.

The nutritional situation is particularly serious in Komanda health zone (Ituri), where the global acute malnutrition rate (GAM) is 11.8%. In Mambasa (Ituri) GAM is 13.4%

and in Boma Mangbetu (Haut-Uele), GAM is 11.2% (OCHA 03/03/2016). In CAR refugee camps in Nord-Ubangi, severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is at 0.6% in Mole camp and 1% in Inke camp (OCHA 21/11/2015). In former Katanga, 100,000 children under five and 90,000 pregnant women experience severe malnutrition every year (OCHA 14/01/2016).

WASH

7.5 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA 31/12/2015). Only 22% of the overall population has access to drinking water (OCHA 07/12/2015). The situation is serious in Nord- and Sud-Kivu. 4.3 million people require WASH assistance in Nord-Kivu, nearly 80% of the population (OCHA 20/05/2015). In Isangi, Tshopo, a significant number of drinking water sources and sanitary infrastructures were destroyed by flooding in October 2015 (OCHA 03/02/2016).

Water

Only 22% of the population has access to drinking water (OCHA 07/12/2015). 42% of the population (1.9 million people) of Sud-Kivu does not have access to drinking water (OCHA, 13/10/2015; 21/11/2015). In Bunia, Ituri, the lack of access to safe drinking water is the main driver of the cholera epidemic (OCHA 11/02/2016). 40,000 people (more than half of the population) in Alunguli health zone, Maniema, do not have access to safe drinking water (OCHA 17/02/2016).

Sanitation

80% of the population (3.7 million people) of Sud-Kivu does not have access to toilets (OCHA 21/11/2015). 1,750 people have been staying in a temporary site in Ngoy Kitwa, Kambowe territory, Haut-Katanga, for one year, without any sanitation structures. Cases of diarrhoea and vomiting are reported (Radio Okapi 30/12/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Over 3.3 million people are in need of shelter. This figure has remained stable for the past three years. Returning IDPs often find their houses burned or destroyed (OCHA 31/12/2015). Host families that provide shelter and basic NFI to IDPs are often living in vulnerable conditions themselves. A major gap in response is the insufficient number of shelter actors with a capacity to respond quickly with materials other than plastic sheeting (Shelter Cluster 25/12/2015).

Raia Mutomboki attacked and burned over 100 houses in Bunyangungu, Sud-Kivu, on 1 March (Radio Okapi 02/03/2016). More than 35,000 people have lost shelter in Zongo, Sud-Ubangi, due to forest fires affecting the territory since mid-December. The fires have destroyed 233 houses and three schools. Over 2,600 hectares of crops have been lost. Assistance delivery is hampered by bad road conditions between Gemena and Zongo

(Radio Okapi 21/02/2016).

Shelter needs have risen since October due to flooding: **Over 42,400 people have lost shelter in Bukama territory, Haut-Lomami, in February. The displaced are staying in schools and churches (OCHA 03/03/2016).** In Tshopo, 250,000 people became homeless (OCHA 14/01/2016). More than 50,000 people are without shelter since flooding in March 2015 in Malemba Nkulu territory, Haut-Lomami (OCHA 14/01/2016). Some 200 houses have been destroyed by flooding in Kashobwe, Haut-Katanga (Radio Okapi 13/02/2016).

Education

More than 7 million children aged 5–17 (28% of the school-aged population) are not attending school. Half are 6–10 years old (Radio Okapi, 13/01/2016). This number has remained stable over the past years. More than 56,000 children between six and seven years old do not go to school in Mahagi, Ituri. The majority of them are working (Radio Okapi 26/01/2016).

Over 120 schools have been destroyed by flooding in Bukama territory, Haut-Lomami, in February (OCHA 03/03/2016). Schools between Yabale and Opala, Opala territory, Tshopo, have been closed because teachers fled clashes between FARDC and Mayi-Mayi groups (Radio Okapi 05/02/2016). Some 100 schools have been damaged by heavy rains in Malemba Nkulu territory, Haut-Lomami. Classes have been disrupted (Radio Okapi 02/02/2016). 400 children cannot attend classes in Miriki, Lubero, Nord-Kivu, since November 2015 because IDPs are living in the school (Radio Okapi 13/02/2016). Three schools have been damaged by rains in Bunia, Ituri (Radio Okapi 19/02/2016).

Protection

Military, militias, and other armed groups are accused of abuse of civilians, including arbitrary arrest, extortion, looting, child conscription, sexual violence, and executions. The majority of protection incidents occur in the former Katanga region and Nord and Sud Kivu (OCHA 14/10/2015). Over 32,800 protection incidents were registered in the country between October and December 2015. More than 4,500 were related to sexual violence, over 2,600 to child recruitment and almost 2,000 were caused by explosive remnants of war (OCHA 31/01/2016). Over 22,300 incidents occurred in the former Katanga in 2015. Most were related to property rights, including extortion and looting, and occurred mostly in Pweto (Haut-Katanga) and Manono (Tanganyika) territories. Most were attributed to FARDC. However, most perpetrators of sexual violence were reported to be civilians (UNHCR 30/11/2015). **Security incidents in Ituri and Bas- and Haut-Uele increased by 62% between January and February, from 973 to 2,603. Irumu and Mambasa territories reported nearly half of the incidents (OCHA 03/03/2016).**

Election-related human rights violations, including summary executions, death threats, arbitrary detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly were

reported between January and September 2015 (UN 08/12/2015). Two TV channels in Haut-Katanga were closed on 1 February for alleged non-payment of taxes. Both belong to the former governor of Katanga and opposition politician, Moise Katumbi (Reporters without Borders, 01/02/2016). Activists and political leaders speaking out against the President's attempt for a third term in office are being subjected to arbitrary arrest and prolonged incommunicado detention (Amnesty International 25/11/2015). 45 people were detained around 16 February in connection with a national strike to protest delays in organising presidential elections (HRW 23/02/2016; **UN 26/02/2016**). Another six members of youth movement Lutte pour le Changement (Lucha) were condemned to two years of prison because they had participated in the strike (AFP 24/02/2016).

Updated: 07/03/2016

ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 08/03/2016. Last update: 08/02/2016.

KEY FIGURES

- 1.5 million people, including 725,000 children under 18, are affected (UNICEF 26/01/2016).
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).
- 320,000 Eritrean refugees: most are living in Ethiopia and Sudan (OCHA 20/04/2015; UNHCR, 30/06/2015 01/12/2014).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access: The government severely restricts humanitarian access, hindering response. There has been an absence of international NGO partners since the end of 2011 and UN agencies are only allowed to carry out programs related to health and WASH (UNICEF 15/01/2015; OCHA).
- Protection: Torture, arbitrary detention, and indefinite national service are reported (UNHRC 04/06/2015).

-Food security: Satellite-based monitoring suggests that much of the country is affected by drought. The food security situation is compounded by farmers' routine absence during harvest periods for mandatory national service (OCHA 10/11/2015; Economist 10/03/2014).

OVERVIEW

The Eritrean state severely restricts the access of humanitarian actors inside the country. Therefore, very little is known about the humanitarian needs inside the country, however UNICEF estimates that 1.2 million people are in need. UN operations have been restricted to health, water supply and sanitation (OCHA). An average of 5,000 Eritreans per month are thought to flee the country (OHCHR 08/06/2015).

Politics and security

Eritrea is a one-party state governed by President Isaias Afwerk and his party People's Front for Democracy and Justice. No national elections have been held since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993. Eritrea signed a peace agreement with Ethiopia in 2001, but an ongoing state of hostility, characterised by the Eritrean regime as "no war, no peace" persists.

Military service is mandatory for all Eritreans. Since late 2014, government officials have asserted that mandatory service would be limited to 18 months. However, researchers have found no discernable change in practice to actual length of service, which asylum seekers report is indefinite (Amnesty 02/12/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of January 2016, there were 2,485 Somali refugees in Eritrea (UNHCR 03/02/2016).

Eritrean refugees in neighbouring countries

The entire Eritrean refugee population is estimated at more than 321,000 people (Guardian 21/04/2015). UN estimates that each month some 5,000 Eritreans, among them hundreds of unaccompanied minors, flee the country to escape government repression (OHCHR 08/06/2015). The majority of Eritrean asylum seekers cite mandatory indefinite military conscription as the primary reason for fleeing (Amnesty 02/12/2015). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority concern (UNHCR).

From January to December 2015, more than 39,000 Eritrean refugees sought refuge in

Europe, the vast majority arriving by boat across the Mediterranean (IOM 03/02/2016). Eritreans constitute the biggest group of migrants arriving in Italy by boat (IOM 10/10/2015).

Ethiopia: At the end of January, there were 152,605 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNHCR, 31/01/2016).

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 31 January, there were 1,635 Eritrean refugees in Kenya; the majority are in Nairobi (UNHCR, 31/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

Providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space (UNHRC 04/06/2015).

Food security

One million people in Eritrea are thought to be food insecure (OCHA 31/01/2016). According to satellite-based monitoring, there are significant soil moisture deficits in most eastern coastal areas, impacting food security and livelihoods (OCHA 10/11/2015). El Niño weather patterns are contributing to drought conditions (UN 07/01/2016). Since the government of Eritrea has not released data on food security for the year and restricts access, it is difficult to know the full impact and scope of the drought (NS 11/01/2016). However, FAO reports that the coastal areas of Foro, Gel'alo and Massawa have had almost no rain in June and July, and that rainfall throughout the country was 30-35% below average (FAO 29/01/2016). Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki has denied any food crisis and continues to reject UN food aid (AFP 23/01/2016).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets appear to be dysfunctional. Due to extensive mandatory 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.

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

Landmines and ERWs continue to have a serious impact on the population, including causing deaths, injuries and disabilities. More than 650,000 people currently live in areas contaminated by landmines and ERWs (UNICEF 26/01/2016). Humanitarian mine action programmes in the country have been scaled down because of limited access (UNICEF 15/01/2015).

Reviewed: 08/03/2016

LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

2 March: UNSMIL documented 66 civilian casualties in January and February, including 28 deaths and 38 injuries (UNSMIL).

KEY FIGURES

- 3.08 million people affected by conflict (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).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Protection: Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL 04/09/2014).
- Humanitarian access is a major concern (OCHA 01/10/2014).

OVERVIEW

An estimated three million people have been affected by conflict between various armed groups, 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 when the Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC) refused to step down for the newly elected House of Representatives (HoR) (WP 20/10/2015). Militias exert much control on the ground. UN-brokered peace talks between the rival parliaments have been ongoing since March 2015, effectively stalling at several points (AFP 06/03/2015; 11/03/2015). A renewed push by regional and international powers led to representatives of the GNC and the HoR signing a unity accord on 17 December in Morocco. However, leaders of both groups have denied the legitimacy of the signatories (AFP 08/01/2015). A national unity government of representatives from both the HoR and GNC announced it was being formed on 19 January, but six days later the HoR voted to reject it (AFP 19/01/2016; Reuters 25/01/2016). A revised cabinet was passed by the UN-backed council of rival Libyan factions was scheduled to be endorsed by the HoR, by 23 February, however, HoR members report being blocked from voting due to intimidation and threats, and the process has stalled (AFP 15/02/2016; BBC 15/02/2016; Daily Beast 22/02/2016; AFP 26/02/2016; UNSMIL 24/02/2016; Statfor 07/03/2016). The GNC dismissed 10 of its members, including its Vice President, for signing the January deal (AFP 02/02/2016).

A struggle over resources and a sharp drop in oil production have exacerbated the crisis (Financial Times 19/03/2015). Some areas, notably Sabratha 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). Islamic State (IS) has exploited the volatile security situation to establish a presence in Libya (AFP 26/01/2016 WSJ 26/01/2016).

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 Zawiyah 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 operates under the direct control of IS's central command (NYT 28/11/2015). IS's numbers in Libya are reportedly growing, as new recruits and seasoned militants from Syria and Iraq join their ranks, driven by greater opposition in (AFP 14/12/2015; Reuters 16/11/2015; IBT 19/10/2015). Recent intelligence estimates 6,500 fighters in Libya, up from previous estimates of 2,000–3,000 (CNN 04/02/2016). Several senior IS leaders are thought to have arrived from Syria in recent months to help build up the IS force in Libya (NYT 22/02/2016). IS, backed by local militias and militias from Misrata, reportedly seized control of Sirte in March, and is estimated to control 250km of coast near Sirte (NYT 28/11/2015; BBC 29/05/2015). On 14 November, a US military airstrike killed the group's leader in Libya (Guardian 14/11/2015). Since December, IS military action in Libya has concentrated on oil ports along the coast, to the east and west of Sirte (CSM 11/01/2016).

Abu Salim Martyrs 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 to help restore state institutions. In September, its mandate was extended until 15 March 2016, with a focus on supporting the political process towards the creation of the government of national unity (UNSC 11/09/2015).

International involvement

Egypt has supported the LNA and the Egyptian Air Force carried out airstrikes against IS in February 2015 in response to the beheading of 21 Coptic Christians from Egypt (Reuters 23/02/2015).

The governments of the United States, Italy, France, and UK are considering increased military action in Libya (NYT 22/02/2016). The US has conducted airstrikes on IS targets in Libya, including a strike on 19 February that killed 40 people and that was condemned by the HoR. US officials claim that they were acting with the consent of the interim government (AFP 21/02/2016; RT 21/02/2016). The European Union has said that it would only conduct military activities at the request of a "legitimate" Libyan government (AFP 21/02/2016). However some reports indicate that **Italian**, French, and UK special forces are operating on the ground (Telegraph 29/02/2016; Le Monde 24/02/2016; **Stratfor 07/03/2016**). **US and UK forces are thought to be supporting Misrata militants aligned with Libya Dawn, while French forces are supporting the LNA in Benghazi (Stratfor 07/03/3016)**.

Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria have reportedly tightened security at their borders with Libya in response to a possible international intervention and escalation of hostilities (Reuters 18/02/2016).

Conflict developments

2,700 deaths were reported in 2015 compared to 2,383 in 2014 (ACLED 16/01/2016; ACLED 15/01/2015). Civilians accounted for an estimated 75% of people injured or killed by explosives in the first half of 2015 (OCHA 23/09/2015). **UNSMIL documented 66 civilian casualties in January and March, including 28 deaths and 38 injuries (UNSMIL 02/03/2016)**.

Tripoli and Western Libya: Tripoli is largely under the control of Libya Dawn. In March, the LNA announced an assault to recapture Tripoli, but have not been successful (Reuters 23/03/2015). The intensity of violence has reportedly decreased as of early October (ACLED, 09/10/2015). A helicopter carrying Libya Dawn military officials was shot down on 27 October, killing at least 19 passengers (NYT 27/10/2015). The LNA both claimed and denied responsibility (Libya Herald 28/10/2015; ICG, 02/11/2015). After the attack, militias from Zawiyah city, which support Libya Dawn, fought militias from Washafana town (Reuters 27/10/2015). On 24 November, a car bomb east of Tripoli killed five GNC guards

and wounded 16 people. No group claimed responsibility (Reuters 24/11/2015). On 7 January, two suicide bombs targeting a police training school and a checkpoint in Ziltan, 170km east of Tripoli, killed 56 people and wounded 100 (AFP 07/01/2015). IS affiliate Tripoli Province has claimed responsibility for the attacks. IS also launched attacks on the oil ports of Es Sider and Ras Lanuf in the week of 4 January and took the nearby town of Bin Jawad, about 34km West of Es Sider (Daily Star 18/01/2016; WSJ 08/01/2015). On 19 February, US airstrikes targeting an IS training camp near the border with Tunisia killed about 40 militants and two Serbian civilians who had been IS hostages since November (CNN 20/02/2016; AFP 21/02/2016). **IS took control of the coastal city of Sabratha for four days in late February, until local police and militias forced them out (AFP 01/03/2016).** Police raids led to the capture of several militants; at least seven were killed (AP 20/02/2016). An unidentified aircraft is also reported to have struck a ship carrying IS militants and weapons off the coast near Sabratha (Libya Herald 22/02/2016). IS conducted an overnight raid in the city on 24 February, briefly taking over the security headquarters and killing 12 security officers and five others (Reuters 24/02/2016; ABC 24/02/2016). Airstrikes on a convoy suspected of carrying IS militants were reported near the town of Bani Walid on 28 February (Al Arabiya 28/02/2016).

Sirte: On 4 January, two guards were killed and an oil storage tank was set on fire in an IS attack on the Es Sider oil export terminal, in the district of Sirte (Reuters 04/01/2016).

Benghazi: IS entered Benghazi in mid-2015, 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, demonstrators protesting against the proposed peace deal were hit by a missile: 12 were killed and 39 injured (AFP 25/10/2015). 16 people were killed during heavy fighting between LNA and IS on 11 November (Reuters 11/11/2015). On 9 January, unidentified forces fired four rockets at two IDP camps. Three civilians were killed and seven were injured (HRW 24/01/2016). Fighting concentrated in the Boatni neighbourhood killed at least 14 people and wounded 32 (Reuters 20/02/2016). On 23 February, forces aligned with the LNA made significant gains in Benghazi, taking control of Lithi district, a key port, and cutting off a supply line for Islamist militant groups (ALJ 24/02/2016; BBC 23/02/2016).

Ajdabiya: Since September, IS has been conducting an offensive on the city of Ajdabiya which is strategically positioned in relation to key oil ports (Guardian 06/12/2015). Five Sudanese were killed and 15 others were injured in Libyan Air Force bombing over Ajdabiya at the end of December (Dabanga Sudan 28/12/2015). Clashes between armed residents and fighters of the Al Qaeda affiliate Ansar al Sharia killed eleven people and wounded dozens more on 16 December (The Daily Star 18/12/2015).

Derna: IS was pushed out of Derna in June by Abu Salim Martyr's Brigade and the LNA. IS maintains a presence in parts of the city and in August launched an offensive to

retake Derna (**Al Arabiya 21/12/2015**; Reuters 13/08/2015; ISS 02/10/2015). Clashes between IS and the Derna Shura Council (an al Qaeda-affiliated group) were reported on 15 February (Libya Observer 15/02/2016; Al Arabiya 16/02/2016). Abu Salim Martyr's Brigade and other militias continue to control the city, but clashes with IS fighters continue (AFP 16/11/2015). On 21 January, IS tried again to enter Derna but was repulsed by local militias. On 7 February an airstrike hit a hospital in Bab Tobruk district, killing four people. No claim of responsibility has been made (AFP 07/02/106; HRW 17/02/2016).

Southern Libya: Tebu and Tuareg tribes have been fighting since September 2014, particularly around Ubari, Sabha, and Kufra (OHCHR 16/11/2015). On 23 November, representatives of both tribes signed a peace deal brokered by Qatar that includes a ceasefire and withdrawal of armed forces from Ubari (Reuters 23/11/2015). However, reports indicate that the agreement has been breached and that clashes in Ubari continue (Middle East Monitor 30/11/2015).

Two armed groups from Darfur – the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) – reportedly attacked the town of Kufra on 4 February, clashing with the LNA. Leaders of both groups denied any presence in Libya (Africa 12/02/2016).

Economic crisis

The Libyan economy contracted 23% in 2014, and an additional 1.6% in 2015 (World Factbook). Oil production is down to 400,000 barrels a day, compared to 1.6 million before mid-2014 (Bloomberg 03/11/2015). The HoR seized the key oil-exporting port of Zueitina in early November and has threatened to cut off all oil exports if foreign companies do not start wiring payments to its Central Bank in Tobruk (Bloomberg, 03/11/2015; AP 04/11/2015).

Displacement

Libya hosts an estimated 685,000 displaced people, 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). According to data collection conducted by IOM, approximately 79% of internally displaced people have been displaced since mid-2014 (IOM 27/01/2016).

IDPs

435,000 people are estimated to be internally displaced, up from 63,985 in April 2014, before the political crisis began. 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).

Misrata: Militia groups are preventing an estimated 40,000 IDPs from Tawergha, Tomina, from returning to their places of origin. IDPs from these localities are targeted based on their perceived support of the former Gaddafi regime (HRW 01/02/2016; 20/03/2013).

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. About 120,000 tried to reach Europe from Libya in 2015, more than 3,000 of whom died in the journey (IOM 06/11/2016). 5,270 people arrived by sea in Italy in January 2016, 97% using Libya as their starting point. January 2015 saw 3,528 arrivals (IOM 31/01/2015). 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).

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. The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN 07/08/2014). Fuel shortages are further limiting access (OCHA 23/11/2015; AFP 19/05/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Indiscriminate fighting has led to movement restrictions. Since September 2014, conflict in

Ubari has blocked off the main road to Ghat, where a number of displaced people are staying (IRIN 02/12/2015). The Salloum border crossing between Libya and Egypt has been closed indefinitely (Libya Herald 21/01/2015). On 10 February, the coastal road between Misrata and Sirte was closed due to insecurity and the presence of IS (Libya Observer 09/02/2016).

WFP reports that it was unable to distribute food in October and November because of a protracted pipeline break. Local humanitarian organisations in parts of the country face sporadic electricity cuts that hinder their ability to communicate with international partners (WFP 31/12/2015).

On 7 February, Tunisia formally inaugurated a 200km barrier along its border with Libya, reaching south from the town of Ras Jedir (AP 06/02/2016; Time 07/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

1.28 million people are thought to be food insecure and 210,000 are in need of immediate food assistance (OCHA 16/02/2016). The prices of staples such as flour, rice, and sugar have tripled since May 2014, even quadrupling in some areas (OCHA 01/10/2015; 16/02/2016).

Food availability

Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, and there has been a substantial decline in food imports as foreign shippers fear making deliveries (Reuters 31/07/2015). The HoR has reported that it has 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). 600 displaced households in sites near Ubari in southern Libya face severe food shortages (IRIN 02/12/2015).

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). The health situation is worsening, with stock-outs of key lifesaving medicines expected by the end of March. The delivery of vaccines is also expected to drop, affecting more than 1 million children under the age of five (OCHA 16/02/2016).

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 (Reuters 24/02/2016). 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). Incidents of armed groups entering hospital premises and threats against medical personnel have been reported (OCHA 16/11/2015).

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; UNICEF 31/01/2016). 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).

Extended rainfall in Tripoli the weekend of 16 January has led to flooding in the Tawerghan refugee camp (Libya Herald 17/01/2016).

Shelter

An estimated 104,160 IDPs are in need of shelter support: 65,100 are residing in schools or other public spaces and 39,060 are in unfinished houses and apartments. An additional 200,000 people are estimated to be in need of NFIs (OCHA 01/10/2015).

Education

An estimated 150,000 children are in need of education (UNICEF 31/01/2016). Benghazi is particularly affected, with enrolment rates as low as 50%. **136 out of 286 schools in Benghazi (47.6%) need varying degrees of repair (UNICEF 31/01/2016).** Many 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, putting civilian populations at risk. 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 have reported movement restrictions (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). In the first half of 2015, IS 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

976,000 children are in need of protection services (UNICEF 31/01/2016). 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). Children as young as 14 are imprisoned alongside adults in GNC-controlled detention facilities (HRW 03/12/2015).

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). More than 9,000 people are thought to be detained in facilities operated by the government (OCHR 15/02/2016). The centres are reported to be overcrowded and lack adequate WASH facilities (HRW 03/12/2015; OCHA 16/11/2015). Access to medical care is either non-existent or inadequate (OCHA 16/11/2015).

Journalists and media professionals in Libya are subject to attack and threats (OCHA 16/11/2015). At least 31 attacks on journalists were reported in 2015 and five have been detained, held hostage, or disappeared (RSF 15/12/2015; 11/11/2015). Health workers are

also sometimes targeted due to perceived political allegiances based on who they treat (OCHA 16/11/2015). Five health workers were killed and 20 injured between August 2014 and January 2016 (WHO 28/01/2016).

Many women fear moving around unaccompanied (OCHA 23/11/2015 OCHR 15/02/2016).

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: 08/03/2016

NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

5 and 6 February: Dozens of people were reported killed during Nigerian military attacks on BH in Borno state (local news 03/07/2016).

3 March: New protests took place in several cities including Zaria, Kano, Kaduna, and Yola demanding the release of Zakzaky, leader of Islamic Movement of Nigeria (local news 04/03/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 7 million in need of humanitarian aid, including (OCHA 06/12/2015)

- 2.15 million IDPs (IOM 23/12/2015).

- 4.6 million people food insecure in the northeast (OCHA 08/06/2015; WFP 25/09/2015).

- 2.5 million in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA 11/01/2016).

- 1.6 million in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA 11/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Displacement: 84.5% of IDPs have been displaced due to BH.

- Food security: 4.6 million people in the northeast are food insecure, including 3.5 million severely (OCHA 08/06/2015; WFP 25/09/2015).

- Protection: Over 8,200 civilians died in BH-related incidents in 2015; 1,5 million women and girls are affected by gender-based violence (GBV) (OCHA 11/01/2016).

- WASH: 6.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA 11/01/2016).

OVERVIEW

Violence in the northeast has caused massive displacement while at the same time restricting movement: it has disrupted food supplies, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. In 2015, at least 8,852 people were killed in 454 BH-related incidents. The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; some 9.7 million people, including IDPs, are staying in the 34 areas worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education

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

Politics and security

Boko Haram's (BH) insurgency in the northeast began in 2008 but started gaining momentum in 2013, as BH seized territory and occupied towns and villages (Danish Institute for International Studies 05/01/2016). Since the end of 2014, the conflict has taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force to counter the insurgency (UNHCR 22/05/2015). In 2015, the military regained territory from BH, but the group has retained strongholds in areas that are hard to access, including the Sambisa forest, the Mandera mountains, and the Lake Chad islands (AFP 23/10/2015). Since President Buhari came to power in May, the military regained several towns from BH, and freed hostages

(AFP 19/09/2015; 22/09/2015; 24/09/2015; 28/10/2015). On 24 December 2015, President Buhari stated that Nigeria had technically won the war against BH militants (BBC 24/12/2015). However, BH attacks continue in Borno and Adamawa (ICG 04/01/2016). BH has changed tactics in the face of the Nigerian army's advances. It has been sporadically attacking areas it had not previously targeted and reverting to village raids, abductions, bombings, and suicide attacks, increasingly targeting civilians (AFP 23/03/2015, 05/10/2015; US Institute of Peace 09/01/2015; BBC 03/10/2015). Raids tend to follow a similar pattern, with houses set on fire, food and cattle seized, and a number of villagers killed (AFP 20/07/2015).

Presidential handover

President Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in on 29 May 2015. Buhari is a former president and military ruler from northern Nigeria (local media 29/05/2015; AFP 02/04/2015). On 11 January, the army announced that an independent board of inquiry recommended action to be taken against nearly 100 officers and soldiers accused of acting to influence the 2015 elections in favour of former President Goodluck Jonathan (ABC News 11/01/2016). Overall, however, the transition of power was peaceful.

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. In the last two years, BH's attacks have reached the whole Lake Chad region, affecting also Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. Precise numbers are not known, but BH's strength is estimated at around 15,000 (Amnesty 13/04/2015). The group is thought to be based in the Lake Chad region and the Sambisa forest (AFP 31/07/2015). Some BH fighters have been trained by Al Shabaab in Somalia (Reuters 14/02/2016).

Nigerian troops

In August 2013, the 7th division of Nigeria's army was established and put in charge of the counter-insurgency campaign against Boko Haram (Global Observatory 29/05/2015). Security officials have gained extra powers via the two declared states of emergency, on December 2011 and May 2013 (International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect 06/2014). Nigerian security forces have been reported to deserting during attacks. The military has been accused of committing human rights abuses against civilians (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect 20/01/2016).

Regional forces

The Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) has 8,700 military and civilian personnel, including contingents from Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria (BBC 03/03/2015). Military forces from Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria have begun joint operations. Benin and Chad are still deploying troops (AFP 11/06/2015, 25/04/2015, 20/03/2015). MJTF's mandate includes the protection of civilians under immediate threat of attack from BH. In September, France said it would provide intelligence and equipment, and the United States announced it would supply USD 45 million in defence services to the joint force, including military training (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect 20/01/2016).

Conflict developments

Boko Haram

In February, government forces reported further gains against BH in Borno state (ICG 01/03/2016). During January, 255 people were killed in 23 BH-related incidents (ACLEDD 16/02/2016). In 2015, at least 8,852 people were killed in 454 BH-related incidents (ACLEDD 09/02/2016).

Borno state: During 5 and 6 February, dozens were reported killed during Nigerian military attacks against BH. It is not clear whether the victims were BH militants (local news 03/07/2016). On 28 February, troops from Nigeria and Cameroon conducted a joint operation against BH militants the area of Kumshe, close to the borders (local media 29/02/2016). On 27 February, Nigerian troops destroyed a BH camp in Dikwa and announced the re-opening of major highways linking Maiduguri with other parts of the country, after being shut for three years (local media 28/02/2016). On 26 February, Cameroonian and Nigerian soldiers killed 92 BH insurgents in Bama (CFR 29/02/2016). On 24 February, Nigerian troops repelled a BH attack on an IDP camp in Dikwa (local media 25/02/2016). On 18 February, Nigerian troops killed a number of suspected BH fighters in raids on villages across Borno and freed 195 BH hostages (AFP 18/02/2016). On 12 and 13 February, 30 people were killed in attacks by the same gunmen on Yakshari village and Kachifa village (AFP 13/02/2016). On 11 February, two female suicide bombers killed at least 58 people in an IDP camp in Dikwa (AFP 12/02/2016). On 1 February, four people were killed in a BH raid on Mairi village (AFP 02/06/2016).

Adamawa state: 30 people were killed by BH attacks in IDP camps and villages in Adamawa in January (ICG 03/02/2016).

Cameroonian forces

Nigeria is reported to have refused requests to evacuate border villages and create a

zone where troops could shoot freely, and there are several reports of Cameroonian armed forces razing villages in Nigeria in an attempt to create a no-go area (Washington Post 19/01/2016). On 25 January, 40 civilians were reported dead in Gwoza village after Cameroonian troops announced they were carrying out a search for BH militants in the area (Antiwar 31/01/2016). On 18 January, Cameroonian troops pursuing BH fired rocket-propelled grenades, which killed four people, and shot dead two civilians in Ashigashiya village in Borno state (Washington Post 19/01/2016). On 20 December, Cameroonian troops searching for BH militants killed about 70 civilians in the Borno state village of Kirawa-Jimni (Voice of America 23/12/2015).

Inter-communal violence

On 22 February, sectarian violence started in Agatu in Benue state. Violence is still ongoing and has led to more than 350 people killed and at least 7,000 displaced. President Buhari ordered an investigation (CFR 29/02/2016; local media 26/02/2016; local media 01/03/2016; ICG 01/03/2016).

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).

Islamic Movement of Nigeria

The Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) seeks to establish an Islamic state (AFP 14/12/2015). On 12 December, Nigerian troops carried out an operation against the IMN, killing members and arresting its leader Ibrahim Zakzaky. The army alleges the IMN attempted to assassinate the army chief of staff; the IMN denies the charges (ICG 04/01/2016). Human Rights Watch reports that at least 300 Shi'a were killed and hundreds more were injured by the Nigerian army over 12–14 December, and that soldiers buried the bodies in mass graves (HRW 22/12/2015). On 15 December, IMN supporters protested in Kaduna, demanding the release of Zakzaky, and were fired at by police. At least four protesters were killed (AFP 15/12/2015). On 14 January, IMN claimed that more than 700 of its members were still missing (AFP 14/01/2016). The governor of Kaduna has said that a Judicial Commission of Inquiry will be set up (Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect 20/01/2016). On 3 March, new protests took place in several cities including Zaria, Kano, Kaduna, and Yola, demanding the release of Zakzaky (local news 04/03/2016).

Biafra movement

On 18 January, members of the separatist organisation Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) clashed with security forces in Aba, Abia state. Eight people were killed, 30 injured, and 26 arrested (ICG 03/02/2016). Pro-Biafran rallies sparked by the arrest of

Nnamdi Kanu, leader of IPOB, swept through Delta and Rivers state in December. Demonstrators were forcefully dispersed and arrested by police. The police denied allegations of extrajudicial killings. Demonstrations continued through December and January, with at least eight protesters and two police killed (ICG 01/12/2015; ICG 04/01/2016).

Displacement

More than 2.15 million have been displaced internally, and more than 170,000 have fled abroad. The continued repatriation of Nigerian refugees, in particular from Cameroon, and ongoing counter-insurgency operations are likely to increase the number of displaced in need of assistance by up to 100,000–250,000 (Inter-Agency Standing Committee 02/11/2015). A large number of IDPs have been returning to Borno state, but there has also been new displacement in Borno and Adamawa (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

IDPs

As of late December, more than 2.15 million IDPs have been identified in Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe, Nasarawa, Plateau, Kaduna, Kano, Zamfara, and Abuja states (IOM 23/12/2015). 84% have been displaced by the BH insurgency, while 13% have been displaced by communal clashes and nearly 3% by natural disasters (IOM 23/12/2015). The total number of people who have fled their homes is unknown (OCHA 10/11/2015). About 61.5% of IDPs were displaced in 2014, and 34.2% in 2015 (IOM 23/12/2015). Many people have been displaced several times (OCHA 24/09/2015). Around 92% of all IDPs are staying with host families; 8% are staying in camps and camp-like sites. IDPs report food as a priority need, followed by shelter and NFIs. Among host families, 83% declared that food was their primary need (IOM 03/09/2015, 31/10/2015).

More than 1.4 million IDPs (67%) are in Borno, which is the state of origin for 74.8% of IDPs (IOM 23/12/2015). Ongoing insecurity in Borno state prevents regular assistance. Needs cannot be assessed (OCHA 31/01/2016). However, as access in Borno state increases, more information is becoming available. During January, more than 50,000 people were reported newly displaced in Borno, including locals and returnees from Cameroon. Most are in Gamboru-Ngala locality, which is reported to have no basic services. In mid-January, the number of people taking refuge in a military camp in Dikwa reached 80,000. Dikwa and several other camps in the area are currently inaccessible (OCHA 31/01/2016; UNHCR, CCCM Cluster, and Shelter Cluster 31/01/2016). A further influx was reported into Maiduguri's camps from areas affected by military operations, as well as more arrivals from Cameroon into Yola's camps (UNHCR, CCCM Cluster, and Shelter Cluster 31/01/2016). Maiduguri's 17 organised and 13 informal IDP camps host at least 125,000 people (UNHCR

23/02/2016).

In all the states affected by communal clashes (Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba and Zamfara), the majority of IDPs remain within their own state (IOM 23/12/2015).

Returns: The Nigerian government has started relocating IDPs in Adamawa and Borno (IRIN 17/11/2015). Pilot relocation of IDPs from four camps in schools in Maiduguri was due to start in early February, in order for the schools to reopen, but following the brutal attack on Dalori village at the end of January, relocations were postponed (OCHA 31/01/2016). On late February relocations in Borno state have started and around 5,000 people have been transferred in Dalori (local media 22/02/2016).

332,000 IDPs have returned to northern Adamawa state. Most were originally displaced in Adamawa (32.1%), Kano (13.2%), Nasarawa (11.7%), Gombe (7.6%), while 6% of returnees came from Cameroon (IOM 23/12/2015). 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).

The vast majority of IDPs (94%) want to return to their place of origin (IOM 23/12/2015). However, people are not yet confident to return to recaptured areas, as most remain inhabitable as housing and infrastructure have been destroyed. Returning IDPs have also found their houses and land occupied by others (IFRC 21/01/2016; Reuters 03/12/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of October, there were 2,190 refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria (UNHCR 29/10/2015).

Returnees

As of 29 February, 22,000 Nigerians have been forcibly returned from Cameroon since November 2015: 54% are children and 46% are female. 98% of the returned originate from Borno (UNHCR 29/02/2016). In Gamboru Ngala LGA of Borno state, over 50,000 people reportedly returned from Cameroon between December and January (WFP 05/02/2016). Deportations began after a series of suicide bombings by BH in Cameroon's Far North region, as authorities fear links between Nigerian nationals and BH (UNHCR 11/12/2015; 14/12/2015). A smaller number of returnees have arrived from Chad (UNHCR 05/11/2015). Cameroon's government has

announced that 60,000 Nigerian refugees living in Minawao camp will be returned to Nigeria (local media 29/02/2016).

Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

184,540 Nigerian refugees are in neighbouring countries. 100,000 are in Niger, 70,378 registered refugees are in Cameroon, and 14,162 are in Chad (UNHCR 24/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

There are 3 million people in need in areas that are extremely difficult to access (OCHA 31/01/2016). 21 of Borno state's 27 local government areas remain inaccessible; many are the scene of active military operations. Continued insecurity around Maiduguri impacted operations in January (UNHCR, CCCM Cluster, and Shelter Cluster 31/01/2016).

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). The sweeping operations carried out by the Nigerian military disrupt everyday life as well as humanitarian activities (UNHCR 17/12/2015). IDP camps in Maiduguri are becoming increasingly unsafe due to BH attacks (UNHCR 17/12/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Over 8.3 million people are affected by food insecurity in northern states. At December, 4 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 875,000 people were in Emergency and Catastrophe (IPC Phases 4 and 5) food security and required urgent humanitarian assistance (OCHA citing Cadre Harmonisé 19/12/2015). Despite the return of some IDPs, many households in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states will continue to face food consumption gaps due to the effects of reduced market functioning, limited incomes, and little to no harvests. These populations will require assistance until August (FEWSNET 29/02/2016).

Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food security outcomes are projected for most areas outside the northeast (FEWSNET 31/01/2016).

Food availability

In Adamawa, six IDP camps and host communities – 9,006 people – are experiencing food shortages. In Borno state 79,800 persons in 12 camps in Maiduguri are currently experiencing food shortages. In Yobe state, three camps are facing food shortages. Many camps are still to be assessed (FAO and WFP 03/03/2016).

Food access

Access to market and trade activities in the northeast remain disrupted (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Staple food prices are much higher on markets in Maiduguri, Borno, and Mubi, Adamawa, than in neighbouring markets (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). 24% of IDP households have said that most of the food items they consume come from humanitarian assistance, 26% said that half of the food items they consume comes from humanitarian assistance (IOM 23/12/2015). Even far from the main areas affected by BH violence, insecurity in Nigeria had depressed prices (WFP 05/02/2016).

Livelihoods

Communities in northeastern states largely depend on farming for their livelihoods, but families returning from displacement will not be able to support themselves (INGO Forum 17/07/2015). Insecurity prevents those who remain in the northeast from carrying out typical farming activities, limiting their opportunities for wage labour. Fishing and cross-border trade, particularly with Niger, have also fallen due to insecurity (OCHA 24/09/2015; FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Income opportunities for IDPs are very limited (FEWSNET 31/10/2015). Only 11% of registered IDPs have a regular source of income, compared to 55% prior to displacement, while 49% do not have any source of income (IOM 23/12/2015).

Avian influenza has spread to 24 states and has resulted in the depopulation of over 2.5 million birds. Farms and poultry establishments in 102 LGAs are affected. The outbreak will reduce labour opportunities and income for poor households (FAO and Food Security Cluster 31/01/2016).

Health

In northeastern Nigeria, 3.7 million people need health support (OCHA 11/01/2016). 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 nationwide cholera outbreak is ongoing (UNICEF 14/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Less than 40% of health facilities are operational in areas affected by the conflict (Inter Press Service 26/08/2015; IRIN 02/11/2015). Routine health services, including immunisation and maternal and child health, have been disrupted. Many health workers have fled and those who remain are not able to access people in need (UNICEF 30/09/2015). In Adamawa, 59% of assessed health facilities have been

damaged and 37% are non-functional (UNICEF 26/01/2016). In Borno, 16 out of 38 hospitals have been destroyed or looted and 214 primary health centres shut (UNHCR 23/02/2016).

IDPs lack access to adequate healthcare and medicine, which is resulting in high mortality rates for common illnesses (ECHO 18/09/2015). Malaria is the most prevalent health problem in the majority of IDP shelters. In 51 shelters, IDPs reported not having access to medicine (IOM 23/12/2015).

Lassa fever

As of 6 February, at least 101 people have died from Lassa fever, with the death toll expected to rise as the number of cases steadily increases. 175 cases have been reported in 19 states. The case fatality rate is reported at 48%. The most affected states are Niger, Bauchi, Edo, Oyo and Taraba. The outbreak was announced on 8 January and is considered to have started on November 2015 in Bauchi state (NCDC 24/01/2016; WHO 27/01/2016; AFP 06/02/2016; ABC News 08/01/2016).

Cholera

In 2015, 19 of 36 states recorded 5,298 cholera cases and 186 deaths countrywide (3.5% CFR), with Kano, Rivers, and Borno states the worst affected (UNICEF 21/01/2016). In 2014, there were 35,996 reported cholera cases, but with a much lower fatality rate, 1.9% (UNICEF 14/11/2015, 20/10/2015).

Nutrition

2.5 million people are in need of nutrition assistance, of which 550,000 are IDPs, 1.49 million are part of the vulnerable host population, and 500,000 are inaccessible (OCHA 11/01/2016). An estimated 461,000 children under five suffered from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2015, in addition to 1.7 million suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA 17/09/2015).

WASH

6.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance, of which 2 million are IDPs, 3.9 million host populations, and 300,000 inaccessible (OCHA 11/01/2016).

Access to WASH facilities is severely limited outside IDP camps (ECHO 18/09/2015; MSF 17/09/2015). In the northeast, 46% of the population have access to improved sources of drinking water and 21% to latrines (UNICEF 13/01/2015).

In 29 shelters, less than 50% of water sources are functional (IOM 31/10/2015). 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). In Gombyo, one of the camps outside Maiduguri, each latrine is shared between around 100 people (IRIN 02/11/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

1.6 million people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA 11/01/2016). IDP sites, mainly schools; government buildings; self-made tents and community centres, are often overcrowded. Serious lack of resources is resulting in very limited humanitarian assistance to IDPs living in host communities (IRIN 05/06/2015; IOM 31/10/2015).

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). In Yobe more than 20,000 houses have been either destroyed or damaged. The debris is a health and safety risk (UNDP 01/03/2016).

As IDPs return, new informal camps are emerging in Borno and Yobe states. Conditions in these camps are extremely basic, with urgent need for emergency shelter assistance (OCHA 19/12/2015). In Kakureter informal camp in Damaturu, Yobe state, no shelter response has been delivered and immediate assistance is required. High shelter and NFI needs were noted in Biu, south Borno, in January (UNHCR, CCCM Cluster, and Shelter Cluster 31/01/2016).

Education

Schools and universities have been particular targets of BH (USAID 17/06/2015). One million children are in need of education, 830,000 of whom are displaced, 150,000 within the host population and 30,000 inaccessible. 600,000 children have lost access to learning since 2013 (OCHA 11/01/2016). 1,200 schools have been destroyed (UNICEF 26/01/2016). Between 2009 and October 2015, BH murdered more than 600 teachers, half of them in Borno state. Others have been threatened, injured or kidnapped. 19,000 teachers have fled their posts (IRIN 07/12/2015).

In December, almost 450 schools reopened in Borno state after a year and a half. Teachers and pupils are, however, reluctant to return because of persistent violence (Reuters 01/12/2015). Classes are held just two days a week, and when school is in session armed guards stand at the entrance (IRIN 07/12/2015).

Protection

5.5 million people are in need of protection: 2 million are IDPs, 2 million are host populations and 1.5 million are inaccessible (OCHA 11/01/2016). Reported protection

incidents include killing of civilians, forced displacement, destruction of property, exploitation and abuse, family separation, arbitrary detention, restrictions on freedom of movement and insecurity. Priorities for IDPs are the denial of access to assistance and family separation (OCHA 11/01/2016).

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).

Large-scale demolitions and evictions in an informal housing settlement in Badia, in Lagos, have made thousands of people homeless. More than 30,000 people are expected to lose their homes, businesses and livelihoods, if demolitions continue as planned (HRC 23/11/2015).

Vulnerable groups

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

Gender

1.5 million people are affected by gender-based violence (GBV) (OCHA 11/01/2016). Many women and girls have been held hostage by Boko Haram and at least 2,000 have been abducted beyond their local LGAs since 2012. Abducted women have experienced physical and psychological abuse, forced marriage and labour, and sexual slavery (UNICEF and International Alert 16/02/2016). 30% of women in the northeast have experienced GBV since 2013 (OCHA 11/01/2016). Women in displacement sites are at particular risk of sexual violence and trafficking (UNHCR 31/12/2015). Women, girls and young boys have been used by BH to carry out suicide attacks (International News 05/12/2015).

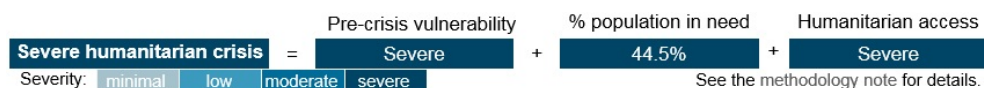
Children

2.73 million children are in need of protection, including 1 million displaced, 1 million within the host population and 700,000 who are inaccessible (OCHA 11/01/2016). Physical and emotional abuse of children is reported in many IDP sites. 20,000 unaccompanied and separated children have been identified, the majority in Borno state (OCHA 11/01/2016).

Children born from abducted women and BH fighters are at risk of rejection, discrimination and violence from their communities (UNICEF and International Alert 16/02/2016).

Updated: 07/03/2016

SOMALIA CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 March: Al Shabaab attacked an Somali National Army base close to Brava, in Lower Shabelle (local media 07/03/2016).

5 March: US air forces launched an airstrike on an Al Shabaab camp in Raso, Hiiraan, and killed more than 150 militants (Reuters 07/03/2016; Guardian 07/03/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 4.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 02/12).
- 4.9 million people are in need of food assistance (OCHA 03/03/2016).
- 1.1 million IDPs, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (UNHCR 04/11/2015).
- 3.2 million are estimated to need emergency health services (OCHA 11/09/2015).
- 215,000 in Puntland and 480,000 in Somaliland, face acute water and pasture shortages in drought-affected areas (Save the Children 24/02/2016; WFP 04/03/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security: 931,000 people will be in IPC 3 and 22,000 in IPC 4 food security outcomes at least until June 2016 (OCHA 30/12/2015; FEWSNET & FSNAU 08/02/2016).

- Health, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Galguduud, Middle Juba, and parts of Gedo. Children under five are a priority group (OCHA 09/11/2015; UNICEF 31/08/2015).

- WASH infrastructure requires maintenance, particularly in displacement settlements and areas affected by drought (OCHA 09/11/2015).

- Humanitarian access: restricted access continues to affect aid delivery in south-central Somalia (OCHA 30/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Protracted conflict, as well as 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, around 4.9 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacks access to basic goods and services. 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). The government's mandate expires in September 2016, but government and parliament agree that it will not be possible to hold a full election (AFP 28/07/2015; UNSOM 03/08/2015). On 28 January, political leaders announced that the 275 seats in the lower house of the parliament will be divided among the country's clans. 30% of seats will be reserved for women. The lower house will be elected by clan elders and the upper house by the regional assemblies. No dates for the elections were announced (VoA 29/01/2016). Puntland rejected the proposal. On 28 January, protests against the plan were held in Garowe and Bosaso (ICG 03/02/2016).

Armed conflict

Armed Islamist group Al Shabaab continues attacks on civilians, humanitarian personnel, and government officials. Bakool, Banaadir, Bay, Gedo, Hiiraan, and Shabelle regions are all affected by violence.

During February, Al Shabaab increased attacks and recaptured locations across south-central Somalia, including several towns in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Jubaland

regions. In 2015, Al Shabaab made substantial advances in Lower Shabelle region, taking control of Kurtunwaarey and Janale after withdrawal of government and African Union troops (FSNAU 04/11/2015; Horseed media 18/09/2015; Reuters 06/09/2015). In Middle Juba, military forces do not have control over major commercial and administrative towns (FSNAU 04/11/2015).

In 2015, more than 1,100 incidents involving Al Shabaab were reported, causing almost 3,000 deaths (ACLEED 26/01/2016). Nearly 20% of all reported incidents were attacks against civilians: in 2015, an average of 16 attacks against civilians were reported each month (ACLEED 28/11/2015). However, for many incidents no number of casualties is confirmed, and the actual number is likely much higher than what is reported.

Inter-communal violence

On 13 December, fighting broke out in the Howl Wadaag neighbourhood of Beledweyne, Hiiraan region, with more than 30 people killed and more than 50 injured. Several houses and business places were damaged and schooling was disrupted (international media 13/12/2015, 14/12/2015; local media 13/12/2015, 14/12/2015; 15/12/2015).

On 22 November, fighting erupted between Puntland and Galmudug armed forces, over disputed land. At least 20 people were killed, 120 injured and over 90,000 were displaced, including 40,000 IDPs who fled from displacement settlements (UNSOM 28/11/2015; local media 09/12/2015; OCHA 08/12/2015). In December, a ceasefire agreement was signed and most of the displaced returned. Returnees lack access to adequate food and nutrition and latrines and shelters have been destroyed. Public sanitation and water facilities such as elevated water tanks were destroyed or damaged during fighting. Education was disrupted and the school syllabus delayed by three weeks (OCHA 24/12/2015).

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 in 2015 has seen Al Shabaab concentrate attacks on small and remote AU bases (CNN 03/09/2015). Al Shabaab has also carried out a number of attacks in Kenya.

SNA-AMISOM offensive

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force counts 22,000 troops. Its mandate has been extended until 30 May 2016 (UNSC 28/07/2015). The Somali National Army (SNA) and AMISOM started a military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas in March 2014 (OCHA 05/2014). New offensives began in July (AMISOM 19/07/2015; OCHA 20/08/2015). Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012, and Brava, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014.

The government's inability to pay soldiers threatens to undermine military gains. 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).

Kenya Defence Forces (KDF)

KDF moved into Southern Somalia after a series of kidnappings from Al Shabaab across the borders. Since then Kenya government's forces fall under the AMISOM in Somalia (AMISOM 16/10/2011).

Recent incidents

On 5 March US air forces launched an airstrike on an Al Shabaab camp in Raso, Hiiraan killing more than 150 militants (Reuters 07/03/2016; Guardian 07/03/2016).

On 7 March, Al Shabaab attacked an SNA base close to Brava, in Lower Shabelle (local media 07/03/2016). On 1 March, the Interim South West Administration (ISWA) asked for AMISOM intervention regarding attacks in Lower Shabelle (AMISOM 01/03/2016). On 28 February, 30 people were killed and 60 injured in an Al Shabaab attack in Baidoa (BBC 29/02/2016; AFP 29/02/2016). On 18 February, Al Shabaab ambushed a convoy carrying Somali and AU troops in Lower Shabelle (local media 18/02/2016). On 16 February, Al Shabaab attacked Afgooye, and briefly seized the town. SNA suffered losses (ICG 01/03/2016; local media 16/02/2016). On 14 February, Al Shabaab launched an attack on Burweyn village near Buulobarde and captured the area (local media 14/02/2016). On 5 February, Al Shabaab attacked the port of Merka, in southern Lower Shabelle, but AMISOM took back control the next day. A least four people died and two were injured. The total number of civilian casualties is unknown (AFP 06/02/2016).

AMISOM, SNA, and local clan militias regained control over some towns in Middle Shabelle during February. On 24 February, AMISOM and Somali forces seized the village El-Baraf and on 11 February, took Biyo Adde village, both without a battle (local media 24/02/2016; local news 11/02/2016).

KDF: On 8 February, Kenyan forces reported that an airstrike in Somalia killed at least 52 Al Shabaab militants, including its intelligence chief. But Al Shabaab denied the airstrike, and the Somali government doubt the intelligence chief's death (CNN 20/02/2016; local media 19/02/2016). On 15 January, Al Shabaab attacked an AMISOM base in the town of El Adde, Gedo region, and claimed that it had killed more than 60 Kenyan soldiers (ALJ 15/01/2016; Reuters 15/01/2016). Over 16–24 January, KDF launched an offensive, bombing Gedo region. Somali officials said that civilians were killed (ICG 03/02/2016; BBC 22/01/2016). Kenya's military forces withdrew from El Adde and Badhadhe districts on 26 January. This hampers Kenya's efforts to create a buffer zone between Al Shabaab and its border (BBC 22/01/2016; CSM 27/01/2016; ICG 03/02/2016).

Mogadishu: On 26 February, 14 people were killed in an Al Shabaab attack on a hotel (Guardian 27/02/2016; AFP 27/02/2016). On 17–18 February, the Somali Intelligence and Security Agency arrested 300 suspected Al Shabaab members in Yaqshid and Huriwa districts (local media 18/02/2016). On 15 February, a car bomb killed the former defence minister in the central K4 district of the city (AFP 15/02/2016). On 5 February, three people were killed in a car bomb targeting an airport official (AFP 05/02/2016). On 4 February, a blast ripped a hole in the fuselage of a commercial airliner, after take-off from Mogadishu. One passenger was killed and two were injured (AFP 05/02/2016).

Natural disasters

El Niño conditions have led to drought in Somaliland and heavy rains in other parts of the country (WFP 01/12/2015). 215,000 people in Puntland, and 480,000 in Somaliland, face acute water and pasture shortages in drought-affected areas. 50% are children (Save the Children 24/02/2016; WFP 04/03/2016).

Drought

An estimated 65% of Puntland face drought conditions. On 21 January 2016 authorities issued an appeal for assistance for the drought-affected (OCHA 26/01/2016). The most affected areas of Puntland are Bari, Nugaal, Sanaag, and Sool. The most affected regions of Somaliland are Awdal, Togdheer and Woqooyi Galbeed (OCHA 26/01/2016). The situation is expected to worsen during the coming months as water resources continue to deplete, and may lead to conflict. The next rainy season is expected to start in late March (FAO 11/02/2016).

Flooding

An estimated 145,200 people were affected by floods and tropical cyclones since mid-October (OCHA 04/12/2015). An estimated 60,000 people have been displaced due to

flooding (OCHA 20/11/2015).

The flooding has led to outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and cholera, and loss of crops and property in parts of south and central Somalia and Puntland (OCHA 22/12/2015).

Displacement

There are 975,670 Somali refugees in neighbouring countries and an estimated 1.1 million IDPs in Somalia as of June 2015. As of 20 January, 30,000 people had arrived from Yemen since April; the arrival rate has fallen significantly since August.

IDPs

1.1 million IDPs are estimated in Somalia (893,000 in the south-central region, 129,000 in Puntland, and 84,000 in Somaliland) (UNHCR and Shelter Cluster 11/02/2016; UNHCR 06/01/2016). The main reasons for displacement are food insecurity, conflict, and natural disaster. Some people have been displaced for nearly two decades (UNHCR and Shelter Cluster 11/02/2016).

Since the beginning of 2015, 346,000 people have been newly displaced due to forced evictions, military offensives, clan conflicts and general insecurity (UNHCR 18/02/2016; World Vision 21/01/2016). In both Somaliland and Puntland, 20% of drought-affected rural families have moved to urban centres (IRIN 11/02/2016).

Returnees

In 2015, around 6,000 Somalis returned from Kenya. So far in 2016, the rate of arrivals has increased, as 4,163 have returned, including 933 to Diinsoor, 654 to Kismayo, and 420 to Mogadishu. 50% are women (UNHCR 20/12/2015; 28/02/2016).

Returnees and refugees from Yemen

As of 29 February, 31,439 arrivals from Yemen have been registered since April 2015, mainly in Bosaso, Puntland, and Berbera, Somaliland. 88% are Somali returnees, 11% Yemeni refugees, and 1% third-country nationals (IOM 18/02/2016; UNHCR 29/02/2016). Somali returnees and Yemeni refugees have access to onward transportation to their final destination, while individuals of other nationalities are supported to return to their home countries (UNHCR 31/12/2015). Many Somali returnees intend to go to Mogadishu (UNHCR 09/11/2015). The arrival rate fell significantly in October, as information on living conditions reached people who intended to leave Yemen, and the conflict affected the two main ports of departure to Somalia (IOM 15/10/2015; UNHCR 05/10/2015, 15/10/2015). 61,600 arrivals from Yemen are expected in Somalia by the end of 2016 (UNHCR 15/12/2015).

Somali refugees in neighbouring countries

There are almost a million Somalian refugees in neighbouring countries. 160,836 left Somalia in 2015 (UNHCR 03/02/2016). 419,618 are registered in Kenya, 251,797 in Ethiopia, and 253,215 in Yemen, with the rest in Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, and Tanzania (UNHCR 03/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access remained a challenge in 2015, due to increasing insecurity, limited infrastructure, and funding constraints. Non-state armed actors continued to impose bans on commercial activities in some areas in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Hiiraan regions thereby disrupting the delivery of humanitarian supplies and basic commercial commodities (OCHA 26/01/2016).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Restricted humanitarian access continues to affect aid delivery to affected populations in south-central Somalia (OCHA 30/12/2015). Even in areas where there is no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA 09/10/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Road access remains severely constrained in 28 districts in south-central Somalia and in Buuhoodle district in the north. While there was progress in negotiating access to areas such as Xudur in Bakool. Baidoa (in Bay), Bulobarde (in Hiiraan), Garbahaarey (in Gedo) and Wajid (in Bakool) are only accessible via an airstrip secured by AMISOM (FSNAU 02/10/2015; OCHA 26/01/2016).

In 2015, attacks and threats against humanitarians increased. More than 140 violent incidents directly impacted humanitarian organisations, including 17 deaths, 18 injuries, 11 abductions, and 38 arrests (OCHA 26/01/2016).

In 2015, the humanitarian community registered over 80 incidents, 80% of which included interference related to administrative and bureaucratic impediments and 20% were direct interferences with humanitarian activities, mainly in Puntland and Southern and central Somalia (OCHA 26/01/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

4.9 million people are in need of food assistance (OCHA 03/03/2016). 931,000 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 22,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security

outcomes at least until June 2016 (OCHA 30/12/2015; FEWSNET & FSNAU 08/02/2016). 3.7 million people will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes (FEWSNET & FSNAU 08/02/2016). Food insecurity is due to poor rainfall and drought conditions in several areas, trade disruption, population displacement, and chronic poverty. IDPs represent 68% of the population in Crisis and Emergency, rural populations 26%, and urban populations 6% (FSNAU 17/02/2016).

In Somaliland, cereal production is 87% lower than the average of 2011 to 2014 (Save the Children 24/02/2016). Poor households in Guban pastoral livelihood zone in northwest Somaliland, and Northern Inland Pastoral livelihood zone in northeast Puntland, will need assistance throughout most of 2016. Crisis outcomes are expected to persist in urban areas affected by trade disruptions in Xudur, Wajid, Bulobarde and across most of the main IDP settlements (FSNAU 22/12/2015; FEWSNET 02/01/2016).

Livelihoods

Some people in the drought affected regions are migrating with their livestock to Hawd livelihood zone, in the south of Somaliland and the southwest of Puntland, which has received good rains (OCHA 26/01/2016). Lawyaddo and Zeylac districts of Awdal region, in Guban pastoral zone, received Hays rains during December and January, which lead to a large-scale abnormal migration of livestock to the area from drought-affected areas of Puntland and Somaliland, as well as from Djibouti and Ethiopia. As a result, the improved pasture and water will likely be exhausted soon (IRIN 11/02/2016; FEWSNET 07/01/2016). Unemployment has gone up as drought has impacted the labour market (OCHA and WFP 18/02/2016).

In Somaliland people have lost 80% of their animals due to the extreme drought (IRIN 11/02/2016). In the same areas, tropical storms in November killed around 3,000 livestock, and damaged crops and fisheries (IFRC 14/11/2015). Across northern Somalia, there has been a sharp increase in debt among poor households (IRIN 11/02/2016).

23–49% of households that receive remittances have reported that remittance receipts have declined since May 2015, as the bank accounts of Somali diaspora have been closed in measures aiming to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism (OCHA 10/11/2015; UN 18/01/2016).

Health

1.8 million people are in need of emergency health services (OCHA 03/03/2016).

Healthcare availability and access

Overall, 3.2 million people are in need of health services (OCHA 09/11/2015). 1.5 million people are without access to primary or secondary health services, including 300,000 children under five, as around 10 hospitals have closed or cut back their services due to funding shortages. (WHO 23/07/2015; International Media 22/02/2016). There are insufficient drugs in health facilities across Somalia, which hampers response activities especially in drought affected Puntland and Somaliland (OCHA 03/03/2016).

Cholera

Since December 2015, an increase in cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) has been reported in Baidoa, Bay region and in Kismayo, Lower Juba region (OCHA 31/01/2016). 462 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were reported in Baidoa and 521 in Kismayo between 1 December and 4 January (OCHA 26/01/2016). In Banadir region, AWD cases were reported in Hamarweyne and Hawl Wadaag districts of Mogadishu in December. Three children under age five reportedly died in Hamarweyne and a number of patients were admitted to Banadir hospital. In Middle Shabelle, three people reportedly died and nine others were affected by AWD in Baqdad and Sabun villages (OCHA 18/12/2015).

There are concerns that the cholera outbreak in Dadaab camp and other neighbouring areas of northern Kenya might spread to Somalia (OCHA 26/01/2016).

Nutrition

1.3 million people are in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA 03/03/2016). 304,000 children under five are moderately malnourished and 58,300 children are severely malnourished (OCHA 03/03/2016). The most affected areas are Togsheer. Awdal, and North Galbeed in Somaliland and Middle Shabelle, Bay, and Gedo in south-central Somalia. Data is insufficient for Sanag and Sool areas and for the most part of Nugel and Galgaduud (UNICEF and Nutrition Cluster 23/11/2015).

Critical numbers of GAM (15% or more) persist among several population groups. Areas with the most persistent nutrition problems are Bari and Garowe, in Puntland; Galkayo, Mataban, Beletweyne, Bay, Dollow, and North Gedo, in central Somalia (FEWSNET & FSNAU 08/02/2016).

In south-central and northeast Somalia, 85% of livelihood areas show a serious or critical nutrition situation, with more than 10% GAM. In south-central, 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 Hiran region; coastal pastoral areas and the cowpea belt in Mudug; Bay region; and IDPs in Dolow, Baidoa, Dhobley, Garowe, and Galkayo (FSNAU 16/10/2015). 20.6%

GAM and 15.7% SAM were observed in Hudur, Bakool, in September (FSNAU 02/10/2015). In Galgaduud, region, an increase in admission of malnutrition cases in nutrition centres was reported in Dhusamareb district, in part due to an increase in diarrhoea cases (OCHA 18/12/2015). In Somaliland, GAM was 22.3% and SAM 5.9% in pastoral areas of northern Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, as of September (FSNAU 02/10/2015).

IDPs

Malnutrition among IDPs is particularly critical. In Garowe, Galkayo and Dolow, acute malnutrition has been above 15% 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).

A rapid deterioration has been noted among Bossaso IDPs, in the northeast, with GAM levels rising from 12.5% to 16.8%. Alert levels of GAM (between 5% and 10%) were seen among IDPs in Burao and Berbera (FSNAU 30/11/2015). Critical levels of SAM were reported in two IDP settlements, Dolow and Baidoa, in the south-central region (FSNAU 30/11/2015).

WASH

2.7 million people are estimated in need of safe water (OCHA 03/03/2016). In Somaliland, more than 70% of the population lacks access to clean drinking water, as 80% of water sources have dried up (Save the Children 24/02/2016; OCHA and WFP 18/02/2016). There is a need for maintenance of WASH infrastructure, particularly in displacement settlements and areas affected by drought (OCHA 09/11/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

An estimated 910,000 people are in need of shelter (OCHA 03/03/2016). 47% of mapped IDP settlements are unplanned, 68% do not have any formal land tenure agreement. 79% of shelters are tents. In Mogadishu, 93% of IDPs live in makeshift shelters. Settlements are often congested, lack basic services and are prone to disease outbreaks, flooding, and fires (UNHCR and Shelter Cluster 11/02/2016).

In Puntland and Somaliland, IDPs' shelter conditions were improved. 45% live in planned settlements (UNHCR and Shelter Cluster 11/02/2016). However, increased movement of pastoralists from drought-affected areas lead to increased needs for shelter and NFIs (OCHA 03/03/2016).

Education

1.7 million children aged 5–17 do not have access to education in south-central Somalia because of the humanitarian crisis (OCHA 03/03/2016). 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).

In Puntland, 30% of students in drought-affected areas have dropped out of school due to migration of their families ((OCHA and WFP 18/02/2016).

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 03/03/2016; UNFPA 31/08/2015). AMISOM forces have been accused on several occasions of killing civilians in their homes (HRW 13/08/2015). In November and December, around 350 protection incidents were reported among displaced populations. The violations include physical assaults, domestic violence, illegal arrest and detention, female genital mutilation, torture, kidnapping/abduction, recruitment and use of child soldiers, forced marriage, disappearances, forced family separations and forced eviction (UNHCR 31/12/2015). On 3 December, a Somali journalist was killed in Mogadishu when a bomb detonated under her car (AFP 03/12/2015).

Forced evictions

Forced evictions of IDPs surged in 2015, as the appreciation of land is driving land-grabbing. Between January and September, 116,000 IDPs and urban poor were forcibly evicted from private and public buildings in Mogadishu, Kismayo, Baidoa, Bosaso, Galkayo, Hargeisa, and Luuq (OCHA 09/11/2015). 109,378 evictions have taken place in Mogadishu since January 2015 (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Gender

SGBV is of particular concern for women and girls living in IDP settlements. From January–August, 75% of victims of reported SGBV incidents were IDPs and 93% are female (UNFPA 31/08/2015).

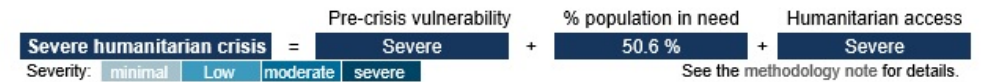
Children

Somali National Army and Al Shabaab, have been accused of killing and recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 01/01/2016). Nearly 746 ‘grave

violations’ were recorded from September 2015 (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 01/01/2016). Grave violations include recruitment or use of children, killing, maiming, rape, or other sexual violence, and abduction (UNICEF). Boys are more affected than girls (OCHA 03/06/2015; UNICEF 31/05/2015, 30/06/2015).

Updated: 08/03/2016

SOUTH SUDAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 March: WASH assistance is urgently needed at Pibor UN base in Jonglei following the influx of over 2,000 IDPs: there is currently only one latrine per 350 people and less than 1.5L per person per day (MSF).

3 March: Shelter remains a priority need at Malakal Protection of Civilians site following the violence and destruction that took place over 17-18 February (OCHA).

KEY FIGURES

- 6.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2016 (OCHA 31/12/2015).

- 2.8 million people are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3), Emergency (IPC phase 4), and Catastrophe (IPC phase 5) food security outcomes. 40,000 are in Catastrophe (OCHA 03/03/2016).

- 1.69 million IDPs since December 2013 (OCHA 03/03/2016).

PRIORITIES

Food security: Ongoing violence, market disruption, and crop failures have resulted in record food prices, and hunger has spread to areas that were previously stable.

Health: The crisis continues to trigger major public health risks and disease outbreaks. Malaria has reached unprecedented levels and is the biggest cause of morbidity in

almost all states.

Shelter: Ongoing violence continues to cause widespread displacement particularly in Unity, Upper Nile, Jonglei, and more recently Western Equatoria.

OVERVIEW

Violence spread across eastern and northern South Sudan in December 2013. A ceasefire agreement was signed in August 2015, but clashes continue. 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.

The conflict is concentrated in the Greater Upper Nile states of Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity, with the central counties of Unity state most severely affected. Food insecurity and malnutrition rates are alarming. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians.

Politics and security

President Kiir's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), who are predominantly Dinka, have been fighting a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, the Sudanese People's Liberation Army-In-Opposition (SPLA-IO), and ethnic Nuer militia, since December 2013. Fighting has killed at least 50,000 people and displaced over two million people. Armed violence is mostly concentrated in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile but in recent months has spread to parts of Greater Equatoria. An increasing number of armed groups are neither aligned with the government nor the opposition (AFP 25/12/2015). (Al Jazeera 03/03/2016).

A peace deal was signed in August between Machar and President Kiir, but the agreement has not been implemented and ground fighting and aerial bombardment continue. There are reports that both the government and opposition are stockpiling arms and ammunition (New York Times 01/02/2016). The AU has warned that the peace deal is at risk of total collapse and has urged all parties to uphold their commitments, including a permanent ceasefire (News24 29/11/2015).

Progress of the peace agreement

Dispute over the President's unilateral decision to restructure South Sudan from 10 states into 28 has been a major obstacle to implementing the peace agreement and forming a transitional government. The final peace deal established power-sharing on the basis of the

existing 10-state structure (AFP 25/12/2015). Armed groups in parts of Greater Upper Nile, Bahr el Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria have rejected the restructuring, warning that they will incite ethnic conflict over border demarcation (Sudan Tribune 02/01/2016; Radio Tamazuj 02/01/2016).

More positive developments regarding the implementation of the peace agreement include the appointment of 50 legislators from the SPLM-IO on 8 January. On 12 February Riek Machar was reappointed as Vice President. Machar has pledged to return to Juba when the government has withdrawn half of its forces from the capital, and SPLM-IO forces have been installed (Sudan Tribune 23/02/2016).

Sudan–South Sudan

Relations between Sudan and South Sudan have been poor since South Sudan's 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.

On 24 January Sudanese President al Bashir ordered the reopening of the border for the first time since South Sudan's secession (Reuters 28/01/2016; AFP 27/01/2016).

International military presence

The mandate of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) has been extended until 31 July 2016. Force levels have been increased to 13,000 troops and 2,000 police personnel, up from 12,500 uniformed personnel (UN Security Council 15/12/2015; All Africa 20/21/2015). On 15 December the Security Council also extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) until May 2016 (UN Security Council 15/12/2015). The peacekeeping force was deployed to the disputed border region in 2011.

Conflict developments

Between April and September 2015 fighting between government and opposition forces in Unity state reached the highest level in the history of South Sudan's civil war. Between September and late December fighting continued sporadically, while January was mostly quiet (Small Arms Survey 04/03/2016). Since mid-February fighting has increased again in some areas of Greater Upper Nile. Sporadic clashes between government forces and the SPLA-IO have occurred, which is likely to be linked to the onset of the dry season facilitating better mobility (Sudan Tribune 08/02/2016; 13/02/2016). There has also been a surge in incidents of ethnic conflict in parts of Upper Nile, Jonglei and Western Bahr el Ghazal since mid-February. This is thought to be related to President Kiir's proposed restructuring of the country (Sudan Tribune, 25/02/2016; 23/02/2016). Since November fighting has also been ongoing in Western Equatoria, an area that had previously remained

peaceful (The Guardian 08/12/2015).

Western Bahr el Ghazal: On 15 February renewed violence broke out between government forces and armed groups in the newly created Wau state: it is unclear whether the armed opposition was affiliated to the SPLM-IO. **Houses have been burned and thousands of people have been displaced. Tensions remain high (OCHA 03/03/2016; Sudan Tribune 16/02/2016).**

Upper Nile: On 17–18 February fighting between Dina and Shilluk and Nuer communities broke out in Malakal Protection of Civilians site in Upper Nile. The Dinka were allegedly armed by government forces. **25 people were killed, including three aid workers, and over 125 people were injured (OCHA 03/02/2016).** Thousands of people have fled the site: many are taking refuge in schools and churches in Malakal town while others are in open space close to the site. Vast areas of the site have been looted and over 2,300 structures have been destroyed by fire. Critical humanitarian infrastructure has been lost. Food, health, shelter and water assistance is needed (AFP 18/02/2016; IOM 28/02/2016; UNHCR 19/02/2016; IRIN 22/02/2016).

Jonglei: On 23–24 February fighting broke out in Pibor: Government forces loyal to the newly appointed governor clashed with armed youth loyal to the previous governor, who was removed from his position last month. **2,000 people fled to the UN base while thousands more fled to the bush. Five humanitarian facilities were looted and markets in the town were burned (UNMISS 29/02/2016; OCHA 03/03/2016 MSF 04/03/2016).**

Western Equatoria: Tensions escalated in Western Equatoria in the final quarter of 2015 after armed cattle herders brought their livestock to the state, destroying crops and threatening livelihoods. An estimated 80,000 displaced people in Mundri East and West and Ezo counties remain in need of assistance (OCHA 10/02/2016). Over 15,000 people have fled to neighboring countries (UNHCR 20/01/2016). In February, numerous clashes between government forces and the SPLA-IO have been reported in Mundri East and in Ezo counties. The opposition has accused the government of using chemical weapons against them (Sudan Tribune 01/02/2016; 13/02/2016). **Both the government and opposition forces have been accused of grave human rights abuses in the area, including killings, enforced disappearances and rape (Human Rights Watch 07/03/2016).**

Inter-communal violence

Violence between communities is frequent, but underreported. Ownership of cattle is a common source of tension, particularly among pastoralists (Protection Cluster 25/09/2015; IRIN 15/01/2015). Cattle herders are often heavily armed and connected to armed groups. Cattle moved on to fertile farmland often leads to clashes between herders and the local population (Al Jazeera 21/11/2015).

Displacement

As of February 2016, around 2.3 million people have been displaced, both internally and to neighbouring countries, since December 2013 (OCHA 10/20/2016). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify and registration problematic (UNHCR 18/09/2014).

IDPs

There are an estimated 1.69 million IDPs in South Sudan (OCHA 03/03/2016). Around 50% are children (UNICEF 11/02/2016). The following number of IDPs have been registered in each state:

State	IDP population
Jonglei	513,121
Unity	559,099
Upper Nile	303,204
Lakes	129,854
Western Equatoria	93,276
Central Equatoria	53,543
Western Bahr el Ghazal	24,979
Eastern Equatoria	8,559
Abyei	9,403
Warrap	1,924

(OCHA, 18/02/2016).

Unity: There are around 600,000 people displaced by conflict in Unity state. There are about 124,055 people at Bentiu PoC in Unity, and 18,000 more IDPs registered in Bentiu and Rubkina towns; most are sheltering in public buildings (OCHA 10/02/2016). Thousands of civilians have returned to Thoynor, Unity, since humanitarian operations resumed in December 2013: shelter and NFIs are priority needs (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Western Equatoria: Since late November thousands of people have been displaced by clashes between the SPLA and the Arrow Boys in Ezo, Yambio, Mundri and Tambura counties. An estimated 80,000 people displaced in Mundri East and West and Ezo counties remain in need of assistance (OCHA 10/02/2016). 7,000 fled to DRC. A further 6,000 have fled to Uganda since the start of 2016 (UNHCR 20/01/2016). An unknown number of people have fled to CAR (UNHCR 08/01/2016).

Lakes: Between mid December and early January, around 36,000 IDPs have arrived at Mingkaman settlement in Lakes state, possibly from Bor South and Twic East in Jonglei state (WFP 08/01/2016). Over 60% of the population of Mingkamen camp are children (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Protection of Civilians sites

As of 25 February, 195,343 people are in UNMISS Protection of Civilians sites (PoCs). 124,055 are in Bentiu, in Unity state, where the population has more than doubled since April 2015 (UNMISS 07/03/2016). In December, almost 11,000 people arrived at Bentiu: the majority were from southern Unity state and cited food insecurity as their main reason for coming to the site. **40,100 people are in Malakal: this is a decrease of 7,000 as many people fled violence at the site over 17–18 February.** The populations of other PoCs are mostly stable. Nearly 700 people are in Melut, Upper Nile; 28,000 in Juba UN House; and 2,300 in Bor, Jonglei (UNMISS 07/03/2016). 61% of the PoC population are children (OCHA, 04/01/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

There are around 268,350 refugees in South Sudan. 104,300 registered refugees are in Unity and 131,900 in Upper Nile, making up 90% of the total refugee population. 2,400 are in Jonglei, 20,300 in Central Equatoria, and 9,4500 in Western Equatoria (29/01/2016 UNHCR).

88% of refugees are from Sudan. The rest are from DRC, Ethiopia, and CAR (UNHCR, 30/10/2015). Local media reported the arrival of 600 Burundi refugees in mid-November, who are scattered in host communities (Radio Tamazuj 13/11/2015).

Over 69,900 refugees are in Yida, Unity state, although the number is fluid as people move across the border depending on safety and needs. The South Sudan government wants to

close Yida camp and relocate refugees further from the border to Ajuong Thok camp, also in Unity, which has a population of over 31,000 (IRIN 09/02/2016; UNCHR 16/10/201). Since the beginning of the year nearly 1,300 refugees have been relocated to Ajuong Thok (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

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 to around 640,000.** 68% are under 17 (OCHA 03/03/2016; UNHCR 16/10/2015).

Sudan: As of 29 February, 173,834 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since December 2013. This figure does not include those living with host communities (UNHCR 29/02/2016). The Sudanese Government refuses to recognise them and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR 03/04/2014).

Ethiopia: 227,260 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

Kenya: 52,093 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

Uganda: 187, 731 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

The delivery of aid is restricted by fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments (Sudan Tribune 12/01/2016). The rainy season (now ended, although some flooding has not yet receded) and insecurity has forced humanitarian organisations to deliver aid via air drops (WFP 24/11/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Threats against humanitarian staff and facilities are common, particularly in Unity and Upper Nile, (Al Jazeera 15/12/2015; PI 11/09/2015). Since mid-2015, attacks on NGO compounds and humanitarian convoys have increased dramatically (IOM 05/01/2016). In 2015, 900 humanitarian access incidents were reported: this is a 17% increase compared to 2014. Active hostilities, mainly in Upper Nile, Unity, Western Equatoria and Lakes regularly restricted humanitarian operations and there were 210 cases of withdrawal of humanitarian personnel or suspension of humanitarian activities (OCHA, 18/01/2016; 23/11/2015). **In January, 63 access incidents were reported: half involved violence against personnel or assets. This is higher than the number recorded in December but lower than the 2015 average (OCHA 29/02/2016).**

Access of affected populations to assistance

Aid workers have managed to regain access to Leer County in recent weeks, however logistical restrictions and ongoing insecurity continue to hinder response (AFP

12/01/2016).

Security and physical constraints

Most roads are passable, but with difficulty, across Unity, Upper Nile, Lakes, Western Equatoria, Warrap, and Jonglei. Two roads around Pibor in Jonglei are closed (WFP 04/03/2016). Vessels transporting fuel up the River Nile are vulnerable to attack (UN 29/10/2015; Reuters 02/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Unprecedented levels of food insecurity have been reported: between January and March 2016 an estimated 2.8 million people are expected to be facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3), Emergency (IPC Phase 4) or Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) food security outcomes (IPC 31/12/2015; UN 08/02/2016). This is a 12% increase from the same time last year (FAO 11/02/2016). The highest levels of food insecurity are in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile (WFP 05/02/2016). An additional 200,000 people are reported to have moved from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap (UN 08/02/2016; WFP 08/02/2016). Around 40,000 people in the central counties of Koch, Mayendit, and Leer in Unity remain extremely close to Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) (WFP 08/02/2016). Many people in Unity have been surviving on water lilies and fruit but these food sources have decreased now that floodwater has receded. Coping mechanisms will be further exhausted in the upcoming dry season, which is usually at its worst between April and July (UNICEF 11/02/2016; Amnesty International 25/02/2016). Food security has also significantly deteriorated in the Greater Equatoria region due to market disruption, economic downturn, insecurity, and crop failures. It is the first time that such poor indicators have been reported for the Greater Equatoria region (IPC 10/12/2015).

Food availability

Planting across the country has been affected by conflict, displacement and erratic rainfall. Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei have been most affected. Significant soil moisture deficits have affected crop yields and pasture is declining. Most households are expected to exhaust their food supply sooner than usual this year due to the poor harvest and early onset of the lean season (WFP 31/12/2015).

Food access

Food prices remain at a five-year high. In December fuel prices recorded the highest ever monthly increase (WFP 15/01/2016). Parts of Eastern Equatoria, Greater Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei have suffered most from severely limited fuel availability (WFP 31/12/2015). In January the annual inflation rate increased by 165% due to the increased cost of staple food and fuel (WFP 22/02/2016).

Over 1,500 IDPs who fled Mundri and Maridi counties in Western Equatoria last year, to

the newly created Yei River state, are in need of food assistance: they have not received food rations for two months (Sudan Tribune 23/02/2016).

Health

4.7 million people need health assistance (OCHA 31/12/2015). Health services are overwhelmed and there is a severe shortage of medical personnel and medicine. Malaria remains the top cause of morbidity in non-conflict-affected states. Acute respiratory infections are the top cause of morbidity amongst IDPs (WHO 14/02/2016).

Healthcare availability and access

Due to overcrowding there is a severe lack of medical supplies in Malakal PoC in Upper Nile, and Bentiu PoC in Unity (Sudan Tribune 28/10/2015). The situation has worsened in Malakal PoC after two health centers were destroyed during the violence that occurred at the site over 17–18 February (IRIN 22/02/2016). **The partial destruction of the MSF centre in Pibor, Jonglei, has restricted capacity to respond to the health needs of the 170,000 people in the area (MSF 04/03/2016).**

Malaria

In non-conflict-affected states, malaria accounts for 36% of medical consultations. Malaria cases in Warrap and Western Bahr el Ghazal remain above expected levels for the current period (WHO 14/02/2016). Malaria reached unprecedented proportions in 2015: over two million cases of malaria, including 1,340 deaths (OCHA 25/01/2016; WHO 25/10/2015). Over 80% of cases were among children under five (UNICEF 31/12/2015).

Measles

Measles is the fourth most common cause of death. 1,280 suspected cases were reported in 2015 (OCHA, 01/12/2015). Only six of 79 counties have the minimum 80% vaccination coverage (OCHA 01/12/2015). Children under five in conflict-affected states are the most affected (WHO 06/12/2015). 163 measles cases have been reported in 2016. Since the start of the year outbreaks have been confirmed in parts of Unity, Warrap, and Lakes states. The caseload is lower when compared to 2014 and 2015 (14/02/2016).

Hepatitis E virus

Since mid-2015 there has been an increase in the rate of hepatitis E transmission in Bentiu town and Bentiu PoC. Since the beginning of 2016, 183 cases have been reported in Bentiu PoC. The spread of the disease is largely facilitated by poor sanitation facilities (WHO 14/02/2016).

Nutrition

An estimated 4.1 million people are in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA

15/10/2015). Global acute malnutrition exceeds the emergency threshold of 15% in over half the country (UNICEF 14/01/2015; World Vision, 03/11/2015). The situation is most critical in Unity, Jonglei, Warrap, Northern Bhar el Ghazal and parts of Eastern Equatoria (FAO 08/02/2016). More than 230,000 children are suffering from SAM (ECHO 25/11/2015). SAM rates are above the 2% emergency threshold in all PoCs (WHO 25/10/2015; UNHCR 02/10/2015).

In January GAM rates between 20% and 48.5% and SAM rates of 14.3% were recorded in Bentiu PoC, Rubkona and Bentiu Town, Unity state. This shows an increase in malnutrition rates recorded in December 2015: this may be due to an increase in access to screening children outside of the PoC site. The nutrition situation inside the PoC remains critical (OCHA 10/02/2016; UNICEF 14/01/2016). For the first time, six cases of oedema have been reported inside Bentiu PoC. Oedema is the retention of fluid in the body, often associated with malnutrition. It has a high fatality rate (UNICEF 14/01/2016).

Screening of 30,000 children in Jonglei in January found SAM rates of 7% and MAM rates of 12%. 20 cases of oedema were identified (UNICEF 28/02/2016).

Screening of 13,000 children in Warrap state in January found SAM rates of 6% and MAM rates of 26% (UNICEF 28/02/2016). The highest prevalence of GAM recorded was in Twic, at 36.9% (UNICEF 14/01/2016).

WASH

4.7 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA 31/12/2015).

WASH assistance is urgently needed at Pibor UN base in Jonglei: there is currently only one latrine per 350 people and less than 1.5L per person per day (MSF 04/03/2016).

Water

Increasing cost of fuel has led to a dramatic increase in the price of water causing more people to get drinking water from unsafe sources. Only 13% of Juba residents can access the municipal water supply. (Sudan Tribune 27/12/2015).

Shelter

1.9 million people need shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA 31/12/2015).

Emergency shelter and blankets are needed in Malakal PoC following violence on 17–18 February. **Over 22,000 people lost their shelter: 75% of the camp population is living in cramped conditions of only 3m²/person. Others are sleeping in the open (OCHA 03/03/2016; UNICEF 22/02/2016).**

Education

An estimated 1.1 million people need education assistance (OCHA 31/12/2016). Over 50% of primary and lower secondary age children do not have access to education. Since the outbreak of conflict in 2013 more than 800 schools have been destroyed across the country (UNICEF4/01/2016).

Access and learning environment

Around 400,000 children have been forced out of school by conflict; 70% of schools in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile are non-functional; 33 schools being used for military purposes (EWEA 01/2016; UNICEF 26/01/2016).

The recent escalation of violence in Western Equatoria has led to the closure of an estimated 44 primary schools, affecting almost 16,000 children (UNICEF 31/12/2015).

Teaching and learning

There are reports of classes as large as 100. This falls short of the UNHCR standard of 40:1 (UNMISS 12/11/2015). In Ajuong Thok camp in Unity, school classrooms are reported to be over-congested with more than 2,000 children registered in the schools (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Protection

4.7 million people need protection assistance (OCHA 31/12/2015). Reports of torture, rape and targeting of civilians are widespread. Journalists are vulnerable: seven have been killed in 2015 in allegedly targeted attacks (Reuters 20/08/2015; AFP 05/08/2015). On 1 February it was reported that government forces have been accused of suffocating 50 civilians in metal containers in Unity state (01/02/2016; Al Jazeera 01/02/2016).

Gender

Rape is used as a weapon of war by government and opposition forces (HRW 21/07/2015). More than half of young women aged between 15 and 24 have suffered from some form of gender-based violence (UNHCR 27/11/2015). In the last two years, the reported number of incidents of gender-based violence has increased five-fold (OCHA 01/12/2015). The abduction of IDP women from outside PoCs continues to be reported (UNHCR 12/06/2015). It is difficult to obtain SGBV figures as people collecting information on SGBV face intimidation and threats (UNHCR 14/07/2015). Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in and around PoCs (MSF 08/09/2015).

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, rape, and other forms of sexual violence (UN 30/12/2014).

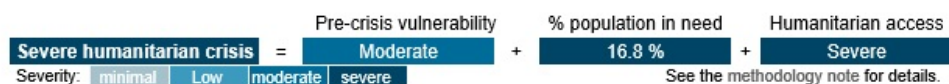
Child marriage has increased since the outbreak of conflict in 2013. Families facing economic difficulty have used it as a negative coping mechanism (OCHA 01/12/2015).

15,000–16,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups since the conflict began (Protection Cluster 22/11/2015). Waterboarding has reportedly been used to torture children who resist joining armed groups (Reuters 08/12/2015).

As of 8 January there are around 11,600 separated or unaccompanied children. The majority are in Jonglei and Unity states. This is an increase of over 3000 since the figure reported in early December (UNICEF 14/01/2016; UNICEF 03/12/2015; Protection Cluster 31/12/2015).

Updated: 07/03/2016

SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

7 March: Heavy fighting continues between government forces and the armed opposition in Jebel Marra (Radio Dabanga).

28 February: WASH needs are particularly acute in Tawila and Sortony, North Darfur, following the recent influx of over 92,000 IDPs from Jebel Marra (OCHA).

KEY FIGURES

6.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (USAID 30/09/2015).

3.2 million IDPs (OCHA 28/02/2016).

1.29 million people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes (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).

KEY PRIORITIES

Protection: Civilians continue to be at risk due to insecurity across Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Food security outcomes are expected to deteriorate when the lean season begins in March, two months earlier than usual. South Kordofan is of particular concern.

WASH: The effects of El Niño are depleting the water supply across many parts of the country.

Health: Dengue fever continues to be of concern across Darfur; cases have also been reported in Kassala and the Kordofan states. The 2015 measles epidemic saw five times the usual number of cases per year.

OVERVIEW

Protracted insurgencies are being waged by armed groups across Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Darfur has been the scene of conflict for over a decade, while violence in Blue Nile and South Kordofan increased significantly after South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Humanitarian access to conflict zones is severely restricted. Water shortages are expected across many parts of the country as the dry season begins, after a below-average rainy season. Violence, food insecurity, malnutrition, lack of access to basic services, and recurrent natural disasters have caused large-scale internal displacement.

Politics and security

Profound divisions within Sudan have persisted since independence in 1956. The government's exploitation of inter-communal differences has aggravated the situation.

Conflict has been ongoing in Darfur since 2003, when a number of groups took up arms in protest over perceived political and economic neglect of the region. In response, the government armed militia groups in order to defeat the uprising. In the Two Areas (Blue Nile and South Kordofan), violence has been ongoing since the 1990s, and has worsened since the discovery of oil inside the border states and South Sudan's independence. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), a group founded by the SPLM following South Sudanese independence, currently controls areas in Blue Nile and South Kordofan.

Violence levels decreased after 2005 and then increased dramatically at the end of 2014 after the government began an extensive military operation aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur and the Two Areas.

Peace negotiations

On 18 October 2015, the Sudan Revolutionary Front, made up of armed groups from Darfur and the Two Areas, declared a six-month unilateral ceasefire (Sudan Tribune 18/10/2015). Nonetheless, fighting between government forces and armed groups continues. In December the government deployed more troops to Darfur and the Two Areas (Times Live 07/12/2015; All Africa 05/12/2015). The SPLM-N also mobilised more forces in anticipation of an offensive (Radio Dabanga 11/01/2016).

Talks between government delegations and the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) failed in November and negotiations were suspended. Informal discussions between the government and the SPLM-N (one faction of the SRF) resumed on 22 January and parties failed again to reach agreement. Priority issues are cessation of hostilities in the Two Areas; and facilitating delivery of humanitarian aid (Radio Dabanga 15/01/2016; Sudan Tribune 20/12/2015). A round of discussions took place between the government and the JEM and the SLM-MM (also SRF members) on 23 January. The results were inconclusive (Sudan Tribune 28/01/2016). Discussions are scheduled to resume mid-March (Sudan Tribune 04/03/2016).

The SPLM-N insists on a comprehensive, all-inclusive approach to peace negotiations that will provide a framework for a new constitution that guarantees cultural diversity and pluralism. The Darfur faction of the SRF also supports a comprehensive solution but first demands separate talks are held in order to reach agreement on Darfur (Sudan Tribune 21/01/2016). The SLM-AW refuses to join any mediation unless the situation on the ground is secure (Radio Dabanga 11/01/2016).

The government has scheduled a referendum on Darfur for 11–13 April, to determine whether the region will remain split between five states or revert to being one entity. The splitting of Darfur into five states was one of the reasons for the outbreak of conflict in 2003 (Reuters 12/01/2016).

Sudan–South Sudan

Tensions between Khartoum and Juba have persisted since South Sudan gained independence in 2011. Oil production is of key concern to both countries. Sudanese forces moved towards the border with South Sudan's Unity and Upper Nile states in July 2015, reportedly in an attempt to protect Sudan's interest in the oil-rich territory that straddles the border (World Bulletin 13/07/2015). Borders disputes have not been resolved, but on 24 January President al Bashir ordered the reopening of the border with South Sudan for the first time since it seceded, in an attempt to improve economic links (Reuters 28/01/2016; AFP 27/01/2016).

Stakeholders

Government of Sudan: The government is led by the National Congress Party (NCP). In June 2015 President al Bashir appointed a new cabinet following his April election victory (The Economist 12/2015).

Pro-government forces: The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) are the government forces of Sudan. The Rapid Support Force (RSF) is an additional armed force created by the government in 2013 to help defeat the opposition armed groups across the country. The RSF is under the command of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) and is primarily active in the conflict regions of Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile (Human Rights Watch 09/09/2015).

Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF): The Sudan Revolutionary Front was established in 2011 after Sudan's main opposition armed groups formed a loose alliance, with the shared goal of overthrowing the National Congress Party (NCP).

The SRF includes the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North (SPLM-N) (initially the northern wing of the SPLM/A, which led the political uprising in the south during the 1983-2005 civil war) that controls areas in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and 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: The hybrid African Union and UN mission in Darfur, UNAMID, consists of 17,750 personnel (UNAMID 2015). Despite protests from the Sudanese government, the Security Council has extended UNAMID's mandate until June 2016 (Firstpost 29/06/2015). Relations between the government and the UN peacekeeping mission deteriorated following the government's refusal to allow UNAMID to investigate mass rape in North Darfur at the end of 2014 (AFP 30/11/2014).

On 15 December the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) until May 2016 (UN Security Council 15/12/2015). The peacekeeping force was deployed to the disputed border region in 2011.

Conflict developments

Darfur

Violence between government forces and the SLM-AW intensified dramatically in the Jebel Marra region of Darfur in mid-January. **Ground fighting and aerial bombardments are ongoing in the area (Radio Dabanga 07/03/2016).** Over 100,000 people have been displaced in North and Central Darfur. Thousands more are thought to be hiding in the mountains (OCHA 28/02/2016; Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016). There are reports of high levels of sexual violence against IDPs and an unknown number of people have been killed. Shops and markets and some main roads remain closed (OCHA 31/01/2016; Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016; 14/02/2016).

The Two Areas: Blue Nile and South Kordofan

Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain, as government authorities severely restrict access.

Since the beginning of the dry season in January, the government has intensified its military campaign against the opposition in Blue Nile and South Kordofan. Incidents of aerial bombardment and ground offenses continue. At least 3,000 people have been displaced by bombings in Kurmuk county in Blue Nile and over 30 farms have been destroyed (HART 25/02/2016; Sudan Tribune 21/02/2016; ICG 01/03/2016).

Inter-communal violence

Conflict over resources and ethnic tension is common throughout Sudan. Clashes between Rizeigat and Ma'aliya tribesmen in East and South Darfur led to over 117 deaths and more than 24,000 displaced families in 2015 (Sudan Tribune 13/12/2015; Radio Dabanga 27/10/2015). In North, South and Central Darfur, reports of herders raiding farms, physical assault, arson and rape are common (Radio Dabanga 14/12/2015; 07/10/2015; 25/10/2015).

People living along the Sudan–Ethiopia border are calling for its re-demarcation. Ethiopian militias reportedly are occupying more than 50 villages and approximately 400,700 hectares of farmland in Gedaref state (Radio Dabanga 25/12/2015; 15/11/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

El Niño significantly impacted the 2015 rainy season. Water shortages are affecting 3.5 million people in 82 localities across the country. Darfur, North and South Kordofan, Blue Nile Kassala and Red Sea states are particularly affected (FEWSNET 05/01/2016; ECHO 04/03/2016).

Displacement

IDPs

3.2 million IDPs are in Sudan. 2.6 million are in Darfur, and 1.5 million of these are children (OCHA 21/02/2016). Over 538,000 IDPs are in Blue Nile and the Kordofan states (OCHA19/01/2016). 20,000 IDPs are in Abyei (OCHA 31/10/2015). 73% of displaced households in 2015 were female-headed (IOM 31/08/2015).

Darfur

223,000 people were displaced by conflict in 2015 (OCHA 20/12/2015). Government policy

preventing the creation of new camps is obstructing verification and registration of IDPs, according to OCHA (IRIN 02/06/2015). The government has also reconfirmed plans to close IDP camps in Darfur in 2016, claiming the security situation is stable. Residents of the IDP camps continually refuse to return home due to the presence of armed groups (Radio Dabanga 23/02/2016).

People have been fleeing their homes in Jebel Marra since fighting escalated on 15 January: **over 92,000 people have been displaced to towns in North Darfur and as many as 50,000 are expected to be in Central Darfur (OCHA 28/02/2016)**. A further 30,000 people are suspected to be hiding in caves in the mountains. Road closures imposed by armed groups are preventing many people from reaching IDP camps (Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016; 25/02/2016).

Central Darfur: The number of people who have arrived in Central Darfur after fleeing the ongoing violence in Jebel Marra is unknown due to access restrictions (OCHA 28/02/2016). Local media reports that over 50,000 people may have arrived in Guldo, Nierteti and Thur (Radio Dabanga 25/02/2016; 23/02/2016). The Central Darfur authorities are denying aid to the displaced. They do not allow for the creation of new camps nor are they allowing people to camp in public (Radio Dabanga 22/02/2016).

North Darfur: Of those who fled the violence in Jebel Marra, over 92,000 are reported to be in North Darfur. This is an increase of over 7,000 since 22 February. An estimated 46,800 people have been registered at Sortony UN base; a further 27,500 have been reported in Tawilla locality and over 2,000 people have been reported in Kebkabiya town. Around 1,000 have also arrived at a camp in Shangil Tobaya. 90% are women and children (IOM 20/02/2016; OCHA 28/02/2016).

South Darfur: Since mid-February there are reports that IDPs from Jebel Marra have been arriving in South Darfur: over 1,000 people at camps in Kass (OCHA 02/03/2016; Radio Dabanga 02/03/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

There are over 379,000 refugees in Sudan. Up to 75,000 are thought to be in Khartoum (OCHA 10/01/2016).

There are over 173,800 South Sudanese refugees. This does not include those living with host communities (UNHCR 29/02/2016). **50% are in White Nile, 20% in Khartoum, 12% in South Kordofan, 15% in West Kordofan and 2% are in Blue Nile (UNHCR 29/02/2016).** **2,500 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (UNHCR 29/02/2016).** 91% of households are female-headed (UNHCR 29/01/2015). Around 134,100 refugees are children (UNHCR 01/10/2015; UNICEF 31/08/2015). In January, around 5,200 South Sudanese refugees arrived, significantly more than the monthly average of 3,500 over the last five months (UNHCR 01/02/2016).

There are over 173,400 refugees of other nationalities (OCHA 21/02/2016).

Refugee returnees

In 2015 an estimated 64,000 returnees to Darfur were reported (OCHA 14/02/2016). Over 30,000 returnees from Chad arrived in Central Darfur's Um Dukhun locality between June and December 2015, in response to the Chadian government's demand that refugees integrate into camps or return home. A further 50,000 returnees from Chad have recently arrived in Kornoi, Tina, and Um Baru in North Darfur: they are in need of health, education, and WASH assistance (UNICEF 31/01/2016; Radio Dabanga 19/02/2017).

Between September and November 2015, 13,700 returnees arrived in Labado village, East Darfur. They remain in need of WASH, nutrition, and education assistance (OCHA 24/01/2016).

Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 30 November, there are 298,673 Sudanese refugees registered in Chad, 264,247 in South Sudan, 37,952 in Ethiopia, and 1,943 in Central African Republic (OCHA 19/01/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access is a major problem for international relief organisations. Humanitarian operations are hampered by insecurity, mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions. Access to areas of active conflict 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

There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013. Between 90,000 and 250,000 people in SPLM-N areas of Blue Nile state and South Kordofan are without access to humanitarian assistance (OCHA 31/09/2015). The government has said it will not allow direct cross-border delivery of aid from South Sudan or Ethiopia, as opposition groups could potentially use aid vehicles to transport weapons (Radio Dabanga 26/11/2015; 24/11/2015).

The newly displaced in Central Darfur are yet to receive assistance. Since 24 January five applications from inter-agency missions have been submitted to local authorities: four have been denied and one is pending (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Linked to the impact of El Niño, food security is deteriorating. The 2015/16 harvest was well below average across most of Sudan: consequently food prices are high. More

people will require food assistance during the lean season, from March (which is two months earlier than usual). **Around four million people will be in IPC Phase 3 or higher. This is twice as high as a typical year (FEWSNET 04/03/2016).** In conflict-affected areas of South Kordofan, food security outcomes will likely worsen from Crisis (IPC Phase 3) to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in March (FEWSNET 31/01/2016; OCHA 27/01/2016).

Fighting in Jebel Marra has led to the closure of shops and markets. The prices of basic commodities in the area have soared (Radio Dabanga 19/02/2016).

Food access

In Kalma IDP camp in Nyala, South Darfur, there is a food shortage: local media reports that food aid has not been delivered for six months. The camp shelters 160,000 IDPs (Radio Dabanga 02/03/2016).

Food availability

Poor rainfall at the start of the 2015 cropping season delayed planting and affected crop quality (FEWSNET 02/09/2015). The amount of cultivated land decreased from 714,000 hectares in 2014 to 504,000 hectares in 2015 (OCHA 16/08/2015). Some areas may lose 30–50% of crops (OCHA 29/10/2015). Pasture deficits are estimated to be particularly severe in North Darfur, North Kordofan, Kassala, and White Nile states (FEWSNET 30/01/2016). Shortage of rainfall has contributed to a deterioration in agricultural productivity.

There is a bread shortage in most towns and prices of basic commodities have soared across the country. In Darfur and East Sudan bakeries are reportedly closing or opening for fewer hours (Sudan Tribune 01/03/2016; 25/02/2016).

Health

5.2 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA 28/10/2015). Many people in Darfur have no access to healthcare (Radio Dabanga 28/07/2015). Shortages of medicines have been reported country-wide and prices of essential medicines have increased by up to 100%: medicine has become unaffordable for many (Radio Dabanga 22/01/2016).

Healthcare availability and access

Darfur: In South Darfur, one million people do not have access to healthcare. There is an acute shortage of doctors and hospital beds (Radio Dabanga 08/02/2016; OCHA 10/01/2016). In North Darfur's ZamZam camp there is a lack of medical supplies (Radio Dabanga 22/11/2015). In Fanga Suk in Jebel Marra, no routine vaccination has taken place since 2011 and the nearest health facility is 100km away (OCHA 15/11/2015).

Eastern Sudan: Health services are also deteriorating in parts of eastern Sudan. In

Aroma locality, Kassala state, there are no specialist doctors in either of the two rural hospitals (All Africa 20/12/2015). In Red Sea state, conditions in Port Sudan hospital are worsening (Radio Dabanga 27/01/2016).

Two Areas: In areas controlled by the SPLM-N, 162,000 children have not received routine vaccinations since 2011 (OCHA 22/11/2015). **In the Warni and Kau-Nyaro areas of South Kordofan widespread outbreaks of diarrhoea, malaria, and fever of unknown cause were reported in late February. Measles outbreaks have also been reported in eight villages in the area and there are no health facilities available (OCHA 28/02/2016).**

Measles

The number of measles cases in Abyei has increased since early February. There are also reports of a measles outbreak in Tawila locality, North Darfur following the IDP influx from Jebel Marra (Radio Tamazuj 15/02/2016; AFP 18/02/2016).

Nutrition

Two million people are in need of nutrition (ECHO 27/11/2015). National GAM is 16.3%. 550,000 children are believed to suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). 59 out of 184 localities are facing GAM rates at or above the emergency threshold of 15%: these include localities in Red Sea, Kassala and El Gedaref, which are not affected by conflict (UNICEF 26/01/2016). GAM rates above 25% are recorded in the North Darfur localities of El Sireaf, Ailliet, Dar El Salam, and Kalimendo (OCHA 04/10/2015). 22.7% GAM and 3.4% SAM have been recorded among host and IDP communities in North Darfur's Kutum locality (OCHA 04/10/2015). The expulsion of Tearfund in December places over 17,000 acutely malnourished children at risk (UNICEF 31/01/2016).

WASH

3.8 million people are in need of WASH facilities (OCHA 28/10/2015). An estimated 73,000 people, including IDPs, refugees and members of the host community are in need of WASH assistance in South Darfur (OCHA 10/01/2016). Most refugee sites remain below the UNHCR emergency standard of 20 litres of water/person/day and 20 people per latrine (OCHA 21/01/2016).

Water

In Reif Asharqi locality in South Kordofan there is a shortage of water: almost half of the water pumps in the area are broken (OCHA 21/02/2016). There has been a water shortage in El Gedaref for several months (Radio Dabanga 25/02/2016). In Red Sea, North Darfur, and North Kordofan more than 200 dams have dried up. **In Tawila locality, North Darfur, livestock are dying from lack of water (Radio Dabanga 03/03/2016).** In the Abyei area, the River Kir has dried up in most places. Limited rainfall is exacerbating the likelihood of

contaminated water, waterborne diseases, and malnutrition (Radio Dabanga 29/01/2016; WASH Cluster 31/12/2015).

Following the recent influx of IDP arrivals to Sortony UN base and Tawila in North Darfur, the drinking water supply is at just 2.6L/p/d and 5.8L/p/d respectively (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Sanitation

In East Darfur's Khor Omer camp, water, hygiene promotion and latrines are needed following the influx of 5,000 South Sudanese refugees since the start of the year (21/02/2016).

Latrines are needed at Sortony UN base: currently latrine coverage at the site meets the needs of only 3% of its population (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

Three million people are in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA 28/10/2015).

Across the country there is a shortage of cooking gas and fuel prices have increased threefold since mid-January (Radio Dabanga 07/02/2016; All Africa 05/02/2016).

Shelter is needed in East Darfur's Khor Omer camp: around 250 new arrivals are currently taking refuge in a community centre (OCHA 21/02/2016).

Following the influx of IDPs to North Darfur from Jebel Marra, 57% of new arrivals are in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Education

40% of children aged 5–13 are out of school in Sudan (OCHA 27/09/2015). The highest percentages of children not in education are in Blue Nile (47%), Kassala (45%), and West Darfur (46%) (OCHA 13/09/2015). 70% of school closures are due to insecurity on the route to school (Education Cluster 13/10/2015). Schools are also frequently used as IDP shelters (UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Since fighting escalated in Jebel Marra on 15 January, nearly 120 schools have closed (Radio Dabanga 10/02/2016). **Over 6,600 grade eight children displaced by fighting in Jebel Marra are at risk of being unable to sit their final exams. Education assistance is needed in Tawila and Sortony, North Darfur, so children can complete their basic education (UNICEF 02/03/2016).**

Protection

3.5 million people are in need of protection (OCHA 28/10/2015). Human rights violations

including torture, targeting of civilians, rape, censorship, and arbitrary arrest are widespread. In November 80 incidents of human rights abuses were reported, including the murder of 56 civilians and attacks on 25 civilian villages (SUDO 30/11/2015).

Mines and ERW

250 locations covering an estimated 32km² are contaminated by mines and ERW. South Kordofan is the most heavily mined area, accounting for almost 40% of injuries caused by mines or ERW (UNMISS 31/02/2016).

Children

Following the recent influx of IDPs to North Darfur, 588 unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) have been identified and 132 other children have been reported as missing (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Gender

The use of rape as a weapon of war is widespread. IDPs are especially vulnerable. In October and November of 2015, 38 and 51 incidents of rape were documented respectively. Nine of these cases were minors (SUDO 30/11/2015; 31/10/2015).

Since the escalation of violence began in Jebel Marra on 15 January a high level of sexual violence has been reported amongst IDPs (Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016; SUDO 31/01/2016; UNHCR 22/02/2016).

Documentation

In Tawila locality in North Darfur, a government order has been issued stating any citizen who failed to obtain a 'national number' by the end of 2015 would not be considered Sudanese and will be denied a permit to travel outside the locality. A national number allows people to register for a passport or identity card, but many people cannot afford the fee (Radio Dabanga 27/12/2015).

Since March 2014, the Sudanese government has refused to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them Sudanese citizens (UNHCR 03/04/2014).

Updated: 07/03/2016

BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, POLITICAL UNREST



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 February: Three bodies were found in Bujumbura in what is suspected to be a mass grave containing 30 victims (AFP).

26 February: Six people were injured in grenade attacks in Bujumbura (AFP).

KEY FIGURES

- 247,500 Burundians fleeing political unrest are registered as refugees in Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania, and Uganda (UNHCR 15/02/2016).
- At least 439 people killed in political violence since April 2015 (OCHA 29/01/2016).
- 645,000 people are food insecure (FEWSNET 26/01/2015).
- Approximately 30,000 people have been affected and over 3,500 houses destroyed by heavy rains, landslides, and flooding between September and December 2015 (Burundi Red Cross 11/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Protection in areas where unrest is most prominent: Kirundo, Citiboke, Rumonge, Makamba and Bujumbura Rural provinces, and the city of Bujumbura.
- WASH and health interventions to contain the risk of cholera and malaria outbreaks, particularly during the rainy season until May.

OVERVIEW

The political turmoil is exacerbating a chronic situation of unmet humanitarian need. Over 232,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries since April 2015. According to humanitarian contingency plans, a further 400,000 people could be affected within Burundi as the situation deteriorates over the coming six months. By the end of 2016, UNHCR estimates 330,000 Burundians will have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Immediate humanitarian needs have been highlighted in protection, food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance, WASH and essential healthcare services, and education.

Politics and security

High levels of political instability and frequent violence persist in 2016, having begun in April 2015 with 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 with violent incidents frequently reported, particularly in the capital Bujumbura (IRIN 12/10/2015; AFP 08/12/2015). Violence escalated in December and left between 87 and 154 people dead, bringing the total number killed since April to at least 439 (OCHA 29/01/2016; AFP 23/01/2016). Fears are mounting that the conflict could degenerate further after 100 bodies were found in mass graves following December violence (OHCHR 15/01/2016). The UN Security Council has expressed concern over a possible outbreak of mass atrocities and ethnic violence as the security situation deteriorates (AFP 20/01/2016).

Political instability

Large protests denouncing Nkurunziza's candidacy for a third term were held between April and July 2015, mostly in Bujumbura (OCHA 12/05/2015; AFP 05/06/2015; Reuters 18/05/2015). An attempted coup led by the former head of intelligence failed, after two days of intense clashes in May (BBC 13/05/2015). Several top officials fled the country, including the Vice President and head of parliament (AFP 28/06/2015; 25/06/2015).

Parliamentary and presidential elections went ahead in June and July, despite being widely declared as not credible. The ruling party won a majority of parliamentary seats and Nkurunziza was re-elected with 69% of the vote. Turnout was low, with 17 opposition parties boycotting the polls (AFP 07/07/2015; 27/07/2015). 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 (CNARED) (IRIN 12/10/2015). On 20 August, President Nkurunziza was sworn in for a third term (AFP 20/08/2015).

In the months following Nkurunziza's re-election, the government categorically ruled out negotiations and redoubled its targeting of opposition (AFP 23/09/2015). Dissidence has shifted from protest to armed violence against security forces. Regular grenade attacks against civilians add to a climate of fear (ACLEDD 13/12/2015). On 28 December, opposition and government representatives held preliminary peace talks in Uganda, but these have subsequently stalled (DW 06/01/2016; AFP 19/01/2016). President Nkurunziza declared his willingness to reopen an inclusive dialogue on the occasion of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's February 2016 visit – but CNARED opposition leaders dismissed the plan as a "false opening" (AFP 23/02/2016).

Recent incidents

February saw the worst violence since December with two major incidents and multiple smaller ones, mostly involving grenades. **On 26 February, six people were injured in grenade attacks in Bujumbura (AFP 26/02/2016).** Over the night of 21–22 February, four people were killed and 11 injured in separate grenade attacks in Bujumbura – just hours

before the UN Secretary General was due to arrive (AFP 22/02/2016). A child was killed and around 60 people were injured on 15 February, when men on motorbikes threw grenades into central Bujumbura streets (AFP 15/02/2016; MSF 16/02/2016). On 11 February, 26 people were injured when a grenade exploded on a busy street in Buyenzi district, Bujumbura (AFP 11/02/2016). On 7 February, four people were killed in a grenade attack in the Kinama neighbourhood of Bujumbura (AFP 07/02/2016). On 3 February, one person was killed and five injured as three grenades exploded near Bujumbura's central post office (AFP 03/02/2016). On 2 February, a grenade attack in the Butere area of Bujumbura killed at least one person and injured eight (Reuters 02/02/2016).

11 December saw the worst day of violence since April, with at least 87 people killed after armed opposition groups carried out three coordinated attacks on military installations in Bujumbura (Guardian 12/12/2015; Reuters 13/12/2015).

International pressure

Multiple international bodies and states have tried, but so far failed, to leverage meaningful political dialogue in Burundi. President Nkurunziza has labelled those breaching a ban on weapons as "enemies of the nation" – rhetoric that sparked widespread concerns and condemnation from the international community (OHCHR 10/11/2015; Amnesty International 12/11/2015; UNSC 12/11/2015). An AU proposal to send a 5,000-strong peacekeeping mission was rejected by the Burundian parliament and President Nkurunziza in December, and largely abandoned in January (AFP 22/12/2015; 30/12/2015; AU 06/02/2016).

Both the EU and AU have imposed sanctions on individuals in Burundi (AFP 29/09/2015; AU 17/10/2015). On 12 February, the EU announced the suspension of direct aid to Burundi's government over democracy and human rights concerns (AFP 12/02/2016).

A string of high level delegations and human rights observers, including the UN Secretary General, have visited Burundi and met with government and opposition representatives to push for dialogue and political settlement – none have succeeded (IRIN 02/03/2016).

Regional tensions

Relations between Burundi and Rwanda, which the government accuses of backing opposition forces, are souring – Rwanda has denied any involvement (AFP 23/10/2015). Around 4,000 people in Bujumbura protested alleged Rwandan aggression and interference in Burundi's domestic affairs (AFP 13/02/2015). A day earlier, Rwanda had announced it was taking steps to relocate Burundian refugees in its territory – who number over 70,000 – to third countries (AFP 12/02/2016). On 7 October, Burundi ordered a Rwandan diplomat to leave the country, heightening tensions between the two countries (Jeune Afrique 13/10/2015). Clashes in July in Kayanza and Citiboke provinces on the Rwandan border

left 31 dead (OCHA 16/07/2015).

Economic situation

Already facing the lowest GDP per capita in the world, Burundi's GDP shrunk 7.2% in 2015 (IRIN 12/02/2016). International partners funded 50% of Burundi's pre-crisis budget but have been withdrawing since the onset of political turmoil. Foreign resources now only account for 30% of the budget (UNICEF 31/01/2016). Overall, the 2016 budget has been reduced by 18% compared to 2015: health, education, WASH and protection services are all expected to suffer (Reuters 13/12/2015; UNICEF 31/01/2016).

Natural disasters

Heavy rains, floods and landslides

Heavy rains, landslides, and flooding affected some 30,000 people across 11 provinces between September and December 2015 (OCHA 29/01/2016). As of 11 February, the Burundi Red Cross had recorded 63 deaths, 104 injuries, 3501 destroyed houses, 99 destroyed schools, 10,053 hectares of devastated agricultural fields, and 42 destroyed bridges due to natural hazards, mostly flooding (Burundi Red Cross 11/02/2016). 14 provinces remain at risk of El Niño-induced heavy rains (OCHA 29/01/2016).

Displacement

The political crisis since April has displaced more than 247,500 Burundians to neighbouring countries; internal displacement has been limited, but is growing (**UNHCR 15/02/2016**; OCHA 12/11/2015). 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

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; ECHO 17/12/2015). It is widely believed that current figures largely underestimate the IDP population; tracking of another eight provinces is expected (Refugees International 18/11/2015). Conservative estimates indicate at least 25,000 people have been internally displaced in Makamba, Kirundo, and Rutana provinces, predominantly due to violence and socio-economic disruption, but also due to rains and flooding in some cases (IOM 31/01/2016; OCHA 12/11/2015). 54% are female and 62% are children (IOM 31/01/2016). 70% are living among host families, with the remainder renting homes or occupying abandoned houses (IOM 31/01/2016). 68% of IDPs were displaced between May and July, at the height of electoral unrest; 19% after Nkurunziza's election and 13% between January and April 2015 (IOM 31/10/2015).

As of January 2015, Burundi had 77,600 protracted IDPs, mostly ethnic Tutsis, living in and around 120 sites in northern and central Burundi (IDMC 31/01/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of end July, Burundi was host to 53,977 refugees from DRC, mainly in the border regions of Ngozi, Ruyigi, Muyinga and Cankuzo (UNHCR 31/07/2015). Refugees have been requesting relocation since the beginning of the political crisis (UNHCR 05/06/2015).

Refugee returnees

79,000 Burundian returnees who fled past conflicts 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 15 February, over 247,500 Burundian refugees are registered in Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, and Tanzania (**UNHCR 15/02/2016**). UNHCR estimates 330,000 Burundians will have sought refuge in neighbouring countries by the end of 2016 (UNCHR 16/12/2015).

Tanzania: 132,072 Burundian refugees have arrived in Tanzania since April 2015 (**UNHCR 29/02/2016**). Arrivals averaged around 200 per day in January and 150 per day in February. Around 75,800 Burundian refugees are in Nyarugusu camp. Beginning last October, some refugees have been relocated from overcrowded Nyarugusu to Nduta camp, which now accommodates 48,800 out of a planned capacity of 50,000. On 14 January, a new site at Mtendeli started receiving refugees: it currently hosts 5,300 refugees (**UNHCR 29/02/2016**).

Rwanda: 73,867 Burundian refugees are registered in Rwanda (UNHCR 22/02/2016). Approximately 48,000 are in Mahama camp. Another 22,000 are living in Kigali, and 2,800 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 22/02/2016). Refugees are reportedly being forcibly recruited by Burundian opposition groups and sent to military training camps in Rwanda and DRC (Refugees International 14/12/2015).

DRC: 18,382 Burundians refugees have been registered in DRC (UNHCR 31/10/2015). Around 14,000 are hosted in Lusenda refugee site in South Kivu (AFP 23/01/2016).

Uganda: 20,544 Burundian refugees have been received in Uganda since November 2014. 15,410 are in Nakivale camp and 4,435 are registered as urban refugees in Kampala. Smaller populations are in Kyaka II and Oruchinga settlements, and in Kisoro district (UNHCR 04/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Refugees continue to report difficulty leaving Burundi. Women have reported SGBV incidents while in transit to countries of asylum (UNHCR 15/01/2016).

UN agencies have reported restricted access in Burundi (WFP 30/06/2015). In January, a team of UN mandated independent human rights experts were reportedly refused entry to Burundi (IRIN 29/01/2016). The banning of independent media is hindering aid agencies' ability to communicate with communities in need of assistance (OCHA 17/09/2015; IOM 09/10/2015). International humanitarian presence outside the capital is particularly constrained, although the Burundi Red Cross has a strong reach nationwide (OCHA 13/10/2015). In rural areas, agencies have been reliant on communicating via an emergency hotline, where affected individuals can report humanitarian needs (OCHA 21/12/2015). In urban Bujumbura, moto-taxis were banned after being used to launch grenade attacks on 15 February (AFP 16/02/2016).

Access is increasingly difficult in areas affected by heavy rains, flooding and landslides. 37 bridges have been destroyed by disasters since 25 January (Burundi Red Cross 03/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Approximately 645,000 people are estimated to be food insecure, 5% of whom face severe food insecurity and require emergency food assistance (FEWSNET 26/01/2016; GIEWS 12/02/2016). WFP's food assistance stocks are stretched (WFP 03/12/2015). In areas where political instability has disrupted agriculture and trade, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes are expected through February 2016 (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Food availability

Displacement and restricted movement in conflict-affected areas have limited labour opportunities, access to fields, and inputs. As a result, overall Season A harvests are expected to be 10% below average despite good rains since October (FEWSNET 26/01/2016). Mwaro, Citiboke, Bururi, Muyinga, Kirundo, Makamba, Bujumbura Rural, and Rumonge provinces are expected to face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes through February 2016 (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Food access

Insecurity is keeping food prices well above long-term averages. As of December 2015, stable food prices were 20% higher across Burundi than at the same time in 2014, contrary to normal trends which see prices decrease in December due to the start of harvests (FEWSNET 31/12/2015). 98% of IDPs do not have access to sufficient quantities of food (IOM 31/01/2016).

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). Shopkeepers in Bujumbura, where grenade attacks are increasingly frequent, report fewer customers due to fear and insecurity in the capital. The attacks resulted in damage and closure of some shops in violent hotspots (IRIN 12/02/2016). IOM survey results indicate extremely poor access to livelihood generating activities among IDP households (IOM 31/01/2016).

Health

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). There is a risk of a nationwide shortage of essential medicines (UNICEF 31/12/2015). Shortages are expected to continue for at least six months, although delivery of limited relief supplies has commenced (UNICEF 30/11/2015; 31/12/2015).

Cholera

Burundi faces a high cholera risk as health services and WASH conditions deteriorate. 22 cases of cholera were reported in Nyanza Lac district between 9 December 2015 and 8 January 2016 (UNICEF 31/01/2016).

Malaria

El Niño-induced weather conditions, including heavy rains and flooding, are contributing to the resurgence of malaria across Burundi (Burundi Red Cross 02/03/2016).

Nutrition

Malnutrition has increased with food insecurity and deterioration of health services. The number of children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition in Bujumbura doubled between October and December 2015 (UNICEF 31/01/2016).

WASH

WASH has been identified as a priority in the context of the political crisis and potential cholera outbreak. Over 80% of IDPs have to travel 500 metres or more to access water (IOM 31/01/2016). 15% did not have access to latrines (IOM 31/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Rents in calmer areas of Bujumbura are rising as people move to seek safety from attacks in restive districts (IRIN 12/02/2016). Displacement is driving shelter and NFI needs. 93% of IDPs have not received NFI assistance. Three-quarters express a need for materials to

repair or reinforce their shelters (IOM 31/01/2016).

Education

The rains have damaged 30 schools in Makamba, Ruyigi, and Bubanza provinces, leaving 7,300 children without adequate learning environments (UNICEF 31/12/2015).

Cases of exclusion from secondary school on the grounds of students' political affiliation have been reported from Musinga province (UNICEF 29/07/2015). In most areas hosting IDPs, fewer than 50% of children can access school (IOM 31/01/2016).

Protection

The protection environment continues to deteriorate, with both sides suspected of serious human rights violations. Amnesty International issued satellite images showing six mass graves in Bujumbura dug in December, following a government crackdown on opposition support. In February, three bodies were found in what is suspected to be a mass grave of 30 pro-government victims (AFP 29/02/2016).

At least 3,496 people have been arrested since April, including 452 arbitrarily arrested in November alone (OHCHR 17/12/2015). Imbonerakure – the ruling party's youth wing – is accused of severe abuse, including torture, threats, and intimidation (Amnesty 24/08/2015; Reuters 04/10/2015; AFP 04/10/2015). 263 cases of torture and ill treatment have been reported since April 2015 (OCHA 29/01/2016). President Nkurunziza reportedly promised the UN Secretary General that 1,200 prisoners would be released in February, but confirmation of their release is not yet available (UN 23/02/2016).

Almost all independent media outlets have been closed (HRW 01/12/2015). Journalists are reportedly facing violence and intimidation from authorities and members of the Imbonerakure (CPJ 26/08/2015, RSF 30/04/2015). Over 100 journalists have fled the country (International Federation of Journalists 18/11/2015). Two foreign journalists from Voice of America and Le Monde were briefly arrested in Bujumbura in late January (AFP 29/01/2016).

People fleeing persecution face intimidation and arrest while travelling to neighbouring countries to seek protection (Guardian 04/12/2015).

Gender

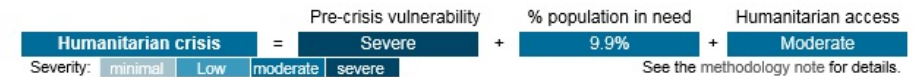
The UN documented 13 cases of sexual violence against women, including rape and gang rape, during search and arrest operations in December (OHCHR 15/01/2016). **There are reports of increasing numbers of women being detained if their male relatives cannot be found (UNHCR 15/02/2016).**

Children

At least 21 children have been killed since unrest broke out, most as a result of gunshot or grenade wounds (UNICEF 31/12/2015). Both pro- and anti-government forces have reportedly pressured children to join violent clashes, and their detention after protests and violence presents a major protection risk. Children have been detained for alleged involvement in armed groups (Al Jazeera 01/12/2015; UNICEF 31/12/2015).

Update: 04/03/2016

CHAD FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

28 February: A fire in Goz Amer camp, eastern Chad, destroyed 30 homes (Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- Over 106,000 IDPs estimated in Lac region (OCHA 11/02/2016).
- Over 400,000 refugees in Chad, including 296,359 from Sudan, 100,751 from CAR, and 29,243 from Nigeria (UNHCR 30/09/2015; 17/12/2015).
- In drought and insecurity affected areas, including Kanem, Bahr el Gazal and Lac regions, 14,000 people currently face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 440,000 people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (OCHA 30/11/2015; FEWSNET 31/12/2015).
- 325,000 severely malnourished children expected in 2016 (FEWSNET 31/12/2015; OCHA 31/10/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security and nutrition, following lower-than-average harvest yields (OCHA 30/11/2015; FEWSNET 31/12/2015).
- Protection in Lac region, where regular BH attacks against civilians continue (OCHA

05/12/2015).

- Prevention and treatment of malaria, measles and meningitis are the key health priorities (OCHA 30/11/2015).

OVERVIEW

Over 2.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Chad. The country faces security threats on its periphery, most notably from Boko Haram in Lac region. Instability there is triggering large-scale displacement, as attacks are frequently launched on civilians and military operations have also driven people from their homes. Nigerian refugees have crossed into Chad since 2014, adding to large refugee populations from Sudan in the east, and Central African Republic in the south. In addition, underlying vulnerability and food insecurity is high, particularly in the Sahelian zone to the north of the country, where desert encroachment and inconsistent rains have negatively impacted on agro-pastoral livelihoods.

Politics and security

The National Electoral Commission announced on 23 January that Chad will hold presidential elections on 10 April 2016 (AFP 23/01/2016). Idriss Déby has been Chad's President since 1990, winning further elections in 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011. Stability has largely improved since 2010 when civil war ended (IDMC 24/10/2014). However, conflicts in Nigeria and Central African Republic have increasingly affected stability in Chad. Chadian troops have carried out military operations against Boko Haram (BH) and are involved in a Multinational Joint Task Force, whose aim is to improve coordination between regional militaries fighting BH (UN 22/12/2015). Chad also hosts 3,000 French troops, deployed to tackle the increasing insecurity in the Sahel region (Reuters 11/07/2015).

Protests and demonstrations have intensified ahead of the April elections. On 8 February, over twenty people were arrested while demonstrating for access to the civil service in N'Djamena. As of 15 February, people have been protesting over a gang rape, allegedly committed by the sons of senior government officials (AFP 18/02/2016). Two people were killed and five injured as Chadian soldiers tried to break up the protests (AFP 28/02/2016). The government has responded by banning unauthorised demonstrations. The opposition promoted a lockdown in N'Djamena and five other cities on 24 February: schools and shops remained closed and markets were empty in protest against the government (AFP 28/02/2016; 24/02/2016).

Boko Haram

Boko Haram (BH) launched its first cross-border attack in Chad in February 2015 (Al Jazeera 14/02/2015). Chad and regional militaries have responded with operations against BH, but regular attacks on civilians continued throughout 2015. In July, Chadian forces pushed BH back from the country's islands in Lac region (Vice News 28/07/2015). Security measures were reinforced, and 395 people of 14 nationalities were arrested (UNHCR, 14/07/2015). Ten BH members were executed at end August (The Guardian 30/08/2015).

A state of emergency declared on 9 November in Lac region has been extended until 22 March 2016, voiding government predictions BH would be defeated by end 2015 (Reuters 06/10/2015; OCHA 30/11/2015). The intensity and frequency of BH suicide bombings in Chad increased during 2015, with women and girls being used in 75% of attacks in the region (UNICEF 30/11/2015). BH continues to deploy tactics including kidnapping, raids, and suicide bombings (USAID 22/12/2015). Due to the ongoing violence, an estimated 257,000 people are in need of assistance in Lac region (OCHA 28/01/2016).

A 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 operational in the region but continues to report coordination barriers (UN 22/12/2015).

Recent security incidents

Suspected BH attacks on civilians continue. On 30 January 2016, two suicide bombings in Guie and Miterine, Lac region, killed at least ten people and wounded 56 (OCHA 02/02/2016; Reuters 31/01/2016). On 5 December, a triple suicide attack targeting a busy market in Koulfoua – a Lake Chad island – killed up to 30 people and wounded over 130 (Reuters 08/12/2015; MSF 07/12/2015).

Displacement

There are around 600,000 displaced people in Chad in need of protection and humanitarian assistance, including over 400,000 refugees: mainly long-term refugees from Sudan and CAR, plus newer arrivals from Nigeria. The BH conflict in Lac region to the west, and the CAR conflict to the east has caused recent displacement. Some 200,000 people affected by the BH crisis are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 09/12/2015).

IDPs

Lac region has witnessed multiple waves of displacement. In the first wave, January –June 2015, 11,000 Chadians were internally displaced in Lac region and over 11,000

returned from Nigeria to escape BH (OCHA 11/02/2016). A second wave of displacement has taken place since 21 July 2015. Local authorities and the CCCM cluster have registered approximately 50,000 IDPs, including 2,400 newly displaced IDPs in Tchoukoutalia (OCHA 11/02/2016). A multi-sectoral evaluation mission is ongoing, and preliminary estimates find over 56,600 newly displaced in Liwa and Daboua sub-prefectures (OCHA 11/02/2016). The IDPs in Liwa and Daboua sub-prefectures have received little to no assistance since June 2015, due to insecurity and lack of access to sites (OCHA 11/02/2016).

New displacements take place on a regular basis, making accurate and updated assessment of IDP numbers and needs difficult (UNICEF 31/12/2015). The displaced in Liwa and Daboua sub-prefectures are spread across at least 22 sites that recently became accessible (OCHA 11/02/2016; 25/01/2016). Access to new sites is difficult and the need for humanitarian assistance remains urgent (OCHA 11/02/2016; 18/01/2016). The IDP population is larger than the host population in Fourkoloum, Tchoukoutalia and Ngouboua (WFP 22/01/2016).

Nearly 85,500 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east, facing difficulties accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities after their assistance was downscaled in 2014. Progress towards durable solutions for these IDPs is not monitored, making assessment of their humanitarian need difficult (IDMC 02/2015; OCHA 19/11/2013).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Chad hosts the world's seventh largest refugee population, with over 400,000 refugees. Most are from Central African Republic, Nigeria, and Sudan (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

Central African Republic: 90,000 refugees (UNICEF 31/12/2015). 68,382 live in camps, while 34,369 live among host communities (UNHCR, 17/12/2015).

Nigeria: 29,243 refugees (UNHCR, 17/12/2015). 6,252 refugees are living at the Dar es Salam site (OCHA 11/02/2016). Many are dispersed among host communities, where they try to access economic activities (UNHCR 18/11/2015). Local authorities have proposed relocating Dar es Salam site to a more remote location following increased insecurity since 10 October (UNHCR 18/11/2015).

Sudan: 299,779 refugees, living in protracted displacement in Chad (UNHCR 31/12/2015). 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 reject the scheme and are not

prepared to return to Darfur (Radio Dabanga 20/11/2015). 30,000 Sudanese refugees have returned to Central Darfur since June (OCHA 27/12/2015).

Refugee returnees

Large numbers of Chadians have returned from neighbouring countries due to conflict.

130,000 Chadians, 67% of whom are under 18 years old, have returned from CAR since 2014 and remain in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 02/12/2015). 38,000 live in precarious conditions in Moyen-Chari region, in the border sites of Maingama and Sido. Food security, shelter, WASH, health, nutrition, protection, and education needs are all highlighted as priorities (OCHA 02/12/2015).

The BH conflict in Nigeria has forced at least 11,000 Chadians to return since January 2015 (OCHA 20/10/2015). 3,400 returnees from Nigeria are living in the Dar al Nahim site, near Dar es Salam (OCHA 20/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Conflicts and insecurity are driving major access constraints in Chad. Border closures have affected trade, while humanitarian actors struggle to access populations in the most affected areas, particularly Lac region, where a state of emergency was declared in November 2015 and is still in effect.

Security and physical constraints

Chad's southern border with CAR has been closed to all except Chadian citizens since 2014 (Al Jazeera 13/05/2015; US Government 30/09/2015). The border with Nigeria remains de facto closed due to BH violence (UNICEF, 23/10/2015). Navigation on the Chari River and its tributary, the Logone, which flow along the border of Chad and Cameroon, has been halted (AFP 30/04/2015).

The state of emergency in Lac region until at least 22 March 2016 empowers the governor to ban movement of people and vehicles, search homes, and seize weapons (AFP 09/11/2015; 19/11/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Shrinking humanitarian space has negatively impacted the number of actors and staff, coordination mechanisms, needs assessment, and delivery of assistance in Lac region (OCHA 30/11/2015).

Humanitarian operations were severely constrained in late December 2015 due to an

upsurge in insecurity and a lack of military escorts (OCHA 18/01/2016).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Islands to the west and north of Baga Sola face major access constraints due to insecurity. Populations from these areas face difficulties reaching Baga Sola and Bol towns, where important services including hospitals are located (UNICEF 31/10/2015). Displaced people both fleeing insecurity and seeking economic opportunities are highly mobile and difficult to reach (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Most households in Chad will remain in IPC Phase 1 and avoid relying on negative coping strategies through March (FEWSNET 31/12/2015). However, in the areas worst affected by drought and insecurity, the food and nutrition situation is critical (ECHO 19/01/2016). 14,000 people face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes. A further 440,000 people across six regions (Kanem, Bahr el Gazal, Wadi Fira, Guera, Batha, and Lac) face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes in March and April (FEWSNET 29/02/2016; 06/02/2016; OCHA 30/11/2015). 2.2 million people face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes, not only in the Sahelian belt but also in southern Chad, where such high levels of food insecurity are unseasonal (OCHA 30/11/2015).

From June—August 2016, it is expected that 47,000 people will face Emergency, 890,000 people will face Crisis and 2.9 million people will face Stressed food security outcomes (OCHA 30/11/2015). By mid-2016, a total of 4.3 million will be food insecure (UNICEF 31/12/2016; 26/01/2016).

Food availability

According to preliminary government estimates, the total national cereal deficit is 10% below five-year averages due to poor harvests across large areas of the Sahelian zone (FEWSNET 31/12/2015; FAO 14/12/2015). Productivity of millet and sorghum crops, key staples, has been atypically low (FAO 14/12/2015). In addition, cereal availability around Lac region is below average due to production shortfalls. The harvests are also below average compared to other seasons (FEWSNET 30/01/2016).

Deficits in cereal stocks and pastoral production in Kanem, Bahr El Ghazal, Bartha, Nord Guera, and Wadi Fira are attributed to the delayed onset of the rainy season, and uneven distribution of rain across the Sahelian zone (WFP 12/02/2016; FEWSNET 29/02/2016; 31/12/2015). These areas face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes from January through March 2016 (OCHA 21/12/2015; FEWSNET 31/12/2015). The pastoral outlook for February–March is negative (FEWSET 31/12/2015).

Food access

Poor households in various departments in Guera, Kanem, Sila, Wadi Fira, and Lac, face an atypical rise in grain prices. Low production in Wadi Fira and insecurity in Lac contribute to this rise (FEWSNET 29/02/2016). In Bol, Lac region, this is exemplified by the price of one kilo of maize, which was 15% higher in early January than in December (FEWSNET 29/02/2016; WFP 22/01/2016). According to October survey results, one-third of households had faced shocks over the prior six months and 13% were resorting to emergency coping strategies (FAO 17/12/2015).

Large refugee influxes from Sudan, CAR, and Nigeria has put additional pressure on local food supplies (FEWSNET 29/02/2016; OCHA 11/02/2016). Local communities in Lac region almost exhausted all grain reserves at household levels, as food needs to be shared with refugees and IDPs (FEWSNET 29/02/2016). Both refugees from CAR and displaced populations in Lac region remain heavily reliant on food assistance (FEWSNET 29/02/2016; OCHA 30/11/2015). Newly displaced populations in Fourkoloum and Tchoukoutalia have not yet received assistance (OCHA 11/12/2015).

Livelihoods

Insecurity in the Lac region has taken a major toll on livelihood opportunities (UN 30/11/2015). Farmers and pastoralists struggle to access their land in the Lac region (OCHA 11/12/2015). Due to the influx of refugees and IDPs, there is an excess of agricultural labourers. The average daily salary of agricultural workers around Bol was halved in February (1,000 CFA), compared to 2015 (2,000 CFA) (FEWSNET 29/02/2016).

Water is increasingly scarce in southern and northern regions. Pastoralists are struggling to find water for their animals (FEWSNET 06/02/2016). The closure of the Nigerian border, due to BH violence, continues to impede trade and livelihoods in western Chad (FEWSNET 29/02/2016). Cattle and fishing have particularly suffered from insecurity (FEWSNET 31/12/2015). Fishermen are forced to move to the lake's arms, where there are less fish (OCHA 13/01/2016). Competition between local workers and the large displaced population have cut average daily wages for agricultural labour to half of December 2014 levels (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Health

1.3 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA 30/11/2015). Displaced populations and host communities face immediate health needs in Lac region. Malaria, acute respiratory infections, dermatitis and acute diarrhoea are the most common pathologies (OCHA 30/11/2015). The number of health facilities remains insufficient (OCHA 18/01/2016). 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. Health centres in Fourkoloum, Tchoukoutalia and Ngouboua are under pressure due to recent IDP arrivals and need support (OCHA 11/12/2015). Two-thirds of the IDP sites in Liwa sub-prefecture do not have primary healthcare (OCHA 11/02/2016).

Refugees in Jebel camp, eastern Chad, have reported about high fees for hospital patients imposed by the Chadian government, as well as soaring prices of medicine (Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016).

Nutrition

Preliminary SMART nutritional survey results from November 2015 put global acute malnutrition at 13.3% in Chad. Ten northern and central regions are above critical GAM thresholds of 15%, and five others are above serious levels of 10% (UNICEF 28/01/2016). Currently, 45,000 children in Lac region suffer from acute malnutrition (OCHA 27/01/2016). In 2016, an estimated 727,858 children will suffer acute malnutrition and will need humanitarian assistance, including an estimated 325,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (OCHA 31/10/2015; 09/12/2015; UNICEF 26/01/2016).

In Dar es Salam refugee site, 12.3% of children suffer from SAM (UNHCR 31/08/2015). At two Kousseri IDP sites, 30% of children are reportedly suffering from MAM (WFP 22/01/2016). 17 of the 22 identified sites in Liwa and Daboua lack treatment facilities for acute malnutrition (OCHA 11/02/2016).

WASH

One million people are in need of WASH assistance in Chad (OCHA 30/11/2015). While 52% of Chadians do have access to safe drinking water, access varies widely from region to region. In the northern Tibesti for example, only 5-18% of the population has access to safe drinking water (SADC 22/01/2016).

Displaced populations in Lac region are in urgent need of WASH assistance, particularly in Fourkoloum, Tchoukoutalia, Liwa and Daboua (OCHA 11/02/2016; 11/12/2015). 66% of water needs and 60% of latrine needs are not met in displacement sites (OCHA 11/02/2016; 18/10/2016). In Liwa and Daboua sub-prefectures, poor water quality is increasing the risk for waterborne diseases. Only 22% of water needs are met. Hygiene is also lacking, with no infrastructure for hand washing, utensils for water conservation or treatment products (OCHA 11/02/2016). Cholera in Niger and Cameroon raises the risk of an outbreak in Chad due to cross-border population movements in the Lake Chad Basin (UNICEF 02/12/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

90% of IDPs in Lac region have not received shelter support, leaving approximately 50,000 people in need of assistance. Gaps persist in the distribution of NFIs and shelter at Fourkoloum and Koukime (OCHA 18/01/2016). Emergency shelter assistance is urgent for over 20,000 IDPs in five sites in Liwa and Daboua (OCHA 11/02/2016). NFIs and other essential commodities are a priority for over 24,000 IDPs in the same area (OCHA 11/02/2016).

A fire in Goz Amer camp, eastern Chad, destroyed 30 homes, leaving several refugees without shelter (Radio Dabanga 28/02/2016).

Education

Countrywide, 37% of the school-aged population are out of school (WFP 31/10/2015). There is a national shortage of teachers (OCHA 30/11/2015). There are acute needs in Lac region, where 30% of schools remain closed due to insecurity and lack of teachers (OCHA 18/01/2016). Some 53,200 children in Lac region are estimated in need of emergency education (OCHA 27/01/2016).

Protection

BH violence involves killing and maiming civilians, forced recruitment of women and girls to carry out suicide bombings, and looting and burning of villages. Concerns have been raised over arbitrary arrest and detention of BH suspects, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings at the hands of Chad's security forces (UN 30/11/2015). The rise of inter-community conflict is a worrying development (OCHA 11/12/2015). IDPs are vulnerable to attacks of militias; armed groups have attacked three of the identified 22 sites in Liwa and Daboua (OCHA 11/02/2016).

Children

In Lac region, 104,000 children are reportedly affected by the crisis (OCHA 28/01/2016). In Dar es Salam camp where almost 8,000 Nigerian refugees live, 73 unaccompanied children and 116 separated children are recorded (OCHA 20/10/2015). Child protection spaces are lacking in Koukime, Fourkoloum, Tchoukoutalia, and Ngouboua sites (OCHA 18/10/2016).

Cases of child labour have been recorded in the Daboua and Liwa IDP sites (OCHA 11/02/2016).

Gender

Full faced veils have been banned, following June attacks in Ndjamena that sparked

fears of female suicide bombers concealing explosives under their garments (BBC 10/10/2015). 13,000 women and girls are estimated to need protection assistance (OCHA 06/11/2015).

Although the government launched a campaign in 2015 to end the common practice of child marriage, large numbers of underage girls continue to undergo forced marriage (UNICEF 20/11/2015). Early and forced marriage has recently been recorded in IDP sites in Liwa and Daboua (OCHA 11/02/2016).

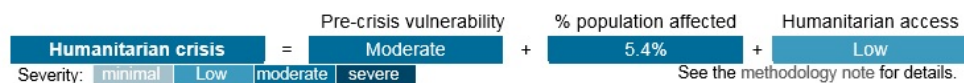
Documentation

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). Approximately 85% of locations have been profiled (OCHA 18/01/2016).

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).

Update: 29/02/2016

DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 February: Food security and malnutrition are likely to deteriorate until early harvest in June-August (FSNWG).

KEY FIGURES

- Over 32,000 arrivals from Yemen were registered since March 2015 (ECHO 11/02/2016).

- 110,000 people, primarily in southeastern, northwestern and Obock regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET 06/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security, mainly in southeastern, northwestern and Obock regions
- Shelter in Obock and Djibouti City for new arrivals from Yemen
- Protection, mainly for new arrivals from Yemen

OVERVIEW

Djibouti has been facing an influx of people fleeing the escalation of conflict in Yemen since March 2015. New arrivals include Yemeni refugees, Djiboutian returnees, and third-country transiting migrants. The total number of arrivals surpassed 30,000 in 2015. Most refugees are in the region of Obock and Djibouti City. The country is also hosting an estimated 15,000 Somali, Ethiopian, and Eritrean refugees. An estimated 110,000 people in southeastern, northwestern and Obock regions are facing Crisis (IPC 3) food security outcomes.

Politics and security

After a civil war between the two main ethnic groups, the Issa and Afar, in the early 1990s, a power-sharing deal was signed in 1994. Ismail Omar Guelleh has been President since 1999, and the political situation has been stable. Presidential elections will be held on 8 April. On 3 December 2015, Guelleh announced his candidacy for a fourth term. Opponents held a peaceful protest on 14 December in the capital. Some 50 opposition members were arrested between 13 and 16 December because of their participation in the protest. Dozens of journalists, activists and opposition members were arrested in January, increasing tensions ahead of the elections (BBC 06/05/2015; CIA Factbook 2015; ICG 01/01/2016; 01/02/2016). The electoral commission has been reactivated and must be reformed before April, as agreed in 2014 between the government and the opposition (RFI 13/01/2016).

Djibouti's strategic geo-political position with access to the Red Sea means it has become a base for countering terrorism and piracy in the region. France as well as the US have military bases in the country. Their presence is an important source of income for Djibouti's economy but also presents a threat of reprisal attacks (UNHCR 2015; BBC 06/05/2015; CIA Factbook 2015).

Displacement

Conflict in Yemen has led to displacement to Djibouti since March 2015, in particular to Obock. As of 11 February, 32,199 people have arrived, including 1,948 returnees, 17,967 Yemeni nationals, and 12,281 third-country nationals. They are staying mainly in Markazi camp, Obock town and Djibouti City. Many are just passing through and do not stay in Djibouti (UN 01/12/2015; ECHO 11/02/2016; UNHCR 26/01/2016). The average registration rate since July is around 20 people per week. However, many people are not registered and staying in urban areas of Obock and Djibouti City (UNHCR 09/10/2015).

Prior to the influx from Yemen, Djibouti was hosting around 15,000 refugees from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNICEF 26/01/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Refugees are allowed to stay in urban centres, but the cost of living is high. They live in deplorable conditions without adequate housing, documents or access to basic services. Both urban and camp refugees are in need of healthcare, nutrition, shelter, livelihoods, NFIs and protection. There are thousands of Yemenis who refuse to register as refugees, fearing either the loss of freedom of movement or being forcibly returned (UNHCR 11/12/2015). Refugee children are entirely dependent on humanitarian aid to access basic services such as education, health, and water. Thousands are living in the streets (UNICEF 26/01/2016).

6,048 new arrivals from Yemen, of which 5,846 are Yemenis, have been registered as refugees since March 2015. 2,753 are in Markazi camp in Obock. The rest live in Obock town or Djibouti City (UN 01/12/2015). Refugees have left Markazi camp because of the poor conditions (UNHCR 20/10/2015). The camp 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 January 2016, some 15,000 refugees from Somalia (12,000), Ethiopia, and Eritrea were living in Djibouti, (UNICEF 26/01/2016; ECHO 20/01/2016). 18,000 of them reside in Ali Addeh and Holl Holl refugee camps (FEWSNET 01/01/2016). Their main needs are health assistance, protection and shelter (IOM 05/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

Humanitarian access within Djibouti is not limited in general. There are reported logistical challenges for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Markazi camp, as the government restricts the humanitarian aid provided to registered refugees living in the camp (UNHCR 16/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of December 2015, an estimated 110,000 people, primarily in southeastern, northwestern and Obock regions, were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET 01/01/2016; 06/02/2016). Food security and malnutrition are likely to deteriorate until early harvest in June-August (FSNWG 19/02/2016). Limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate humanitarian assistance, and few available coping mechanisms have reduced food access (FEWSNET 28/08/2015).

Livelihoods

The population's coping mechanisms have gradually eroded due to recurrent drought in the past decade, and people are increasingly unable to generate sufficient income (OCHA 07/12/2015). The influx of people from Yemen has increased the size of the labour force, putting pressure on the limited income-earning opportunities of poor households, mainly in Obock and Djibouti City (FEWSNET 01/01/2016). Drought has depleted pasture, crops and water resources, resulting in the loss of income for herders and rural households (FAO 16/02/2016).

Food access

Food access continues to be limited by low livestock prices and limited milk availability due to poor livestock body conditions, limited labour opportunities and the increasing cost of essential goods. For instance, the price of kerosene increased by 200% in Obock due to disrupted trade with Yemen (FEWSNET 06/02/2016).

WASH

Djibouti is one of the most arid countries in the world, with no permanent source of surface water (FAO 16/02/2016). In Obock region, only 40% of the population has access to safe water and only 25% has 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).

Education

The secondary school in Markazi camp lacks teachers (UNHCR 26/01/2016).

Updated: 01/03/2016

ETHIOPIA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



WASH: Water shortages are increasing, especially in Afar region and Sitti zone of Somali region (OCHA 02/11/2015).

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

15 February: Seven police officers died after clashes between federal forces and armed men in Oromia (AllAfrica 16/02/2016).

12 February: Federal security forces fired on a bus; killing at least four Oromo people, provoking further protests in Oromia region (HRW 21/02/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 10.2 million people are in need of food assistance, including around 6 million children under 18 (UNICEF 18/02/2016, OCHA 05/01/2016).
- 5.8 million people lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities (government and HCT 11/12/2015).
- Over 731,000 refugees are in Ethiopia, mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Sudan (UNHCR 31/01/2016).
- 435,000 children are expected to suffer severe acute malnutrition in 2016 (UNICEF 20/12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

Food security: The number of people in need of food assistance has gone from 2.9 million in February 2015 to over 10 million as of January 2016 (government and HCT 11/12/2015; OCHA 05/01/2016). The number of people in need of food assistance is expected to increase to 18 million by the end of 2016 (UNICEF 16/02/2016).

Nutrition: An estimated 435,000 children are forecast to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2016, compared to 350,000 in 2015 (UNICEF 20/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Consecutive, below-average rainy seasons have caused severe drought across northern, eastern, and central Ethiopia. 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. 10.2 million people including over 6 million children are estimated in need of food assistance, as of February 2016. Malnutrition has increased significantly. Priority areas are mainly in Afar, Amhara, and Oromia.

Hosting over 733,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, the majority of Ethiopia's refugee camps have reached full capacity, and overcrowding, malnutrition, and critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid are of concern. Most of the refugees have been in protracted displacement, but remain in need of assistance.

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

Politics and security

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable in Africa, 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.

Oromo land protests

The planned expansion of municipal boundaries of Addis Adaba into Oromo land sparked protests beginning 20 November and a crackdown by security forces. On 15 January, the government decided to halt implementation of the expansion plan (HRW

21/02/2016; All Africa 16/02/2016). While the frequency of protests decreased, clashes continued as of mid-February. Almost daily accounts of killings and arbitrary arrests have been reported to Human Rights Watch since 2016 began. Activists allege that more than 200 people have been killed by security forces since November 12, an unverified total, given restrictions on access and independent reporting in Ethiopia. Several thousand people have reportedly been arrested, the whereabouts of many unknown. Twelve killings were reported, most in Arsi and Borana Zones in southern Oromia. While some protests have been peaceful, destruction of foreign-owned farms and looting of some government buildings is also reported (HRW 21/02/2016).

On 15 February, clashes between federal security forces and armed men believed to be local police or militias resulted in the deaths of seven security officers, according to government (HRW 21/02/2016). On February 12, federal security forces fired on a bus after a wedding, killing four people, provoking further protests in West Arsi zone. Protests have spread to Aje, Shalla, Siraro and the city of Shashemene (HRW 21/02/2016, All Africa 16/02/2016). On January 10 and 11, HRW reports security forces stormed Jimma University, western Oromia, resulting in beatings and mass arrests (HRW 21/02/2016).

Gambella

On 28 and 29 January, heavy clashes broke out between Nuer and Anyuak communities. Dozens were killed and more were injured among members of both communities in Gambella region. The deterioration of the security situation has caused movement restrictions and the interruption or suspension of humanitarian activities (ECHO 03/02/2016). The violence is reportedly due to an attempt to avenge the murder of an administrator of Itang district (Sudan Tribune 29/01/2016; Chicago Tribune 01/02/2016).

Natural disasters

El Niño is causing severe drought in northeastern and central areas, particularly affecting southern Afar and northern Somali region. Heavy rainfall in southern Ethiopia increases the risk of flash and river floods.

Drought

El Niño is causing severe drought in Ethiopia, which is affecting a much larger geographic area and population in northern and central highlands than the 2011 drought (OCHA 19/10/2015). Rainfall in 2015 was far below average during both the March–May and July–September rainy seasons (FEWSNET 24/08/2015). Very low rainfall and high temperatures have resulted in very low soil moisture and water

availability, reducing food harvests by 50–90% in 2015 (OCHA 08/02/2016). Over one million livestock have died as a result of the drought (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

The worst-affected areas are suffering water and pasture shortages. This includes northern pastoral areas of Afar; Sitti zone in Somali region; eastern and central Oromia; the *belg*-producing highlands; northern Amhara, and central Tigray. Eastern Amhara, eastern Tigray, the Amhara-Abay lowlands, and the lowlands of SNNPR are also affected (FEWSNET 04/12/2015; OCHA 13/10/2015; Multiagency Rapid Assessment 09/2015).

In January, light rains were recorded in the southwestern areas, the central part of the country, pockets in South and Eastern Tigray, North and South Wollo and in parts of Oromia. This rainfall is unseasonal in some areas and may negatively affect crops ready for harvest, leading to losses. Rain showers are also reported from Zone 3 in Afar Region. However, shortage of drinking water and pasture for livestock in most parts of the region are still major problems.

Preliminary forecasting indicates potential above-average rains for the Belg producing areas (February to May) (FEWSNET 20/01/2016). In Sitti Zone of Somali Region, although no seasonal rains are expected at this time of year, the water situation has improved as a result of various WASH interventions. Conditions for livestock and access to water are expected to improve with seasonal March rains in the Afar and Northern Somali regions (UNICEF 18/02/2016).

Water levels have fallen at several hydroelectric dams, reducing power-generating capacity and generating blackouts (Sudan Tribune 02/12/2015; Hydroworld 02/12/2015).

Floods

Heavy rainfall over southern Ethiopia due to El Niño caused floods in Mustahil, Kelafo, and East Imy in the Shabelle zone of Somali region in late October. 102,000 people were affected, and more than 46,500 displaced. The floods affected health clinics, water pumps, and wells, destroyed farmland, and forced schools to close (UNICEF 31/10/2015). More floods in the areas are forecast for the first months of 2016, with projections indicating around 315,000 people will be affected (IRIN 23/12/2015).

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 2015, around 12,000 people escaping the conflict in Yemen have arrived in Ethiopia: most are returnees. Some 34,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers are in Kenya and Djibouti (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

IDPs

As of the end of 2015, Over 636,000 people were internally displaced in Ethiopia, with almost 183,000 newly displaced between October and December. 41.6% were displaced in Somali region, 35.9% in Afar, 16.3% in Oromia, 4.3% in Amhara, 1.6% in Gambella, and 0.3% in SNNP. The main causes for new displacement were conflict (around 43,700), drought (almost 62,000), flooding (over 73,400), and volcano eruption (almost 4,000) (IOM 22/01/2016). Other sources indicate that over 0.8 million people have been displaced by drought-related causes (ACT Alliance 01/02/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 31 January, Ethiopia was hosting some 731,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan (UNHCR 31/01/2016). The majority are staying in camps in Gambella, Dolo Ado, and Shire. 49.6% of them are women and girls. At least 57% are children below 18 years of age. Around 39,300 are unaccompanied children (UNHCR 16/01/2016).

South Sudan: As of 19 February, 281,610 South Sudanese refugees are in Ethiopia, more than 270,000 are staying in camps in Gambella region (UNHCR 19/02/2016, 05/02/2016,). 67% are children, and as of 1 February there are 21,557 unaccompanied or separated children (UNHCR 19/02/2016). Women make up 71% of the adult population (UNHCR 19/02/2016, 05/02/2016).

Most South Sudanese refugees are in camps. As of 1 February, there are 63,223 in Pugnido, 53,394 in Tierkidi, 48,485 in Jewi, 48,443 in Kule, 15,971 in Pugnido II, and 7,679 in Okugo. Around 30,000 are in transit locations in border areas. More than 33,000 refugees still live with host communities (UNHCR 19/02/2016, 05/02/2016, 03/02/2016).

Somalia: As of 31 January, there are 250,182 Somali refugees in Ethiopia. Most are in Dolo Ado camps, Somali region (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Eritrea: As of 31 January, there were 152,604 Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR 31/01/2016), mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar regions (UNICEF 21/04/2015). 33,000 refugees arrived in 2014 (OCHA 03/08/2015).

Sudan: As of 31 January there are 38,329 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR

31/01/2016).

Yemen: As of 31 December, there are over 5,000 Yemeni refugees in Ethiopia (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

Refugee returnees

As of 1 December, 7,540 Ethiopians have returned from Yemen (UNHCR 15/12/2015). 55% of returnees and refugees from Yemen are female, and 66% are children (UNHCR 13/10/2015).

Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 7 July, there were 31,023 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya (UNHCR 07/07/2015). 4,200 Ethiopian refugees are in South Sudan as of 19 January 2016 (ECHO 19/01/2016). Around 80,000 Ethiopian migrants arrived in Yemen in 2015 (IOM 29/01/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

The food security situation continues to deteriorate, with *meher* assessment results indicating 10.2 million in need of assistance, an increase of nearly two million since mid-September, including some 6 million children under 18 (UNICEF 18/02/2016, government and HCT 11/12/2015). The number of people in need of food assistance is expected to increase to 18 million in 2016 (UNICEF 16/02/2016). Many poor households in southern Afar and in Sitti Zone of Somali region, as well as in East and West Hararghe zones in Oromia, are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity. Large areas of Tigray, Amhara and SNNP regions, as well as most of remaining parts of Afar, Oromia, and Somali region are reported to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

With continued drought related to El Niño, relief food needs are highly likely to double in 2016, to around 15 million (FEWSNET 04/12/2015; ECHO 09/10/2015). The increase is expected to occur mainly in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regions (Government and HCT 07/12/2015).

Food availability

Drought conditions had a severe impact on agriculture and on livestock, causing many people to be dependent on food aid (FAO 15/01/2016).

In worst affected areas, over 75% of *meher*-cropping production has been lost, and in pastoral areas over 1 million livestock have died, with 1.7 million more reported at risk (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

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). Seasonal price drops are late: prices remain near their lean season highs in many areas, and price increases are likely to begin in January 2016, earlier than usual due to reduced supply and high demand (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Livelihoods

Poor *kiremt* rains from June–September worsened availability of pasture and water in Afar and northern Somali region, leading to deteriorated livestock body conditions and very low livestock prices (FAO 13/10/2015; FEWSNET 31/10/2015). In Sitti zone, Somali region, 75% of livestock have been lost (ECHO 09/10/2015). 13,000 households (some 65,000 individuals) in Sitti have lost all their livestock and consequently have settled in informal camps (USAID 18/12/2015).

Low planted area and poor crop performance have resulted in decreased demand for agricultural labour (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Health

3.6 million people are thought to be in need of emergency healthcare and disease control services (government and HCT 07/12/2015). A large increase in acute malnutrition makes children more vulnerable to severe infectious disease (WHO 04/12/2015). In the six months up to August 2016, over 350,000 babies are expected to be born in drought-affected communities (Save the Children 22/01/2016).

A measles outbreak has been reported in 13 districts, nine of which are in Oromia region. As of 22 January, 31,000 cases has been registered (OCHA 04/02/2016).

A scabies outbreak due to poor WASH is reportedly ongoing in Amhara, Tigray, and Oromia regions, particularly affecting young children. So far, 300,000 people have been affected and 3.6 million are reported to be at risk (OCHA 04/02/2016; Government 04/01/2016; UNICEF 31/10/2015, OCHA 15/11/2016). In Shire, more than 500 cases of scabies were reported in two refugee camps, many of them among new arrivals and unaccompanied children (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Following the declaration of an outbreak in December 2015, cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in Moyale, Oromia, and Somali regions are reportedly decreasing, thanks to disinfection of wells and rainwater harvesting sites (OCHA 04/01/2016).

As of 25 February, some hospitals have been closed for three months in West Gimchi, owing to Oromo clashes with federal security forces (AFP 25/02/2016).

Nutrition

Acute malnutrition continues to increase. Though the number of cases is seasonally declining, severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admissions in September were 20% higher than in normal years, mainly due to continued drought and the absence of or delay in general food distributions and supplementary feeding for children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (OCHA 02/11/2015). Acute malnutrition will likely rise again in February or March 2016, as access to food and water decline further (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

435,000 children are expected to suffer from SAM throughout 2016 (UNICEF 18/02/2016, 20/12/2015). In 2015 more than 350,000 cases were reported – a 25% increase from 2014 (UNICEF 04/01/2016; 31/10/2015). The number of admissions has reached levels higher than those reported in any month of the 2011 drought (OCHA 13/10/2015; Nutrition Cluster 17/06/2015). In total, more than 1.7 million children and pregnant and lactating women are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) (UNICEF 15/01/2016).

429 priority *woredas* for nutritional intervention have been identified, including 186 ‘priority one’ *woredas*; a 30% increase since August. Priority areas are mostly in Afar, eastern Oromia, eastern Amhara and Tigray, and Sitti zone of Somali region, where the Ministry of Health has found 40–69% GAM and 9–20% SAM among IDPs (OCHA 14/09/2015; government and HCT 11/12/2015). In Oromia, SAM admissions increased 68% from July to August. The majority of cases were reported in East and West Hararghe and Arsi zones (government 19/10/2015).

Refugees: In Afar region, the nutrition situation has deteriorated in two refugee 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). Over 50% of refugee camps are located in ‘priority one’ *woredas* affected by the drought.

WASH

5.8 million people across the country lack access to safe drinking water and latrines (UNHCR 15/02/2016, government and HCT 07/12/2015).

Water

Severe water shortages continue in drought-affected areas (OCHA 21/12/2015). 29 *woredas* have been identified as in need of emergency WASH services (OCHA

02/11/2015; 30/11/2015). In Wag Himra zone of Amhara region, one of the worst-affected areas, the groundwater table has dropped to 400 metres, requiring high technology for access (OCHA 21/12/2015). In some areas, women and girls are travelling up to 30km (six hours) per day to reach the nearest water source. Livestock deaths mean they have to carry the load themselves (OCHA 02/11/2015). Despite water-trucking being provided in Afar and Oromia regions, gaps of nine and 15 trucks, respectively, were reported at 28 December (OCHA 28/12/2015).

Refugees: The water supply in most camps in Gambella is above 15 litres per person per day, except for Kule (11), Jewi (14), and Tierkidi (11). The number of people per tap is above the recommended 250 in Tierkidi (254) and Jewi (252) (UNHCR 15/01/2016).

Education

1.3 million children are reported to be in urgent need of education (ACT Alliance 01/02/2016). Over 2.5 million children are expected to drop out of school in 2016 because of drought-related causes (Save the Children 22/01/2016). 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). Thousands of schools have closed, among which more than 200 due to pastoralists moving with their children in search of water and pasture. Absenteeism is also growing rapidly (UNICEF 16/02/2016; ECHO 09/12/2015). Children are missing out on up to 3 days of school a week as they support their families by fetching water from long distances, taking care of younger siblings so mothers can fetch water, or taking livestock to areas in search of water sources (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

In Gambella camps, only 50% of the school-aged population is attending school. Attendance rates are worse among girls than boys, at 43% and 56%, respectively. The worst attendance rates are reported in Okugo (43%) and Pugnido II (36%). Primary education enrolment averages 62% and the secondary education enrolment only 7%. Secondary education enrolment is reported in Tierkidi (3%), Kule (11%), Okugo (10%), and Pugnido (14%), but not in Jewi and Pugnido II (UNHCR 01/02/2016).

As of 21 February, some schools and universities remain closed throughout Oromia because the authorities have arrested teachers and closed facilities to prevent further protests, or students do not attend as a form of protest or because they fear arrest (HRW 21/02/2016).

Protection

2.5 million people are estimated to be in need of some form of protection assistance (OCHA 05/01/2016).

Oromo people

In Oromia, farmers and residents living close to Addis Ababa have been facing eviction without appropriate compensation, as there were plans to expand the municipal boundary of the capital. In the last 10 years, over 150,000 farmers have had their land taken. Since 20 November, there have been demonstrations against the expansion, however a history of marginalisation of the Oromo people is thought to be at the heart of the protest (HRW 05/12/2015; AFP 11/12/2015; HRW 21/02/2016, 15/01/2016 ; VOA 25/01/2016). The government cancelled its expansion plans 15 January but protests continue (Guardian, 14/01/2016, HRW 21/02/2016). Military forces and police have been using excessive force against the protesters. Detention without charge, torture, ill-treatment, and sexual assaults by security officers in prison have been reported. Children under 18 are also reported to have been arrested. Activists allege that more than 200 people have been killed by security forces since November 12, an unverified total, given restrictions on access and independent reporting in Ethiopia. Several thousand people have reportedly been arrested, the whereabouts of many unknown (HRW 21/02/2016 ; All Africa 16/02/2016).

Children

As of 31 January, there are 38,858 unaccompanied and separated minors in Ethiopia (UNHCR 31/01/2016, UNHCR 16/01/2016). 21,710 unaccompanied and separated South Sudanese children are in Gambella (UNHCR 04/12/2015). As of 1 February in Gambella region there are 4,307 unaccompanied and separated minors in Tierkidi refugee camp, 3,822 in Kule, 5,072 in Jewi, 530 in Okugo, 5,186 in Pugnido and 2,640 in Pugnido II (UNHCR 01/02/2016).

Children are increasingly vulnerable. Family separation and child marriage are reportedly on the rise, due to food shortages. Child labour and school dropouts are also expected to rise as drought continues (Reuters 11/12/2015).

Updated: 25/02/2016

KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22 February: With the rainy season approaching, an increase in cholera cases is expected in Wajir county, owing to poor water and sanitation conditions (MSF).

22 February: 13,600 people are estimated to be in need of food in Merti subcounty, Isiolo, due to insufficient rainfall (Kenya Daily Nation).

KEY FIGURES

- Almost 600,000 refugees, including at least 418,000 Somalis and 95,000 South Sudanese (UNHCR 30/11/2015).
- 240,000 people have been affected by floods and 103,000 of them have been displaced. It is estimated that 500,000 people will be displaced by floods and 2 million people will be affected by El Niño (IFRC 04/01/2016; OCHA 23/10/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Humanitarian access: increased inter-communal conflict and armed group attacks, in particular in northern, upper-eastern and coastal regions, have impacted upon access, with education and health the most affected sectors (OCHA 10/11/2015).
- 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).

OVERVIEW

Kenya has been deeply affected by attacks attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement and also by rising inter-communal violence and consequent displacement. Kenya hosts one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, at around 600,000. In 2016 there is a heightened risk of drought, and El Niño-related flooding is expected to displace 500,000 people.

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.

Al Shabaab

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 in attacks. 49 incidents of Al Shabaab-related violence were recorded in 2015, killing at least 270 people. About half of the attacks were on civilians (ACLED 26/01/2016). Most violence has been in the 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). The government responded with efforts to expand police and security agency powers, and restrict rights through new legislation. Government policies have targeted human rights organizations for closure, tried to suppress media, and threatened refugee communities with forced returns to Somalia (HRW 01/02/2016). In September, Kenya launched a 90-day security operation in Lamu county, aiming 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).

Intercommunal violence

The volume of inter-communal violence increased substantially from 2014 to 2015, with 216,000 people displaced by inter-communal violence in the first half of 2015 alone. The rise in violence is attributed to population growth of people and of livestock, and the availability of small arms. The northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions are most affected: Turkana, Baringo, Samburu, Marsabit, Meru 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).

Elections

Over February–March 2016, 22.4 million people will be registered to vote in the August 2017 general elections, far more than the 14.4 million who registered for the 2013 election. A rise in ethnically charged hate speech threatens the electoral process (Reuters 10/12/2015).

Conflict developments

Al Shabaab-related violence

On 31 January, three people were killed, several injured, and a house was torched by Al Shabaab militants in Kaisari village, Lamu county (Kenya Daily Nation 31/01/2016; ICG 02/02/2016). On 26 January, seven police officers died, three were injured and others reported missing after their truck struck a landmine planted by Al Shabaab in Kiunga, Lamu East (local media 26/01/2016). On 20 January, police killed four Al Shabaab militants and recovered weapons and ammunition in Malindi, Kilifi county (ICG 02/02/2016).

Intercommunal violence

On 23 January, three people were killed at the borders of Isiolo and Laikipia counties as communities clashed over land and cattle theft (ICG 02/02/2016; Kenya Daily Nation 23/01/2016). On 7 January, fighting over livestock theft from Kisumu into Nandi led to five deaths, houses set alight, and displacement (Kenya Daily Nation 10/01/2016; All Africa 10/01/2016; Kisumu County News 11/01/2016).

On 25 December, fighting broke out between the Maasai and Kipsigis in Narok county after livestock was stolen and herders killed. At least two people were killed, 250 houses burned down, and 5,000 people displaced (Deutsche Welle 28/12/2015). The displaced are camping at a school in Olenguruone (Kenya Daily Nation 26/12/2015).

Natural disasters

El Niño is expected to affect up to 2 million people in Kenya, either by drought or floods (WFP 13/12/2015). Heavy rains since October have caused flooding (IFRC 04/01/2016).

Drought

Vegetation cover is well above average across most of the country, leading to a recovery of previously drought-affected areas and very good prospects for pastoralists. However, vegetation conditions remain poor in parts of north-central and northeastern Kenya, due to localised, drier than average conditions. As the season comes to an end, these may remain areas of concern (WFP 13/12/2015). During January rainfall was poorly distributed in the lowlands, with southeastern Kenya registering drier than average vegetation (FEWSNET 10/02/2016).

Floods

As of October, more than 240,000 people have been affected and 103,000 have been displaced, by floods and mudslides. Many houses were destroyed and more than 112 people died (IFRC 04/01/2016). Livestock was also swept away, affecting livelihoods (Kenyan Red Cross 02/12/2015; FEWSNET 31/12/2015). Farmland has been destroyed and schools have been damaged in Mt. Elgon, Kirinyaga, Narok, Busia, Kisumu, Tana River, Trans Nzoia, Busia, and Bungoma counties. Roads and bridges have been damaged in parts of Tana River, Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera, Wajir, Nandi and Machakos counties (IFRC 04/01/2016). January rainfall was above average in southern Kenya, but subsided in pastoral zones (FEWSNET 10/02/2016; government 11/02/2016).

Displacement

Kenya's refugee population is among the largest in the Africa, with nearly 600,000 refugees as of 1 December (UNHCR 30/11/2015). The majority fled conflict in Somalia and South Sudan, and have been living in camps for several years. More than 300,000 Kenyans are

internally displaced due to conflict.

IDPs

In total 309,200 people remain displaced due to conflict, mainly in the northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions (UNICEF 26/01/2016). In the first half of 2015, intercommunal conflict led to the displacement of 216,000 people. The majority were in Mandera (103,000), Turkana (69,900), and Wajir (22,800). In Mandera county, over 50,000 individuals remain affected by an escalation of inter-clan conflict that began 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).

103,000 people have been displaced due to flooding, as their houses were destroyed (IFRC 04/01/2016). More than 40 IDP camps have been established in Tana Delta and more than 44 in Tana River for people displaced due to flooding (WFP 22/12/2015; UNICEF 31/12/2015). In Garissa and Tana River, IDPs lack safe water, shelter, sanitation, food, and non-food items, exposing them to the risk of waterborne diseases (UNICEF 31/12/2015).

On 4 February, the government released funds in order to conclude the resettlement of all IDPs who remain displaced since the 2007–2008 post-election violence and forest evictions of indigenous people (Kenya Daily Nation 04/02/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 31 December, Kenya is hosting almost 594,000 refugees and asylum seekers. 221,938 are in Dadaab camp, 126,042 in Alinjugur camp, 184,966 in Kakuma, and 61,351 in Nairobi (UNHCR 31/12/2015; 13/01/2016).

From Somalia: As of January, 419,618 Somali refugees were in Kenya: 113,833 arrived in 2015 (UNHCR 03/02/2016). 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).

From South Sudan: Kenya hosts 95,629 South Sudanese refugees as of 27 November. 49,514 have arrived since mid-December 2013 (ECHO 10/12/2015). The Kenyan government has been granting free access to its territory and prima facie refugee status to South Sudanese asylum seekers who arrived after December 2013 (UNHCR 16/12/2015). 6,313 have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR 07/11/2015). 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 10/12/2015). However, the number of arrivals is projected to reach up to 102,239 people total by the end of December 2016 (UNHCR 16/12/2015).

From other countries: Other refugees originate from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, and Uganda. 7,797 refugees from Burundi; most of them live in Kakuma camp. The majority arrived before Burundi's electoral violence began in 2015 (UNHCR 11/09/2015). There are 24,006 refugees from DRC, including 5,040 who have registered since January 2015 (UNHCR 11/09/2015; 30/06/2015; 31/10/2015). There are also 30,687 Ethiopian and 10,193 Sudanese refugees reported (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

Humanitarian access

During 2015, humanitarian access was significantly constrained by increased intercommunal conflict and armed group attacks, in particular in northern, upper-eastern and coastal regions, with education and health being the most affected sectors (OCHA 10/11/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

A threat of kidnapping and hostage-taking persists in certain areas. In 2015, at least 56 security incidents involving NGOs were reported, including one fatality, two abductions, and nine injuries (INSO 26/01/2016).

Security and physical constraints

Humanitarian access is constrained in northern, eastern, and coastal regions due to intercommunal 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).

On 31 January, three NGOs received a warning to leave Mandera county within 24 hours. Some INGOs evacuated their staff. The threat has been associated with Al Shabaab (ECHO 03/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

The food security situation has improved compared to last August–September, when 1.1 million people were acutely food insecure (IPC 31/08/2015; WFP 12/2015). In pastoral areas, the short rains have led to seasonal recovery, increasing livestock productivity and improving food security. Some pastoral households have improved to Minimal (IPC Phase 1) in December and further improvements are expected through March (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

In Pokot Central subcounty, however, over 20,000 people are in need of food relief due to prolonged drought (local media 15/02/2015). **In Isiolo, Merti subcounty is most affected by insufficient rains and 60% (13,600 people) of the population is in need of food assistance. Pastoralists are migrating to other areas in search of water and pasture for livestock. In Oldonyiro, Sericho, Garba Tulla, and Kinna subcounties, up to 50%**

of the population is in need of food assistance (Kenya Daily Nation 23/02/2016).

Many pastoral households, including those in parts of Isiolo, Wajir, and Garissa, are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through March. In Western and Rift Valley, the long rains harvest was average and the February–March short rains harvest in southeastern and coastal marginal agricultural areas is expected to be average to above-average (FEWSNET 31/12/2015). Food prices are stable and expected to remain so thanks to harvest in the North Rift and fast maturing crops in marginal agricultural clusters (World Vision 21/01/2016).

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, 10/11/2015). The risk of outbreak of malaria and waterborne diseases is very high in most counties due to the recent floods (Kenyan Red Cross 03/11/2015-23/11/2015).

Cholera

As of 22 January, 11,467 cases of cholera and 183 deaths had been reported. The outbreak is currently active in nine counties: Wajir, Marsabit, Tharaka Nithi, Tana River, Garissa, Mombasa, Migori, Kajiado and some parts of Nairobi (OCHA 31/01/2016). 14 out of the 25 affected counties have managed to control the outbreak (OCHA 31/01/2016). As of 19 January, at least nine people from Migingo Island in Lake Victoria had been admitted to hospitals in Migori county (Kenya Daily Nation 19/01/2016). **An increase in cases is expected in Wajir as the rainy season approaches (March–April), due to poor water and sanitation conditions. The number of new cases in Dadaab refugee complex is decreasing. Since November 2015, over 1,500 cases have been reported in the camps (MSF 22/02/2016).**

Malaria

Due to the El Niño rains in December, there has been an increase in the number of cases of malaria in Kakuma refugee camp, with a crude rate of 98/1,000/month among the South Sudanese population. (UNHCR 13/01/2016). Between 17 December and 3 January, four children died from malaria. As the heavy rain continues, the cases are expected to increase (Kenya Daily Nation 06/01/2016).

Measles

74 measles cases and one death have been reported in Mandera county as of 22 January (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Nutrition

Nearly 240,000 children were estimated to be moderately malnourished and 2,600 children suffering from SAM in Kenya as of August, an improvement compared to previous months (UNICEF 26/01/2016).

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana, and Wajir counties (World Vision 21/01/2016).

WASH

As of 31 December, Kakuma 4 camp residents have access to an average of 19-21 litre of water per person per day. In Dadaab, water supply is 23.5 L/p/d (UNHCR 31/12/2015; 14/10/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

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).

In June 2015, 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 184,550 refugees as of 4 January, which far exceeds its capacity of 125,000. 50% of Kakuma camp's residents are South Sudanese (UNHCR 04/01/2016; Reuters 20/06/2015).

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, primarily in the northern Rift Valley and northeastern regions, where 122 schools remain closed (UNICEF 30/06/2015; 26/01/2016). Several schools across the country have been damaged by recent floods (Kenyan Red Cross 03/11/2015-23/11/2015; World Vision 21/01/2016).

More than 5,000 children remain out of school after seven primary schools on the border of Nandi and Kisumu counties were closed on 11 January due to the clashes (Kenya Daily Nation 12/01/2016).

In Kakuma camp, schools are highly congested, with as many as 244 children sharing a classroom. Facilities and resources are grossly insufficient (UNHCR 16/12/2015).

Protection

In 2015, security forces continued to be implicated in extrajudicial killings, torture,

disappearances and arbitrary detentions, particularly during counterterrorism operations in Nairobi, Mombasa, the coast and in the northeast. Al-Shabaab targeted and killed at least 226 unarmed people between November 2014 and July 2015, along the coast and in the northeast (HRW 27/01/2016). There are reports of security forces mistreating Somali refugees in operations against Al Shabaab (BBC 01/06/2015; HRW 27/01/2016).

Gender

In Dadaab, 1,142 cases of sexual and gender-based violence have been reported in 2015, compared to 1,472 in 2014. The majority of cases (95%) affected women (UNHCR 15/02/2016). Limited safe spaces are exposing women and children to danger. Poverty, due to a lack of livelihood opportunities, is a factor for abuse and exploitation. The long distances to basic requirements such as firewood expose women and children to heightened protection risks (UNHCR 31/07/2015).

Children

15,714 unaccompanied minors have been registered among the refugee population (UNHCR 31/12/2015). The majority of children in Kakuma camp face risk of violence, exploitation, abuse or neglect at home, in the community, and at school (UNHCR 16/12/2015). There are reports of Al Shabaab recruiting orphans aged between three and 15 in Mombasa (local media 12/02/2016).

Updated: 24/02/2016

LESOTHO DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 29/02/2016. Last updated 25/02/2016 .

KEY FIGURES

- 535,000 people are likely to face survival and livelihood protection deficits until June 2016 (MDAT 02/2016; UN 20/02/2016). 464,000 are currently food insecure (WFP

29/12/2015).

- 300,000 people are experiencing acute shortages of water (OCHA 29/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

WASH: Water scarcity is likely to lead to crop failure, pest infestation, waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery, animal diseases and malnutrition (OCHA 29/01/2016).

Food security: 38% of rural population, are likely to face survival and livelihood protection deficits until June 2016 (MDAT 02/2016).

Health: Health facilities are hampered by limited water availability. A large increase in diarrhoeal diseases has been reported (OCHA 19/01/2016).

OVERVIEW

Lesotho is experiencing severe drought due to below average rainfall and temperatures in excess of 40 degrees Celsius, as a result of the ongoing El Niño. Drought conditions, poor harvests since 2014–2015, and the weakening rand are all contributing to the humanitarian crisis. Many people and services are without or with limited access to water.

Natural disasters

Drought

The impact of El Niño-induced drought during the 2015/2016 planting season (September–December) is adding to the dry spell registered during the 2014/2015 agricultural season (OCHA 19/01/2016). On 22 December, the government of Lesotho declared a state of emergency and appealed for assistance from the international community (WFP 29/12/2015).

As of end January, it is estimated that Lesotho had received less than 50% of the average annual rainfall (MDAT 02/2016). The drought has dried up most rivers in Berea district, in the north west of Lesotho and in Mohale's Hoek district in the south (WFP 29/12/2015; OCHA 19/01/2016). The most affected districts include five out of ten hard-to-reach districts, including Qacha's Nek, Mokhotlong, Thaba Tseka, Quthing and Mafeteng (IFRC 08/02/2016).

El Niño is forecast to continue impacting rainfall through February, suggesting average to below-average rainfall is likely during much of Lesotho's agricultural season (FEWSNET 30/10/2015). This is expected to result in further water scarcity, crop failure, pest infestation, malnutrition, waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery, and animal diseases (OCHA 29/01/2016). At least 725,000 people are expected to be affected by drought (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

464,000 are currently food insecure in Lesotho (WFP 29/12/2015). According to the Multi-agency Drought Assessment Team, 535,000 people, which is 38% of the rural population, are likely to face survival and livelihood protection deficits until June 2016 (MDAT 02/2016; UN 20/02/2016). These include some people in urban areas who will not be able to meet the high cost of food (WFP 29/12/2015). Households are expected to experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes, with some households likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between January and March (FEWSNET 01/2016).

Food availability

The land area planted in Lesotho is 19% lower than in the last season (OCHA, 17/11/2015).

In normal conditions, Lesotho imports approximately 70% of its cereal from South Africa, which is also affected by drought (OCHA 19/01/2016).

Cattle herd size has declined by 7% in the mountain districts of Qacha's Nek, Thaba Tseka, and Mokhotlong. The increases in livestock prices range from 15–86% for cattle and 15–60% for goats (OCHA, 17/11/2015).

Food access

In normal conditions, Lesotho imports approximately 70% of its cereal from South Africa. The retail price in Lesotho for white maize had increased by 12.6% since the beginning of 2015, with prices expected to rise further given that South African wholesale maize prices have nearly doubled since 2015 values and the wholesale prices have increased by over 70% (OCHA 19/01/2016). Staple food prices will likely remain high through the lean season due to rises in food prices in South Africa, which is the main source of food for Lesotho. This is likely due to a rise in demand resulting from the regional cereal deficit (OCHA 19/01/2016).

Livelihoods

Most agricultural activities have been affected, especially in the lowlands and

foothills. Agricultural labour opportunities, which usually peak between November and February, remain below average (FEWSNET 01/2016).

Most rural families depend on rain-fed subsistence farming, and wool and mohair production are the main sources of livelihood for many people (WFP 29/12/2015). However due to scarcity of water, stock theft and disease outbreaks, livestock diseases and mortality are increasing and herd sizes have been progressively declining (OCHA 19/01/2016; MDAT 02/2016). Some households in Lesotho rely on remittances from South Africa, which are reduced by 15, mainly due to retrenchments in the mining sector (IFRC 08/02/2016).

Health

Health facilities are hampered by limited water availability (OCHA 19/01/2016). Health facilities are reported to be asking patients to bring water (MDAT 02/2016).

A large increase in diarrhoeal diseases has been reported. During December 2015, 262 cases of diarrhoeal diseases were reported a 300% increase from the 88 cases reported on November (OCHA 19/01/2016; OCHA 31/01/2016). The increased risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases complicate and worsen food and nutrition security (OCHA, 19/01/2016).

Pregnant women are avoiding giving birth in health clinics because most facilities lack water. A number of elderly people have died from dehydration as they are less able to carry water from water points (OCHA 19/01/2016).

Nutrition

GAM is at 3.4% and SAM at 0.06. Micronutrient deficiencies are anticipated given that 52% of children already have anaemia, and 26% women of child-bearing age (OCHA citing LDHS, 19/01/2016). 36%- 49% of the communities indicated they do not have access to nutrition services (MDAT 02/2016).

WASH

Water shortages are affecting household consumption, the provision of basic services, agricultural activity and industry. Water is being rationed in many districts, such as in Mohale's Hoek (OCHA 19/01/2016).

Water

The harsh climatic conditions have depleted most water sources, including rivers and dams, leading to an acute shortage of safe water and strict water rationing (WFP 05/02/2016). Almost 300,000 people in 276 communities (15% of the population) are

experiencing acute shortages of water (OCHA 29/01/2016). The limited water supply is affecting domestic and institutional usage. Water is rationed in all communities. In the most affected areas water is available three days per week (MDAT 02/2016).

Education

Schools are reported to be sending children away due to water scarcity (MDAT 02/2016).

Reviewed: 04/03/2016

MALAWI FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 March: 900,000 people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (ECHO).

2 March: Over 9,300 Mozambican refugees have entered Malawi since mid-December 2015, as fleeing clashes between the government and opposition (UNICEF).

2 March: 71 cholera cases were reported in the last week of February, which is the highest number in the last five weeks (UNICEF).

26 February: Cases of severe acute malnutrition increased by 100% between December 2015 and January 2016, when 5,817 children were admitted for treatment (Nutritional Cluster).

KEY FIGURES

- 900,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (SADC 27/02/2016; ECHO 04/03/2016).

- Over 9,300 Mozambican refugees have entered Malawi since mid-December 2015 (UNICEF 02/03/2016).

- 5,817 children were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition in January 2016 (Nutritional Cluster 26/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security
- Nutrition

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OVERVIEW

The combined effects of flooding and drought have led to the most severe food crisis Malawi has faced in a decade: 2.8 million people face acute food insecurity, 900,000 are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. Food prices continue to rise as more households rely on purchases for food needs. In addition, over 9,300 refugees have entered the country from Mozambique since mid-December 2015. They are staying in overcrowded conditions in Kapise, Mwanza district. Their main needs are for WASH, health, and shelter assistance. Typhoid and cholera cases are reported across the country.

Politics and security

Malawi has had a stable, democratic government since 1993, when the one-party regime fell. Presidential and parliamentary elections have been peaceful. Current President Arthur Peter Mutharika is in his first five-year term (World Bank 01/10/2015). Opposition politicians claim they have received death threats for being critical of the President (Nyasa Times 22/02/2016).

Displacement

Malawi hosts over 25,000 refugees from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda. Since mid-December 2015, over 9,300 Mozambican refugees have arrived to in Malawi. The Malawian government has not registered the new arrivals as asylum seekers and insist that they return to Mozambique (HRW 22/02/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Over 9,300 Mozambicans entered Malawi since mid-December 2015, as the clashes between the government forces and RENAMO have intensified. The rate of arrival is steady, with new arrivals reported every day. Over 7,100 have been officially registered with UNHCR (UNICEF 02/03/2016; Inter Press 25/02/2016). Nearly all the new arrivals are staying in informal Kapise camp, Mwanza district, in overcrowded conditions, and need mainly health and WASH assistance (MSF 17/02/2016; UNHCR 18/02/2016). Hundreds are unaccompanied children (Inter Press 25/02/2016). The camp is only 300m from the Mozambican border, putting refugees at risk of attack by Mozambican

soldiers due to rumours that Renamo fighters have infiltrated the refugee flow (HRW 22/02/2016; Inter Press 25/02/2016).

Some 25,000 mostly long-term refugees and asylum seekers are in Malawi, mostly from DRC, Burundi, and Rwanda. They live in Dzaleka camp in Dowa district in central Malawi, or among host communities. Food rations in the camp have been reduced to 50% since October 2015 as resources to assist refugees are limited (UNHCR 18/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Kapise camp on the Mozambican border is hard to reach because heavy rains have damaged all the access roads (HRW 22/02/2016; The Malawi Star 19/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

The food crisis is the most severe in a decade as a result of the El Niño induced drought : 900,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. 2.8 million people are food insecure, including 1.5 million children (SADC 27/02/2016; ECHO 04/03/2016). 25 of 28 districts are affected (Nutrition Cluster 26/02/2016).

Food assistance is underfunded and if no additional funding is provided, aid will be interrupted in mid-April (ECHO 04/03/2016).

Food access

Food prices continue to rise as more households rely on purchases for food needs. At the same time, purchasing power has been falling (WFP 03/02/2016). The price of maize is 73% higher than the three-year average. In southern Malawi, it can be up to 175% above the three-year average (WFP 05/02/2016; 17/02/2016).

Health

Cholera and typhoid cases are being reported in Malawi. El Niño is likely to increase the spread of both diseases (SADC 27/02/2016). Half of the Mozambican refugees seeking medical aid suffer from malaria (MSF 17/02/2016).

Cholera

A cholera outbreak has been reported in nine districts (Nutrition Cluster 26/02/2016). **71 cases were reported in the last week of February, which is higher than the weekly number of registered for the previous five weeks (UNICEF 02/03/2016).** Nearly 450 cases, including 18 deaths were reported in January (Red Cross 24/01/2016).

Nutrition

There has been a significant increase in the number of malnourished children. **Cases of**

severe acute malnutrition increased by 100% between December 2015 and January 2016, when 5,817 children were admitted for treatment (UNICEF 17/02/2016; Nutritional Cluster 26/02/2016). 47% of children under five years are chronically malnourished (FAO 14/12/2015).

WASH

Sanitation in the Kapsise refugee camp, which hosts over 9,000 people, is very poor. Mozambican refugees have only 8L of water per person per day (MSF 17/02/2016). There are only two borehole wells and four pit latrines (HRW 22/02/2016).

Education

Kapsise refugee camp has no school facilities (HRW 22/02/2016).

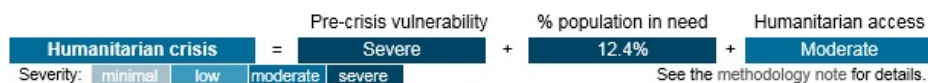
Protection

Mozambican refugees, which include hundreds of unaccompanied children, are at risk of attack by Mozambican soldiers (HRW 22/02/2016; Inter Press 25/02/2016).

Reports of rape and cross-border trafficking between Malawi and Mozambique are a longstanding concern. Malawian children are trafficked to Mozambique for forced work or sexual slavery (Government/UN 07/04/2015; Guardian 16/07/2012). 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: 08/03/2016

MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22 February: Clashes between the Daoussak and Inekar tribes led to the displacement of around 2,300 people in Ansongo and Menaka, Gao region (ECHO 26/02/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- Over 2 million people in northern and central regions in need of health services (OCHA 09/12/2015).

- 825,000 people in need of WASH (OCHA 28/12/2015).

- 118,775 people in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) food security (Cadre Harmonisé 14/11/2015).

- 709,000 children under five at risk of global acute malnutrition, including 180,000 facing severe acute malnutrition (OCHA 14/12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Protection is a priority for vulnerable populations affected by insecurity, particularly in the north (OCHA 24/12/2015).

- Nutrition and food security are key problems in Mali. Nutrition is of particular concern in Timbuktu, where 17.5% GAM was reported in September 2015 (OCHA 30/09/2015; 24/12/2015).

- Health needs are high as access to services is poor and epidemics pose a major risk (OCHA 24/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Despite the Algiers peace accord signed in May–June 2015 by the main Tuareg alliance and the government, insecurity persists in northern and central regions. Sporadic attacks continue, sometimes claimed by Islamist armed groups, and access for aid workers remains limited due to security constraints. A lack of access to basic social services and the weak capacity of public administration drive humanitarian needs. While IDPs and refugees have slowly been returning home since 2013, some 50,000 people remain internally displaced and 140,000 refugees are still in neighbouring countries.

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

Politics and security

Although the insurgency peaked in 2012, sporadic attacks by Islamist militants continue to hamper security. Since the beginning of 2015, more than 200 attacks by terrorist groups have been recorded (FIDH 19/02/2016). Trends indicate that violence is moving from the northern provinces of Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal to central and southern areas, including Mopti, Segou, and Bamako (HRW 27/01/2016).

The state lost control of the north in 2012, after Tuareg groups from the region they call Azawad began a campaign for greater autonomy. A separate coup d'état further destabilised the country (AFP 22/09/2015). A fragile alliance in the north between

Tuareg and Islamists was quickly broken, and Islamists took control of key cities. Civilian rule was re-established in mid-2013 with the support of French military, but the north remains insecure. Disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration programmes have faced multiple delays (Reuters 11/01/2016).

The government and the Azawad Movement Coalition (AMC), comprising the main Tuareg armed groups operating in the north, signed a peace agreement in mid-2015. The main Islamist armed groups operating in the country were excluded from the peace negotiations. In January 2016, parties to the Algiers peace agreement met to discuss implementation challenges (ICG 01/02/2016). Decentralisation measures, including new governors for Menaka and Taoudeni, were announced on 19 January (ICG 01/02/2016).

AMC and the Platform Movement, a coalition of mainly ethnic Tuareg armed groups opposing the AMC, signed an agreement to cease all hostilities on 15 October. The ceasefire followed conflict over control of Anefis town in Kidal region, in August and September 2015 (MaliWeb 19/10/2015; 02/09/2015; AFP 19/09/2015). UN peacekeepers have lifted a secure zone that they had imposed around Kidal town (Reuters 27/10/2015). On 2 February government forces entered Kidal, a former rebel stronghold, without major incidents (AFP 07/02/2016).

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.

The Platform Movement is made up of several armed groups opposing the AMC, and is mainly ethnic Tuareg. The government has some, limited, authority over these groups. 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) and Ansar Dine are among the main Islamist groups active in Mali. MUJAO split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011. Since 2015, the Macina Liberation Front (MLF), a Fulani Islamist group linked to Ansar Dine, has claimed responsibility for several attacks.

The groups' attacks mainly target pro-government and international forces, and mainly in the north. However, since June 2015, several attacks have been carried out in the south. Between January and September 2015, around 30 people were killed in central Mali in attacks claimed by the 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, the UN peacekeeping force 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 increased since mid-August 2014 (AFP 21/09/2014). Most attacks have been carried out in Gao, but some in Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal regions. MINUSMA has recorded the highest number of fatalities of any UN peacekeeping mission (SIPRI 28/09/2015; BBC 20/11/2015). Around 75 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 of which 44 died because of malicious acts (UN 31/01/2016; BBC 20/11/2015; AFP 02/07/2015). There were 28 attacks on MINUSMA between September—December 2015 alone (Reuters 11/01/2016).

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). On 6 January 2016, Germany announced it would increase its contribution to MINUSMA from ten soldiers to 650 (DW 06/01/2016).

Conflict developments

Civilians, as well as international and Malian armed forces, continue to be targeted by armed group attacks. Occasional attacks, sometimes claimed by Islamist armed groups, including Ansar Dine and MLF, continue in northern and central regions. On 12 February, an attack on a MINUSMA camp claimed by Ansar Dine killed at least five peacekeepers and injured 30 (AFP 13/02/2016; Al Jazeera 12/02/2016; UN 12/02/2016). On 5 February, an attack on a MINUSMA camp in Timbuktu killed at least five soldiers and wounded 30 others (Al Jazeera 12/02/2016; MINUSMA 05/02/2016).

Attacks on checkpoints happen frequently. Since mid-February, suspected jihadists killed eight people and injured three, in three separate attacks (AFP 11/02/2016; UN 19/02/2016; Reuters 24/02/2016).

On 19 November, 22 people were killed as suspected Islamist fighters attacked a hotel in Bamako. 170 people were taken hostage for several hours. The attack was claimed by Al Murabitoun, an off-shoot of AQIM, and the MLF (BBC 20/11/2015; 23/11/2015; Al Jazeera 23/11/2015; ICG 01/12/2015). The government declared a state of emergency following the attack, which has been extended to 31 March 2016 (AFP 31/12/2015).

Displacement

Over 52,000 people are internally displaced due to the conflict in the north, and approximately 140,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries such as Niger and Burkina Faso (IOM 24/02/2016; UNICEF 26/01/2016). The number of IDPs peaked in mid-2013 before people began gradually returning home, where they often remain in need of assistance. Internal displacement briefly spiked again in April–May 2015 following renewed insecurity.

IDPs

As of 24 February 2016, 52,163 people remained internally displaced in Mali. Timbuktu region hosts 25,000 IDPs. Outside Timbuktu region, IDPs are mainly staying in Gao (14,000), Bamako (5,800), Koulikoro (around 3,000), Mopti (2,350), and Ségou (1,200) (IOM 24/02/2016).

Nearly 2,750 people are displaced in towns close to Menaka, following clashes between Idoufane and Daoussak tribes in Ansongo and Menaka, Gao region, in November 2015. Certain Peul groups have also been displaced, but their needs are hard to assess due to their mobility. IDPs and host communities have lost assets and live in makeshift tents. Food is their most urgent need, followed by shelter and NFI, and health (ACTED, DRC, IRC, MdM and NRC 10/12/2015; OCHA 30/11/2015).

Another clash between the Daoussak and Inekar communities in Ansongo and Menaka has led to the displacement of an additional 2,280 people on 22 February. They have reportedly fled to Menaka and Intissekite, and are in need of drinking water, and temporary shelter and food assistance (ECHO 26/02/2016).

Between July 2013 and January 2016, over 490,000 IDPs have returned home (OCHA 05/02/2016). Most returnees are in Timbuktu (over 230,000) and Gao (almost 175,000). The deterioration of infrastructure and houses in the north due to lack of maintenance exacerbates returnees' needs and ongoing insecurity is preventing large-scale returns (WFP 20/01/2016; 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

Malian refugees have been slowly returning home from neighbouring countries since December 2013. As of end 2015, 17,091 Malians had returned (UNHCR 31/12/2015). Since December 2015, voluntary returns from Mbera camp in Mauritania have been increasing. Around 10,000 people have returned to Gargando, Timbuktu. Returnees are reportedly in need of water, shelter, hygiene, nutrition and health (ECHO27/02/2016).

Malian refugees in neighbouring countries

There are over 143,000 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries (OCHA 04/02/2016).

As of end December, 58,743 Malian refugees are in Niger, 50,400 are in Mauritania, and 33,574 are in Burkina Faso (OCHA 05/02/2016; UNHCR 31/12/2015). In October and November 4,000 new refugees arrived, fleeing fighting between Idoufane and Daoussak tribes in Menaka and Anderaboucane districts, Gao (UNHCR 10/11/2015; ECHO 18/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Insecurity due to the presence of armed groups, explosive devices, and crime, as well as attacks against aid workers continue to hamper humanitarian access in the north.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Around 30 attacks against aid workers and their facilities were recorded in 2015, and an increasing trend is being reported (UN 13/11/2015). 27 peacekeepers and 24 civilian UN staff were killed in deliberate attacks in 2015 (DW 22/01/2016). Over 2015, 78 access constraints have been recorded, most of them in Gao (49%) and Timbuktu (40%). Violence against humanitarian personnel, lack of humanitarian infrastructure, and ongoing hostilities were cited as the main reasons (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Security and physical constraints

Generally, access in the north has improved since the signing of the agreement between the AMC and the Platform movement, resulting in increased use of the Gao-Kidal road (OCHA 30/11/2015). However, ERW, IED, insurgent attacks and crime continue to limit access to populations in need in Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Segou, and Timbuktu regions, particularly on the Gao-Ansongo-Menaka axis, Gao-Bourem,

Timbuktu-Goundam, Djenne-Tenenkou, Mopti-Tenenkou, and Diabaly-Nampala-Lere. Localities of Douentza, Youwarou, and Tenkenkou districts in Mopti region remain hard to reach, but access has improved in Koro, Bankass, and Tominian districts, due to joint military operations along the border with Burkina Faso (ECHO 29/11/2015; OCHA 30/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

118,775 people face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food security outcomes, mostly in Timbuktu and Mopti regions. Over 4,000 people in Timbuktu face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (Cadre Harmonisé 14/11/2015). 2.5 million people are expected to be food insecure in the lean season of 2016 (June–August), compared to 2.9 million estimated food insecure in June 2015 (OCHA 02/02/2016; WFP 08/12/2015; government 07/2015). 315,000 people are expected to be severely food insecure in the 2016 lean season (WFP 31/12/2015).

The majority of households in all parts of the country have been facing Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity since October, as production is average to above-average, and water points have been replenished (FEWSNET 30/01/2016). The situation will deteriorate to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) from March 2016, due to early exhaustion of food stocks for around 15,000 people who have been affected by floods in Kita and Nioro (Kayes region), Macina, San and Tominian (Segou), Nara (Koulikoro), Douentza and Mopti (Mopti), and Gao and Menaka districts (Gao) (FEWSNET 30/01/2016).

Food availability

Preliminary findings point to a record cereal output this harvest following good rains in July over main producing areas, with 27% above the five-year average. However, in the north, labour shortages due to displacement, lack of agricultural support services, and fragmentation of markets have had a negative impact on agricultural production (GIEWS 04/12/2015).

Livelihoods

Poor pastoral households in Timbuktu and Gao regions have a reduced livestock size, because of high mortality rates during the last lean season. Their income will likely decrease during this year's lean season (WFP 31/01/2016).

Health

Over 2 million people are thought to be in need of health services in central and northern regions (OCHA 02/02/2016). The majority are in Timbuktu (639,000). 514,000 are in Gao, 491,000 in Mopti, 346,000 in Segou, and 64,000 in Kidal (OCHA

09/12/2015).

Since the beginning of 2016, 21 confirmed cases of measles have been recorded, out of 68 suspected cases (Government 26/02/2016). Kidal, Mopti, and Gao (Menaka) are the most affected regions. Vaccinations in Menaka are ongoing, however only one humanitarian actor operates in Menaka health sector (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Since January 2016, there have been 82 suspected cases of meningitis and one death, creating a mortality rate of 1.22%. So far, twenty cases have been confirmed (government 26/02/2016).

Nutrition

2015 saw an increase in severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases compared to 2014. As of early October, 96,121 SAM cases had been reported, over 30% more than the planning figure for the whole of 2015. Over 530,000 children are thought to have suffered from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in 2015. WFP has suspended 50% of its assistance for MAM treatment due to funding shortfalls (ECHO 06/10/2015). In 2016, 769,000 children are expected to be acutely malnourished (OCHA 28/12/2015).

High SAM rates are reported in all regions, but particularly in Timbuktu, Segou, Koulikoro, and Mopti (ECHO 06/10/2015). A nutrition emergency was declared in Timbuktu in September, with 17.5% GAM and 3.9% SAM. This is a significant increase from the 14.8% GAM reported in the same period in 2014 (OCHA 30/09/2015; 05/12/2015).

In Segou region 106,000 children were acutely malnourished in September, with GAM at 11.2%. In Mopti, GAM is 10% and 85,000 children are malnourished. In Gao, GAM is 11.5%, corresponding to 26,400 children suffering from acute malnutrition (OCHA 15/09/2015). In Koulikoro, GAM is at 13%, including 2% SAM (MaliWeb 02/09/2015).

WASH

825,000 people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA 12/02/2016). Access to safe water is limited, and only 43% of existing water sources are functional (OCHA 28/12/2015). 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).

In Kidal region, water shortages have been recorded, due to the sequence of low rainfall, drought, and drying up of wells by pastoralists. Humanitarian actors fear that risks such as displacement and health issues will occur if no measures are taken (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

Some 454,000 people are in need of shelter assistance (OCHA 29/01/2016). 30% of returnees find their houses seriously damaged and in need of rehabilitation (Shelter Cluster 11/2015).

Education

Nearly 400,000 children in Mali are in need of assistance in order to access education (OCHA 09/12/2015). Access to education has improved so far in the 2015–2016 school year, as some schools have reopened.

Access and learning environment

400,000 children aged 7–15 are out of school in northern Mali due to insecurity (OCHA 29/01/2016). The journey to and from school remains unsafe, and fear of unexploded mines and other remnants of war have forced parents to keep their children out of school (UNICEF 18/12/2015).

284 schools remain closed in northern and central Mali. Mopti has the highest number of closed schools (114), followed by Gao (64), Timbuktu (57), Kidal (45), and Segou (4) (OCHA 05/02/2016). The number of closed schools increased over the last months in the centre of the country (OCHA 31/01/2016). Some schools have been closed since 2012, others closed due to the deterioration of the security situation in 2015 (OCHA 30/09/2015). Gao's enrolment rate has dropped from a pre-crisis 98.5%, to 50% (French Government 04/02/2016).

Teaching and learning

Violence has led to a shortage of teachers. Many have fled the conflict areas in the north or are not reporting to work because of insecurity and 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 (UNICEF 18/12/2015; OCHA 30/09/2015).

Protection

Nearly 751,000 people are estimated to be in need of protection (OCHA 29/01/2016). 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).

Human rights abuses committed by Islamist armed groups and Malian security

forces have moved further south over 2015. These include indiscriminate killings, rape, executions and torture (HRW 19/02/2016). Human rights violations left at least 210 dead and 250 injured during 2015 and early 2016, the majority civilians (FIDH 19/02/2016).

Mines and ERW

The number of casualties from explosive remnants of war (ERW) decreased considerably in 2015, but improvised explosive device (IED) casualties are increasing (OCHA 15/06/2015). ERW have killed 28 people and injured 136 since February 2012. Since July 2013, IEDs have killed 36 and injured 116. The number of casualties increased significantly in 2015, compared to 2014 (UNMAS 08/12/2015). 60% of victims of ERW are children (OCHA 09/12/2015).

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: 29/02/2015

MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant updates this week 01/03/2016. Last updated 25/02/2016.

KEY FIGURES

- 150,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity (WFP 27/01/2016).
- 50,000 Malian refugees in Mbera camp (UNCHR 01/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- **Food security**, including the provision of adequate assistance to vulnerable households outside of lean season.
- **Nutrition** support to women and children in refugee and vulnerable local communities.

OVERVIEW

Vulnerable agro-pastoral households as well as Malian refugees face concerning levels of food insecurity in Mauritania. Even after good rains in September 2015, which brought above average harvest yields and improved pastoral conditions, significant pockets of food insecurity persist. 150,000 people are reported to face IPC Phase 3 food insecurity, which will worsen as food stocks deplete with the onset of the lean season in April.

Politics and security

Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz took power in a coup in 2008, before being elected as President in 2009. In 2014, he won a second term in a landslide, although most opposition boycotted the vote. While frequent coups and instability have characterised Mauritanian politics since the country gained independence from France in 1960, Abdelaziz's rule has been relatively stable (BBC 24/11/2015).

Displacement

Since 2012, Mauritania has hosted around 50,000 Malian refugees, who have fled violent clashes in northern Mali. Inflows largely slowed in 2015, and reports of voluntary repatriations are increasing in 2016 (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Mauritania hosts 52,154 refugees as of 1 February, including 50,419 Malian refugees in Mbera camp and 1,735 urban refugees and asylum seekers, who mainly come from CAR,

Côte d'Ivoire, Syria, DRC, and Senegal (UNHCR 15/02/2016). 486 new Malian arrivals were recorded in 2015, mostly after increased violence in Mali in May (UNHCR, 15/02/2016; 31/05/2015). Competition for scarce resources is increasing tension between refugees and host communities (WFP, 21/09/2015; IOM, 22/09/2015).

Mbera camp is a remote desert location on the border that has significant security challenges, and where food insecurity and malnutrition are high. According to UNHCR, 80% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs (UNHCR, 30/04/2015).

Some 700 refugees reportedly requested voluntary repatriation in January 2016 (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Insufficient funding places major limitations on humanitarian actors' ability to provide assistance to refugees in need, particularly in Mbera camp. Only 20% of needs were covered in 2015 (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Food security

The lean season typically runs April through September (FEWSNET 12/2013). As of January 2016, some 380,000 people are affected by food insecurity, including 150,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Food availability and pastoral conditions improved in September 2015 as a result of sufficient and well-distributed rains, but food security assessments in late 2015 indicated large populations remain in need of assistance, due to the combined effects of high underlying vulnerability and inadequate assistance (WFP 31/12/2015; 27/01/2016).

Food availability and access

WFP food distributions to refugees in Mbera camp have been interrupted by funding shortfalls (UNHCR 15/02/2016). Refugees have at times resorted to negative coping mechanisms, including selling assets and incurring debts (WFP/UNHCR 30/09/2015).

The effects of average to above-average harvests continue to be felt, with markets well stocked and prices stable for the most part of the country (FEWSNET 31/01/2016).

Livelihoods

Certain households in pockets of north-central and southwestern agro-pastoral zones face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes following two consecutive years of inadequate rainfall. Overall pastoral conditions are largely favourable after good September rains (FEWSNET 31/01/2016)

In Bassiknou department, Hodh El Chargui, host communities and Malian refugees are

facing increased competition for firewood, water, and pasture. As demand for basic items overrides supply, prices are increasing (IOM, 22/09/2015; WFP, 21/09/2015).

Nutrition

Over 137,000 children under five as well as almost 63,000 pregnant and nursing women suffer from or are at high risk of malnutrition (WFP 27/01/2016).

Malnutrition among refugees in Mbera camp has decreased markedly since 2012, but persists. GAM is at 9.9% and SAM at 0.8% (UNHCR 30/09/2015).

Health

Secondary and tertiary healthcare is not available in the refugee camp, meaning patients must be referred to Nema and Nouakchott hospitals. Respiratory tract infections are currently the most common illness in the camp (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

WASH

On average, latrines and showers are shared between 22 people in Mbera camp (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Education

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

Protection

Incidents of sexual violence have been reported in Mbera camp (UNHCR, 31/05/2015).

Reviewed: 01/03/2016

NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 February: President Issoufou won 48% of the vote in the first round of the election. A run-off against leading opposition candidate Hama Amadou is scheduled for 20 March (AFP).

KEY FIGURES

- 480,000 people faced Crisis and Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4) (OCHA, 30/11/2015).
- Over 346,000 children were admitted for severe acute malnutrition treatment in 2015 (UNICEF 31/01/2016).
- Approximately 319,000 displaced people in Diffa region, including 98,000 Nigerian refugees, 68,000 returning Niger nationals, and up to 153,000 IDPs who have fled from or anticipated violence (OCHA/Government 17/12/2015).
- More than 56,000 Malian refugees, 4,000 of whom arrived between October and November, continue to rely on humanitarian assistance (UNHCR 10/11/2015; 31/10/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Protection, food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance are urgently needed for newly displaced populations in Diffa region (OCHA 30/11/2015).
- Access to healthcare and the prevention of epidemics, particularly malaria, meningitis, and measles, are humanitarian priorities (OCHA 31/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Niger faces severe underlying vulnerability, leaving it highly susceptible to recurrent shocks. Drought, floods and epidemics frequently drive food security, nutrition, and health crises. Compounding this situation, Niger has seen a rise in insecurity over the past few years, stemming from crises in neighbouring Nigeria, Mali and Libya. Despite regional military efforts against Boko Haram, populations along the Komadougou Yobe River and the shores of Lake Chad suffer regular attacks on civilians. As a result, displaced populations in Diffa region face urgent needs for protection and humanitarian assistance.

Politics and security

Niger has seen a rise in insecurity in recent years stemming from crises in neighbouring Nigeria, Mali, and Libya. Threats from Boko Haram (BH) are of particular concern. BH has conducted over 72 attacks on civilians in Diffa region since February 2015 (OCHA

11/01/2016). In October, authorities in Niger declared a state of emergency in Diffa region, which was extended for a third time on 29 January for three months (AFP 29/01/2016). Correspondingly, a curfew and restricted movement of goods and people have been enforced in Diffa region (UNHCR 13/10/2015). Similar security measures were in force from February-September (Reuters 14/10/2015; OCHA 19/10/2015).

Thousands of troops from Niger and Chad launched a major ground and air offensive against BH in southeastern Niger in March 2015 (AFP 14/03/2015). A Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) comprising at least 8,700 troops from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin under a common command, is yet to be fully deployed (AFP 15/10/2015). Military operations and regular BH attacks across Diffa region have driven evacuations and displacement of populations (UNICEF 16/07/2015; OCHA 11/09/2015). In October, at least 30 US troops were deployed to Agadez to train 100 Niger soldiers (Reuters 06/11/2015).

In remote areas to the north and west of the country, Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) pose additional security threats.

Elections

The first round of the presidential election took place on 21 February, with the incumbent President Issoufou winning 48% of the vote. A second round run-off is scheduled for 20 March (AFP 26/02/2016). Opposition groups claimed some results came from fake polling stations and that the electoral commission was complicit in fraudulent practices. International election observers indicated a general satisfaction with the handling of the vote (AFP 23/02/2016).

Relations between the ruling party and the opposition have been tense since the opposition accused Issoufou of unilaterally forming a government of national unity in 2013 (AFP 13/09/2015; Reuters 15/09/2015). The leading opposition candidate, Hama Amadou, was arrested upon his return from exile on 15 November, on trafficking charges. He denies the accusations (AFP 15/11/2015). Clashes between opposition supporters and security forces were reported in Niamey and Zinder in November, December and February (ICG 01/12/2015; AFP 04/02/2016). On 17 December, the government declared it had foiled a coup d'état, arresting nine military officials attached to units of the air force, artillery, and special forces (AFP 17/12/2015; RFI 20/12/2015). **For the second round of presidential elections, opposition groups have pledged to unite behind jailed Amadou, placing further pressure on Issoufou (AFP 26/02/2016).**

Recent incidents

As of 16 Feb, seven attacks and clashes involving armed groups and one mine explosion had been recorded in Diffa region in 2016 (OCHA 16/02/2016). 91 were recorded over the

past year (OCHA 17/02/2016).

Displacement

Niger faces multiple displacement crises. BH violence means approximately 319,000 displaced people are in Diffa region including IDPs, returnees from Nigeria, and Nigerian refugees (OCHA 08/02/2016). Over 50,000 Malian refugees are living in the southwest, mostly in camps (UNHCR 10/11/2015). Instability in Libya has prompted vulnerable Niger nationals to return home, and migrants of other nationalities to transit through the country, some of whom become stranded in need of protection assistance in transit cities, including Agadez (IOM 15/09/2015).

Boko Haram crisis

The BH insurgency has triggered large-scale displacement in northeast Nigeria and is increasingly threatening citizens on and around Lake Chad, including in Niger, Chad, and Cameroon (UNHCR 24/09/2015).

There are some 153,000 IDPs, including at least 59,000 who fled violence and 94,000 people who were evacuated by the military between November and December. 91,800 IDPs are children (UNICEF 31/12/2015; OCHA/Government 17/12/2015). Some 70 villages have been left empty in Diffa region since February 2015. Many of the displaced are living in makeshift camps along a 100km stretch of the main highway in Diffa region (UN 19/01/2016; UNHCR 19/01/2016). IDPs and their host populations in the region are in urgent need of shelter and NFIs (UNHCR 19/01/2016).

An estimated 98,000 Nigerians and 68,000 returned Niger migrants are estimated to be seeking refuge in the region (OCHA/Government 17/12/2015; 31/12/2015). Over 40,800 returnees are children (UNICEF 31/12/2015). Only 5% of refugees live in two camps (Kablewa and Sayam Forage), with the rest dispersed through host communities and spontaneous sites (OCHA 30/11/2015). Kablewa's population doubled to over 6,500 in December 2015. The camp has capacity to host 10,000 people (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Frequent population movements and limited access due to insecurity inhibit accurate profiling and tracking, as well as the delivery of assistance (UNHCR 18/11/2015). Many people were displaced more than five times in 2015 (IFRC 10/12/2015).

Mali crisis

Malian refugees have been arriving in Niger since the 2012–13 civil war. Although 7,000 refugees were repatriated in 2013, the number of Malian refugees in Niger has grown from 47,000 to 56,000 since the beginning of 2015 (UNHCR 31/01/2016). Over 4,000 people arrived in October and November, fleeing lawlessness, food insecurity and inter-tribal violence in eastern Mali (UNHCR 10/11/2015; 31/10/2015). 839 new arrivals were relocated from transit areas to Tabareybarey camp in January 2016 (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Approximately 21,000 Malian refugees live in the hosting areas of Intikane and Tazalite, where they have access to pastoral activities and humanitarian assistance. A further 14,000 live in Abala camp, 10,300 in Tabareybarey, and 8,500 in Mangaize. Smaller refugee populations live in urban centres, including Niamey (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

A curfew and restrictions on movement have been imposed on Diffa region after a state of emergency was declared in October 2015 (Reuters 14/10/2015). In December the curfew was extended, to start an hour earlier (UNHCR 17/12/2015). Access beyond Diffa town in Diffa region is only possible with military escort, hampering access to populations in need (OCHA 20/01/2016).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

UN agencies can only access towns and settlements northeast of Diffa and Mainé Soroa – including Sayam Forage, Kablewa, and Bosso – with military escort (OCHA 11/01/2016).

Camps and hosting areas near the border with Mali are only accessible to humanitarian actors with military escorts, as are roads northeast of Agadez towards Libya (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Niger faces recurrent food crises, with an estimated 2.5 million people facing chronic food insecurity due to overreliance on subsistence agriculture, widespread poverty, and limited infrastructure, services and education (WFP 31/12/2015).

In 2016, over 2 million people without access to adequate food are estimated to need assistance (UNICEF 26/02/2016). Much of the country emerged from the yearly lean season (May-September) to reach Minimal and Stressed levels (IPC Phases 1 and 2) (FEWSNET 30/11/2015; 31/12/2015). However, assessments in late 2015 found 480,000 people were facing Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food security outcomes (OCHA, 30/11/2015). 97% of the severely food insecure population lives in four regions: Maradi (33%), Diffa (31%), Dosso (18%) and Tillabery (15%) (OCHA 30/11/2015). IPC Phase 3 is expected to persist until September 2016 in Diffa region (FEWSNET 25/01/2016).

In pastoral areas of Tillabery and Zinder regions, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes are expected from January through March (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Food availability

Provisional harvest results indicate an overall cereal surplus of 88,000 metric tons (OCHA 31/01/2016). However, over 4,000 villages spread across the country reported cereal

deficits of more than 50%, leaving 160 zones moderately to extremely vulnerable (OCHA 31/01/2016).

In Diffa region, a cereal deficit of 100,000 metric tons was reported, up 21% on the previous year, which was already well below meeting consumption needs (OCHA 31/01/2016; WFP 05/02/2016). Fishing and agriculture in and around Lake Chad and the Komadougou Yobe River have been constrained due to insecurity (IFRC 10/12/2015).

Food access

Insecurity continues to limit food access in eastern Niger (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). A reduction in imported cereals has led to an increase in the prices of millet (19%) and sorghum (7%) compared to January 2015 (WFP 31/01/2016). 61% of households assessed in Diffa region in December 2015 reported limited food consumption (WFP 22/01/2016).

Livelihoods

Households in Niger face severely depleted assets and high levels of indebtedness (FAO 13/10/2015). From March 2016 through the lean season, poor households will face serious economic challenges to meet subsistence survival (FAO 17/12/2015).

In Diffa, regional authorities claim frequent BH attacks have cost the economy USD 32 million since February 2015, negatively impacting on the resilience of local communities (OCHA 02/11/2015). Major sources of income, including cross-border trade and work requiring motorbikes and vehicles, have been impeded by security constraints (IFRC 10/12/2015). In December, the pastoral situation remained worrying. Even areas of good vegetation coverage are at risk of overgrazing due to the high concentration of animals (WFP 05/02/2016).

Health

Health services are limited in Niger, particularly in rural areas, and Niger is prone to disease outbreaks. An estimated 700,000 people live in areas at risk of epidemics (OCHA/Government 11/12/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Health services in Diffa region are strained 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 in Diffa town, 45km away (UNHCR 30/11/2015).

Outbreaks

75 cases of meningitis, including one death, were reported in January 2016. In 2015, 8,500

cases were reported – the first major outbreak since 2009. With gaps in vaccination coverage remaining, health actors are preparing for 15,000 potential cases this season (OCHA 31/01/2016).

5,835 measles cases had been recorded by November 2015, almost six times the number recorded in 2014 (OCHA 17/11/2015; 14/12/2014).

Nutrition

While nutrition rates in 2015 improved on 2014 figures, Niger continues to battle a malnutrition crisis. Over 346,000 children were admitted for SAM treatment in 2015, including nearly 16,700 in Diffa (UNICEF 31/01/2016; OCHA 14/12/2014). Most of the children were in Tillabery, Maradi, Zinder, and Diffa regions (UNICEF 30/09/2015). Over 400,000 children are expected to suffer from SAM in 2016 (UNICEF 26/01/2016).

Diffa continues to face particularly poor nutrition outcomes. A shortage of staff in health centres is limiting nutrition programmes (OCHA 02/11/2015).

Kablewa camp reports global acute malnutrition 15.2%, including 4.0% SAM (WFP 05/02/2016). GAM is 11.2% in Sayam Forage camp, including 0.9% SAM.

Shelter and NFIs

An estimated 90,000 people need emergency or transitional shelters in Diffa region (UNHCR 07/12/2015). **In towns closest to Lake Chad, over half the population are living in temporary shelters (REACH 31/01/2016).** 35% of households in Diffa region live in shelters that do not meet minimum standards. Each host family hosts around 17 people (OCHA 20/05/2015).

135,000 people need NFIs in Diffa region (UNHCR 07/12/2015).

WASH

Across Diffa region, 60% of the population – more than 400,000 people – have no access to drinking water. 86% do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities (UNHCR 07/12/2015). 84 of 110 villages assessed in Diffa lack water points, and 89 villages are in need of sanitation assistance (latrines and showers): a total of 397 water points and 4,921 latrines are needed in the region (OCHA 02/11/2015; UNICEF 30/09/2015). 8,000 displaced people in Koublé Ngourtoua and Boudoum lack WASH services (OCHA 02/11/2015).

Education

An estimated 210,000 displaced children will need assistance accessing education (UNHCR 07/12/2015). An ongoing school relocation programme has so far facilitated the return to school of three-quarters of 12,500 students whose schools were closed due to insecurity (OCHA 31/01/2016). 40% of girls in Niger are enrolled in primary school, and

only 20% in middle school (AFP 04/11/2015). Anglophone children from Nigeria face education barriers in Niger's Francophone school system (UNCHR 07/12/2015).

Protection

Populations in Diffa region face major protection risks, including regular attacks on civilians, military operations near settlements, and a lack of documentation (UNHCR 07/09/2015). Women, children, and other vulnerable groups, including migrants, journalists and Christians all face specific protection risks.

Deficient border control and corruption have contributed to people smuggling, drug trade, and the uncontrolled movement of arms and armed groups through Niger and the Sahel region (Danish Institute for Security Studies 02/2016).

Children

190,000 children are reported to be in need of protection assistance (OCHA 27/01/2016). Niger has the highest percentage of child brides in the world, many of whom are sold by families to help cope with drought. According to CARE research, 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: 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 people heading north to or returning from Libya (UNODC 20/08/2015). As of 26 December, 7,300 migrants had been repatriated from Algeria in 2015, including 2,500 minors (OCHA 15/01/2016).

Journalists: Press freedom is tightening as pre-electoral tensions rise. Five journalists were reportedly arrested in ten days in November, four of whom were at the airport when opposition leader Hama Amadou was arrested on his return from exile. Another five journalists were arrested while covering a student demonstration in October (Reporters sans Frontières 25/10/2015).

Christians: Protection for Niger's Christian minority has been a major concern since anti-Christian riots left 10 dead and many churches destroyed in January 2015. Christian areas were under high surveillance over the Christmas period (AFP 25/12/2015).

Documentation

Approximately 80% of displaced people, including IDPs, refugees, and returnees, lack identification documentation, complicating registration procedures (UNHCR, 13/10/2015; OCHA 02/11/2015). Security impediments have forced UNHCR to postpone recent

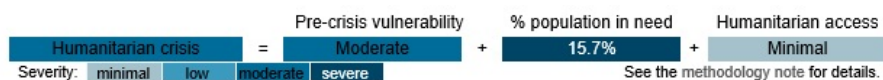
missions to Gagamari and Assaga for the identification of families wishing to relocate to Sayam Forage camp (UNHCR, 16/10/2015).

Mines and explosive remnants of war

Landmines are reportedly laid along the border between Niger and Nigeria, especially in areas near the Komadougou Yobe River (UNHCR 30/04/2015).

Updated: 01/03/2016

SWAZILAND DROUGHT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 February: At least 300,000 people are in dire need of food and water assistance because of El Niño (UN).

KEY FIGURES

-300,000 people in severe need of food and water assistance because of falls in maize production in 2015.

- HIV prevalence among adults stands at 26%, which is the most severe level of HIV infection worldwide.

Disasters: Drought

With poor and erratic rainfall as a result of the El Niño, dating back to 2014, the country has been experiencing significant reductions in crop production in 2016, a situation that will worsen food security during 2016-17 (FEWSNET 01/2016). At least 300,000 people – one- third of the population – are in dire need of assistance, specifically of food and water. All five major rivers are flowing below critical environmental sustenance levels (UN 25/02/2016).

The Government of Swaziland declared a national drought disaster on 18 February 2016. These conditions are expected to continue until March/April 2016, with the effects forecast to last into 201. The situation is worse than during the 1992 drought (UN 25/02/2016).

Food security

The number of food insecure households rose to 23% in 2015. Moderate food insecurity has increased to 18.2 % from a previous four-year average of 9.8%, and severe food insecurity increased to 5.5 % from an average of 3%.

At least 300,000 people – one- third of the population – are in dire need of assistance, specifically of food and water. This number could increase from May/June 2016, as temperatures start decreasing with the beginning of winter .The planting season, normally from October to November, began 30–60 days late and severely impact maize yields (FAO 29/02/2016)..

Maize production fell by 31% in 2015, and is expected to be lower in the 2016 crop season, until May. Maize is a staple food in Swaziland, so the drop in production had notable impacts on food security, South Africa, on which Swaziland relies for 90% of its food imports, has also seen a significant reduction in maize production. At the end of January 2016, maize prices increased by 66% from the five year average in a country in which just under half of the population is unemployed (FAO 29/02/2016).

90% of Swaziland's sugar cash crop relies on irrigation, which has been significantly hampered by the rationing of water. Sugarcane harvests, which accounts for a 21% of Swaziland's GDP, has been hit hard, and this is likely to impact government finances and possibly service delivery (UN 25/02/2016).

Nutrition

Acute malnutrition rates have increased by 2.5 %from the average of 3 to 5.5 % (UN 25/02/2016). Chronic malnutrition is the main nutrition concern in Swaziland with stunting affecting 25,5% of children under five. Stunting is prevalence in the south and eastern parts of the country(FAO 29/02/2016).

Livelihoods

According to the government, by the end of January 2016 about 38,000 livestock had died due to lack of water and fodder, seriously constraining coping mechanisms. Dead livestock's close proximity to water increases the risk of the spread of diseases among livestock and humans (UN 25/02/2016, FAO 29/02/2016).

WASH

In schools, more than 197,000 students, teachers and workers are at risk of water-borne diseases and malnutrition, due to lack of water impacting WASH conditions in schools. More than 23,000 student coming from Mbabane area have been affected by the reduction of water as schools, especially in urban areas, depend on flushing toilet systems. In rural areas also, existing boreholes are running dry. (UN 25/02/2016).

Health

Swaziland has the highest prevalence of HIV infection among adults (26 % of people aged 15–49). Food insecurity affects HIV treatment intake as antiretroviral drugs are meant to be taken with food and water. It also affects access to medical facilities as some people are unable to make the journey to the facilities due to illness, weakness, or lack of finances (UN 25/02/2016).

Updated: 29/02/2016

ZIMBABWE FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 February: Around 50,000 cases of diarrhoea and 30 deaths have been recorded so far in 2016. Manicaland and Mashonaland West are the most affected areas (News24).

KEY FIGURES

- Almost 3 million people in need of food assistance (Reuters 19/02/2016).
- 36,000 in protracted displacement following electoral violence in 2008 (IDMC 05/2015).
- 60% of Harare water needs are not covered (Reuters 02/02/2016). 12,000 boreholes throughout the country have run dry (World Vision 09/02/2016).
- Almost 50,000 cases of diarrhoea, including 30 deaths, so far in 2016 (News24 29/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

Food security: Southern Zimbabwe faces Crisis (IPC Phase 3), and Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes in the presence of assistance. Some households in northern areas also face Crisis and Stressed situations (FEWSNET 30/11/2015; VoA 29/12/2015).

WASH: Zimbabwe's National Water Authority has warned of water shortages for most catchment areas due to dry conditions. A severe outbreak of typhoid has been reported in the capital, as the population is using unsafe water sources (OCHA 22/11/2015;

Bulawayo24 04/02/2016; Reuters 29/01/2016; The Standard 07/02/2016).

Nutrition: In 2015 the national SAM average value was 2.3%, compared to 1.5% of 2014. In the provinces of Masvingo and Midlands, many children are reported to be at risk of severe acute (Multiple 08/10/2015).

OVERVIEW

Underlying food insecurity after poor harvest yields from the 2014/2015 season, coupled with the late onset of rains for the 2015/2016 growing season are driving a major food security crisis in Zimbabwe. Humanitarian assistance has been insufficient and government maize reserves face shortfalls. An outbreak of foot and mouth disease and drought conditions are negatively impacting grazing stock and pastoralists' livelihood opportunities.

Politics and security

President Mugabe has been in office since 1980. Elections in July 2013 returned his Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) party to government (UNCT 03/10/2014). By-elections in June 2015 saw Zanu-PF consolidate its dominant position, winning 76% of the National Assembly seats. However, with Mugabe's term set to expire in 2018, fractures are beginning to emerge within the ruling party. Mugabe faces criticism for a growing number of political and economic mistakes, and at 91, for being too old to rule (All Africa 21/09/2015). According to different sources, the President's decision to declare a drought-related state of disaster in February came too late, putting millions of Zimbabweans at risk (VOA Zimbabwe 18/02/2016; New Zimbabwe 07/02/2016). Episodes of partisan distribution of food aid, harassment, intimidation and discrimination, are reported to be on the rise in the country, and in particular in Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central, as political discontent towards the ruling party increases (Zimbabwe Peace Project 31/02/2016).

Economic crisis

Zimbabwe's economic position has improved since the major crisis of 2008, but it remains vulnerable to shocks (UNCT 03/10/2014). The depreciation of the South African rand is having a negative effect on the Zimbabwean economy, with many sectors and shops refusing to accept the previously commonly used currency (All Africa 28/12/2015). Budget cuts and delayed disbursement of public funds is limiting service provision: health workers and teachers have threatened strikes over delayed payment of salaries in December (All Africa 29/12/2015; 30/12/2015).

Natural disasters

A strong El Niño episode was declared in March 2015. El Niño is traditionally associated with weak or erratic rainfall and hotter, drier weather in southern Africa (FAO 22/12/2015). Insufficient rain with large negative anomalies have been recorded since October (NOAA 31/12/2015). Forecasts expect below-average rainfall across Zimbabwe through March 2016 (FNSWG 11/2015).

Despite an increase in rainfall recorded in the last days of January, many areas in eastern Zimbabwe are still receiving less than a quarter of average rain. As of 12 February, 95% of the country has received less than 75% of usual rainfall. Binga, Lupane, Tsholotsho, Zaka, and Masvingo received the least rainfall (FEWSNET 05/02/2016; Government 12/02/2016). On 5 February, Zimbabwe's President declared a "state of disaster" in many rural areas (BBC 05/02/2016).

Displacement

As of May 2015, an estimated 36,000 Zimbabweans remained in protracted internal displacement following electoral violence in 2008 (IDMC 05/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

Over 3 million people are now reported in need of food aid (Reuters 19/02/2016).

Most affected areas are in the south and west of Zimbabwe, where many households are projected in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions in presence of food assistance (FEWSNET 30/01/2016).

Food availability

In 2016, Zimbabwe is projected to produce 200,000 metric tons of food, the smallest crop since 1961. The need for 2016-2017 is between 1.1 million and 2 million metric tons (The Zimbabwean 18/02/2016). In Mashonaland West province, Mashonaland region, villagers are reported to be forced to eat only mangoes to survive. Some have accused local politicians of looting incoming food aid (VOA Zimbabwe 14/01/2016). Strict market controls limit import options (VoA 30/12/2015). Government imports have been insufficient. South Africa, the region's biggest producer and exporter, reported a 22% decline in production in 2015 (OCHA 23/12/2015).

A short rainy season from December through February is predicted for the maize belt, where 70% of Zimbabwe's staple grain is produced (OCHA 22/11/2015).

Food access

National average maize grain prices grew by 32% compared to the previous year, and by 19% compared to the five-year average (FNSWG 11/2015). As regional maize supplies decrease, regional food prices are expected to increase and reach their maximum within January–March 2016 (OCHA 23/12/2015; FNSWG 11/2015).

Livelihoods

Farmers face drought, high input costs, lack of funding, and a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak (All Africa 27/12/2015). Late onset of seasonal rains has delayed agricultural activities and reduced labour opportunities (FNSWG 11/2015).

In 2015, the national cattle herd was 5.3 million, compared to over 6 million in 2014 (Reuters 12/01/2016). Foot-and-mouth disease has heavily affected Masvingo province, and southern parts of the country (The Zimbabwean 24/09/2015). In Masvingo over 5,000 cattle have died. Many villagers are reportedly selling cattle for as little as USD 30 in order to buy food (VOA Zimbabwe 14/01/2016). Cattle movements have been banned and quarantine zones established (Reuters 07/09/2015; All Africa 27/12/2015). The outbreak has negatively impacted pastoralists' livelihood opportunities (OCHA 23/12/2015). The government has reportedly advised the farmers most affected by the drought to sell some of their cattle before they die. As of 9 February, over 17,000 livestock have died (VOA Zimbabwe 02/02/2016; World Vision 09/02/2016).

Households reliant on remittances from South Africa are worse off due to the volatile and depreciating rand (FNSWG 11/2015).

Health

Funding shortfalls have consistently limited effective delivery of health services in Zimbabwe (IRIN 11/08/2014). Shortages of staff and essential medicines are regular (IRIN 11/08/2014). Health workers threatened to stop work after not receiving their salaries at the end of December 2015 (All Africa 30/12/2015).

Diarrhoea

Diarrhoea is one of the main communicable diseases in the country, and one of the main causes of death of children under-five (UNRCO Zimbabwe 2015). Throughout Zimbabwe, around 50,000 cases of diarrhoea and 30 deaths were reported so far in 2016, as of the end of February. Manicaland and Mashonaland West are the most affected areas (News24 29/02/2016).

HIV/AIDS

A severe shortage of HIV diagnosis equipment has been reported in Mkoba, a

150,000-inhabitant suburb of Gweru. HIV patients in the area are redirected to the General Hospital, or to private and expensive medical facilities (The Zimbabwean 20/01/2016).

Typhoid

A typhoid outbreak started in Harare in the last week of January (Bulawayo24 04/02/2016; Reuters 29/01/2016). As of 23 February, 24 cases were confirmed and more than 240 were being investigated out of hundreds of possible cases reported. One person died on 18 February (Newsday 23/02/2016; VOA Zimbabwe 18/02/2016). The most affected areas include Glen Norah, Glen View, Budiriro, Hopley and Hatfield, as well as Kuwadzana, Warren Park, Kambuzuma, and Dzivarasekwa suburbs. The lack of water is reportedly causing people to use water from unsafe sources. Authorities are concerned about the constant increase in cases (The Standard 07/02/2016; VOA Zimbabwe 12/02/2016; 18/02/2016; Newsday 16/02/2016).

Nutrition

In Zimbabwe, SAM rates vary from 0.8% to 5.5% per province. The national SAM average value spiked up to 2.3%, compared to 1.5% of 2014. In the provinces of Masvingo and Midlands, children are reported to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition because of the particularly severe food insecurity (Multiple 08/10/2015). Global acute malnutrition rates have almost reached 7%, the highest for the last 15 years (WFP 03/03/2016).

WASH

Zimbabwe's National Water Authority has warned of water shortages for most catchment areas due to dry conditions (OCHA 22/11/2015). As of 9 February, over 12,000 boreholes have run dry across the country (World Vision 09/02/2016).

Underlying vulnerability is high. 27% of the population does not have access to safe water (OCHA 22/11/2015). In rural areas, 60% of the rural water supply infrastructure is in disrepair (UNICEF 2013). 40% do not have access to improved sanitation facilities and practise open defecation (UNICEF 2013).

Protection

Main protection concerns regard the freedom of expression and thought with frequent violations of minorities' rights, as for example LGBT activists. The police often resort to violence (HRW 29/01/2015).

Children

On 20 January, the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe outlawed child marriage (below the age of 18) (Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights 20/01/2016).

Vulnerable groups

Disabled people reportedly face major challenges due to growing food insecurity and are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including begging (VoA 03/10/2015).

Updated: 04/03/2016

CÔTE D'IVOIRE DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 01/03/2016. Last update: 20/01/2016

KEY FIGURES

- 218,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes.
- Global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in the north is at 8.9% (WFP 30/09/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security, mainly in the north.

OVERVIEW

Côte d'Ivoire is recovering from more a decade of violent conflict. Nearly 50% of the population still lives below USD 1.25 per day. The most pressing issue is food insecurity: 218,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, mainly in the northern part of the country. A high rate of statelessness is a major concern: an estimated 700,000 people living in the country do not have any documented

Politics and security

President Ouattara was re-elected on 25 October 2015 in a peaceful process. However, there were riots and protests in Abidjan before the vote, as opponents questioned the legitimacy of Ouattara as a candidate.

Civil war between 2002 and 2007 split the country between the insurgent-held north and government-held south. In 2007, both sides signed a power-sharing deal. Presidential elections planned for 2010 aimed at ending the conflict. However, the polls led to further violence, as Laurent Gbagbo refused to recognise the victory of Alassane Ouattara. The conflict finally ended in February 2011, when Ouattara's forces overran the south of the country and captured Gbagbo (BBC 05/05/2015).

The UN peacekeeping mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), which has been in the country since February 2004, will be reduced from more than 5,400 soldiers and 1,500 police to less than 4,000 troops before 31 March 2016. The number of police will remain unchanged (UN 13/01/2016).

Displacement

Ivorian refugees in neighbouring countries

An estimated 50,000 Ivorians, including political refugees, still reside in neighbouring countries, mainly in Liberia (38,000), Ghana (11,500), and Togo. They fled during the political crisis in 2010–2011 and are unwilling to return due to fear of persecution. In 2011, neighbouring countries hosted around 250,000 Ivorians (IRIN 21/07/2015; FAO 08/12/2015).

UNHCR resumed the voluntary repatriation of tens of thousands of Ivorian refugees from Liberia in mid-December. The returns had been interrupted for more than a year by the Ebola outbreak. Some 11,000 Ivorian refugees in Liberian camps have said they wish to return immediately (UNHCR 18/12/2015).

Food security

Around 218,000 people are estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, resulting from the combined effects of civil conflict that ended in 2011 and recent drought (FAO 08/12/2015).

Food availability

Agriculture has been seriously damaged due to the political crisis. Labour shortages

caused by displacement, fragmentation of markets, and a lack of agricultural support services are impacting production and food markets, notably in the north of the country (FAO 08/12/2015). Côte d'Ivoire is one of the most import-dependent countries in the region, with over 50% of cereal supplies imported (FEWSNET 14/12/2015).

Nutrition

The national prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) decreased from 7.1% to 4.2% between 2011 and 2014. However, there are big differences between regions: GAM was 8.9% in the north and 5.4% in the northeast in 2015 (WFP 30/09/2015).

Protection

More than 700 political prisoners, who were detained during the 2010–2011 riots, are still in detention (IRIN 21/07/2015). The President has reduced the sentences of 3,100 prisoners incarcerated over post-election unrest (AFP 01/01/2016).

Statelessness

The country contains one of the largest stateless populations in Africa. Ethnic minorities and migrants have been facing documentation problems since 2002, when the civil conflict began. With the aim to eliminate Ouattara, who is of Burkinabe descent, from the presidential election, national laws were changed in 1995 to denationalise all Burkinabe Ivorians. An estimated 700,000 people are currently stateless or of undetermined nationality. About half are abandoned or separated children. Abandoned children are not covered by national legislation and cannot acquire Ivorian citizenship (Al Jazeera 03/11/2015; NRC 01/01/2015).

Reviewed: 01/03/2016

MADAGASCAR DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 25/02, last update 16/02/2016

KEY FIGURES

- Nearly 1.89 million people are food insecure. 450,000 people are severely food insecure (FAO 26/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security: the third consecutive year of below-average staple food production has led to early exhaustion of household food stocks and high food prices, predominantly in the south (FEWSNET 23/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Severe drought conditions have led to a third consecutive year of below-average food production, particularly in the south. Tsihombe, Ambovombe, and Bekily districts in Androy region are most affected, where poor households are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes. An ongoing outbreak of pneumonic plague is also of concern.

Politics and security

Elections

On 29 December, Madagascar held its first senatorial elections since a coup in 2009 that saw the current ruling party come to power. The ruling party won the election, with 60% of the vote. There were no reports of violence, but the opposition has alleged that there were irregularities in the voting process (Africa News 10/01/2016).

Inter-communal violence

Violence related to cattle raiding has reportedly killed 150 civilians in 2015. This marks an increase from 2014 (News24 07/01/2016).

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. Rainfall has been sufficient in most areas, but may continue to be below average in the worst-affected regions of Atsimo Andrefana, Androy, and Anosy (FEWSNET 31/01/2015).

On 22 January, a dam burst in northwestern Madagascar after days of heavy rains. The resulting flooding displaced 3,925 from Mampikony, Antananarivo, and Mahajamba (Bloomberg 22/01/2016).

Floods

Over 2–4 February, heavy rains and strong winds in the north caused flooding and damage in several villages in Sofia and Boeny regions. At least 100 homes were affected in Mandritsara, Sofia region. Heavy rainfall was forecasted to persist until February 6 (ECHO 04/02/2016).

Using the last El Niño as a reference, it is expected that 550,000 people will be affected by cyclones in Madagascar, and 570,000 by drought (WFP 05/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Very poor production has resulted in nearly 1.89 million people food insecure in the seven southern regions of Madagascar during the lean season, including 450,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3); 380,000 of these are from Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana (IRIN 28/01/2016; FAO 26/01/2016).

The early exhaustion of food stocks, limited labour opportunities, and high staple food prices are the main drivers of food insecurity. Poor rains and replanting in the south has delayed the harvest. This will likely prolong the lean season, which is usually from December–February. People are expected to remain in Crisis food security outcomes in the southern districts of Tsihombe, Beloha and coastal parts of Ampanihy and Ambovombe, until April (FEWSNET 31/01/2016).

Poor households are engaging in negative coping strategies, such as selling small animals, and migrating. Increased consumption of cactus leaves and unripe fruits has been reported among poor households (FEWSNET 31/01/2016).

Food availability

Staple food stocks, such as maize and cassava, have been exhausted several months earlier than usual, making households more market-dependent (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). Production is now at a five-year low: 10% less rice has been produced

than in 2014, and 7% less maize and cassava has been produced (FEWSNET 31/01/2015). In Androy and Anosy, 2015 maize production was around 60% below the five year average and cassava production was down by over 70%. Rice production was up in some areas, but fell by 7.6% nationally below the five year average. The greatest decreases were in Androy, Anosy, Menabe, and Atsimo Atsinanana, where production was down by 84%, 56%, 43%, and 46% respectively. High migration rates have been observed from Androy, Atsimo Andrefana and parts of Anosy. This could mean a lack of local labour and reduce the area planted for the next harvest (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Food access

Staple food prices are 70–90% higher than the five-year average, and they are expected to continue to increase through January–February, the peak of the lean season (FEWSNET 30/11/2015).

In markets, maize prices increased by up to 40% during October in Amboasary and Ambovombe districts, and even more in the southern district of Tsihombe, Androy region. Cassava prices are above the five-year average. Prices are expected to rise and peak in January–February 2016 (FEWSNET 31/10/2015).

Livelihoods

The situation is predicted to worsen as El Niño causes below-average rainfall between November and April 2015/16, reducing the crop yield and labour opportunities during the December–March secondary harvest (FEWSNET 31/10/2015; 30/11/2015). As of December, a 50% rate of migration has been observed in Beloha and Tsihombe (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Nutrition

In October, screening of 63,000 children reported 1% severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 5% global acute malnutrition. This represents a decrease from the 2% SAM recorded in April (FAO, FEWSNET, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF 01/11/2015).

Health

On 17 August, an outbreak of pneumonic plague was recorded in Moramanga district (WHO 06/09/2015). As of January 2016, 174 cases, including 63 deaths, have been reported since August 20, in the regions of Itasy, Vakinankaratra, Sofia, Bongolava and Alaotra-Mangoro. Tsiroanomandidy district in Bongolava and Moramanga district in Alaotra-Mangoro are the worst affected (News24 07/01/2016; MesVaccins.net 31/12/2015). Plague is endemic in Madagascar with seasonal peaks

from September to March. The last major outbreak began in August 2014 in Tsiroanomandidy district and peaked in November 2014, infecting 482 people and killing 81 (WHO 05/2015).

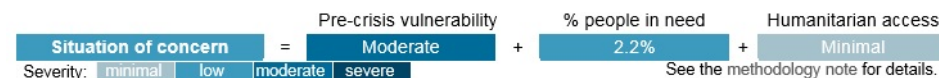
Protection

Security forces have been accused of conducting summary executions of civilians in the south of the country and violently repressing demonstrations in the capital (Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme 25/09/2015).

Reports suggest that migrant workers in Madagascar, and those Malagasies leaving to work abroad, are highly vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking (IOM 16/11/2015). Between 2,200 and 100,000 people are estimated to be stateless in Madagascar, largely due to laws preventing mothers passing on their nationality. They are especially vulnerable to exploitation (Open Democracy, 07/12/2015).

Updated: 25/02/2016

MOZAMBIQUE CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

3 March: An estimated 600,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET).

KEY FIGURES

- 600,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) of food security outcomes (FEWSNET 03/03/2016).
- Over 9,000 people have fled to Malawi due to clashes between Renamo and Frelimo since mid-December 2015 (HRW 22/02/2016).

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KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security, mainly in Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Tete and Sofala provinces

- Protection of civilians, mainly in Tete and Sofala province, against the risk of Mozambican armed forces' abuses

OVERVIEW

Since October 2015, tensions between Renamo and Frelimo have increased significantly and armed clashes are reported. Tete and Sofala are the most conflict affected provinces. Fighting has forced over 9,000 Mozambicans to flee to Malawi. Food security has been increasing due to drought: 600,000 people are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) of food security outcomes.

Politics and Security

Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) refused to accept the results of the 2014 presidential and legislative elections, which Frelimo (the Mozambique Liberation Front) won, and tensions have been mounting since then – the parties fought a bitter civil war between 1977 and 1992.

In October 2015, the national army began military operations against Renamo in Tete, which is a support base for Frelimo. The operations were prompted by late August's breakdown in peace talks between the government and Renamo, and a number of violent incidents (IBT 01/03/2016; ECHO 10/02/2016; ICG 2016; The Africa Report 30/08/2013). On 20 January, Renamo's Secretary General was wounded in an attack, and his bodyguard killed. In early February, Renamo rejected peace talks with the President, arguing that their leaders' safety could not be guaranteed (ISS 19/02/2016).

In February armed clashes have been reported in Sofala province, leaving several people dead and injured (ISS 19/02/2016; All Africa 26/02/2016). Attacks on vehicles have been reported. Renamo fighters have raided the town of Maringue, Sofala, and burned several houses (IB Times 01/03/2016). On 15 February, Renamo shot dead Frelimo's secretary in Sofala (All Africa 26/02/2016).

Tensions are increasing in Tete, Zambezia and Sofala provinces. Mozambique media reports daily attacks and shootings (ICG 16/02/2016). Renamo has been accused of targeting traditional chiefs and community leaders, in an attempt to weaken authorities in these provinces (IB Times 01/03/2016).

Stakeholders

Mozambique National Resistance (Renamo) is Mozambique's main opposition party. Renamo disputes the results of 2014 elections in Manica, Sofala, Tete, Zambezia, Nampula and Niassa provinces, which give control to Frelimo, and plans to force the

takeover of the local administrations. Renamo has an armed wing, which consist of several hundred fighters (ISS 19/02/2016; IHS 04/05/2015).

Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) initiated Mozambican independence from Portugal and has been the governing party since 1975. National armed forces are loyal to Frelimo

Displacement

Mozambique hosts 15,940 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom originate from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda and Somalia. Of these, 8,475 live in Maratane camp, the country's only refugee camp (UNHCR 16/06/2015).

Over 9,000 Mozambicans have fled to Malawi since mid-December 2015 due to clashes between Renamo and Frelimo (HRW 22/02/2016).

Food Security

As a result of drought in southern provinces, and torrential rains in the north of Zambezia in January, 600,000 people are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3) and need immediate food assistance and another 600,000 are thought to be moderately food insecure (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET 03/03/2016). Worst affected provinces are Maputo, Gaza, Inhambane, Tete and Sofala (UN 03/03/2016).

WASH

47% of the population have access to improved sources of water, and only 19% to improved sanitation (Global Alliance for Clean Cook Stoves 2016). In many communities in Gurue district, river water is used for drinking, hygiene, and cooking. The practice of open defecation by the riverbank is common, leading to water-borne diseases (UNICEF 23/02/2016).

In the south, the river basins are recording lower water levels compared to last year, and to the 1997–1998 El Niño. The most concerned dams are Corrumana (at 22% of storage capacity) and Massingir (at 50% of storage capacity). Both supply water for irrigation. It is expected that the Corrumana dam will not be able to supply in April –September 2016, during which the second planting season falls (UN 03/03/2016).

Protection

Summary executions, sexual abuse, and ill-treatment of civilians are allegedly committed by the Mozambican armed forces in Tete province (HRW 22/02/2016; IBT 07/03/2016).

Updated: 08/03/2016



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 04/03/2016. Last update 25/02/2016.

KEY FIGURES

- Over 380,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance (IFRC 27/01/2016).
- More than 578,000 people are food insecure (Namibia Red Cross Society 25/01/2016)
- One of the dam reservoirs supplying water to the over 350,000 people inhabitants of Windhoek is reported to be completely dry (New Era 08/12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security: Severe drought has left about a quarter of the country's population food insecure. Pastoralist areas have reported the deaths of hundreds of livestock (IFRC 12/11/2015; New Era 13/01/2016; All Africa 15/01/2016).
- WASH: Parts of the country report water shortages, with possible life-threatening situations in the coming months. In January, the government is advising the residents of the most affected areas to limit their water use (New Era 08/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

Namibia has been affected by a drought since the beginning of 2015. The lack of rain is expected to last until half of 2016, with severe water shortages already reported as of the beginning of December 2015. Food insecurity is worsening with a quarter of the population affected as of January 2016.

Natural disasters

Drought

Namibia has been struggling with ongoing drought affecting a number of countries in southern Africa since the beginning of 2015, as the late onset of seasonal rains

affected crop production and pastoralism between October 2014 and February 2015, causing significant food shortages. Prolonged lack of rain continued throughout 2015. Despite a slight improvement in precipitation reported between December 2015 and January 2016, vegetation conditions are still below-average in most cropped areas, due to the late onset and erratic pattern of seasonal rains. As of 5 February 2016, well below-average rainfall was still reported in areas of northern Namibia (IFRC 12/11/2015; FEWSNET 05/02/2016; 22/01/2016; FAO 08/02/2016).

Floods

Floods in the region of Omusati have killed one and displaced over 250 people, who relocated to higher ground. The flooding was caused by recent erratic rainfall, in combination with the rise of Cunene River caused by heavy downpours in neighbouring Angola (New Era 11/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

In Namibia, over 1.5 million people (60% of the population) live in rural areas, relying on subsistence farming and pastoralism, and have been severely affected by drought. In 2015, the maize crop produced was 44% less than 2014 and, as of 27 January 2016, over 380,000 people are reported to be in need of urgent food assistance. Over 578,000 people are moderately food insecure (CIA Factbook 2016; IRIN 28/01/2016; Namibia Red Cross Society 25/01/2016; IFRC 27/01/2016; The Namibian 29/01/2016). The food security situation is expected to improve after March 2016, when the first 2016 harvesting will provide new food supplies (FAO 12 Large parts of the country, including the main producing regions of Oshikoto, Oshana, and Omusati, started receiving well below-average rains between January and July 2015. Between October 2015 and January 2016 the lack of rain persisted, especially over north and southeast Namibia (local media, 10/06/2015; 31/03/2015; FEWSNET 22/01/2016; 11/11/2015).

Livelihoods

Drought has killed hundreds of livestock in the farming region of Omaheke (New Era 13/01/2016). In other regions, such as Karas, farmers are sharing with their cattle the food rations they are receiving as part of a government drought-relief program (All Africa 15/01/2016).

WASH

Increasing water shortages have been reported in some parts of the country, especially in Windhoek and surrounding areas, with the potential to create life-threatening situations. One of the dam reservoirs supplying water to the over 350,000

Windhoek inhabitants was reported to be completely dry as of 8 December 2015 (New Era 08/12/2015). As of 22 January 2016, water authorities have requested residents of the most affected areas to limit their water use, due to prolonged low levels of water in the dam reservoirs (FEWSNET 22/01/2016).

Reviewed: 04/03/2016

UGANDA DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 February: The main opposition leader Kizza Besigye was arrested again over allegations of incitement of violence, as a large police force remains deployed at his house (Insider; BBC).

KEY FIGURES

- 495,600 refugees estimated to be in Uganda (UNHCR 09/02/2016; 10/02/2016).
- Malaria is the leading cause of morbidity among refugees, yet only 23.3% of those requiring treatment receive it (UNHCR 22/07/2015).
- Over 360,000 refugees in Uganda depend on food assistance (WFP 08/01/2016). Over 640,000 are facing food shortages in Karamoja (IRIN 19/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

Health: Constant new arrivals of refugees as well as growing population are posing particular strain on primary healthcare services (UNICEF 13/01/2016).

Food security: A large proportion of refugees in Uganda depend on food assistance (WFP 08/01/2016). In Karamoja, most poor households are in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, with the districts of Kaabong and Moroto in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FEWSNET 31/12/2015).

Nutrition: SAM rates range between 3% and 4.5% in the settlements constantly

recording new arrivals of refugees from neighbouring countries (UNICEF 13/01/2016).

WASH: As the number of refugees is constantly increasing, gaps in the provision of WASH services is reported (UNICEF 30/12/2015).

Politics and security

President Yoweri Museveni has ruled Uganda since taking power in a 1986 coup, winning a fifth term during general elections on 18 February. His main opposition candidates were Kizza Besigye, the opposition candidate in the last three elections, and Amama Mbabazi, who served as prime minister under Museveni (2010–2014) before separating from the NRM (National Resistance Movement party). The opposition has accused Museveni of having rigged the process and called the elections a “fraud”. The international community raised severe concerns over the shutting down of social media on 18 February, the excessive use of force, and the multiple arrests of opposition leaders (OHCHR 23/02/2016; AFP 21/02/2016). As of 23 February, the post-electoral situation is tense in Kampala, with heavy police and military forces deployed, two people reported dead, and multiple arrests of opposition leaders. Kizza Besigye was arrested four times within a week, mostly without charges, and again on 29 February, over allegations of incitement of violence, as a large police force remains deployed at his house (OHCHR 23/02/2016; International Peace Institute 24/02/2016; Insider 29/02/2016; BBC 29/02/2016).

Some sources raised concerns about possible post-electoral violence. An official belonging to the ruling party was reported threatening people that “the state would kill their children” in case of protests over the outcome (HRW 10/02/2016).

Violent incidents have occurred in previous presidential elections (The Economist 20/07/2015; Washington Post 03/11/2015). Leading up to the 2016 election, security forces had been accused of the arbitrary arrest of political activists and opponents of the current government. Some reports indicate that militias and youth brigades have formed throughout the country (VOA 22/10/2015). According to Amnesty International, two opposition activists arrested in 2015 were tortured (Amnesty International 07/12/2015).

Security incidents

On 18 February, the late delivery of voting papers and other poll materials caused violent demonstrations in Kampala, to which the police responded with teargas (AFP 19/02/2016). On 17 February, the explosion of a grenade in Kampala killed one child and wounded eight others. Police reports indicate that the grenade was an old explosive remnant of war and had no link with the tensions for the upcoming elections (AFP 17/02/2016). On 15 February, at least one person was killed in clashes

between supporters of opposition parties and the police (AFP 15/02/2016).

Natural disasters

Uganda is prone to different kinds of natural hazards including frequent flooding, landslides, drought and earthquakes. In the last two to three years Karamoja region has been particularly affected by natural hazards, causing several disasters (Save the Children Sweden 28/07/2015).

El Niño impacts

Heavy rains caused by El Niño have reportedly affected over 2 million people in seven districts of Uganda. Floods and landslides caused damage to infrastructure such as roads and bridges (The Africa Report 22/12/2015). On 3 December, four people died in a landslide that struck the village of Nyeibingo, in Ruhumuro subcounty, Bushenyi district (New Vision 05/12/2015).

Displacement

Uganda is currently hosting a large number of refugees, mainly from South Sudan and DRC, but also Burundi. There are also around 29,800 long-term IDPs due to the conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army in the late 1990s and early 2000s (IOM 31/08/2015; IDMC 23/01/2014; 05/2015). 40,000 people were displaced by the flooding caused by El Niño-related heavy rains (The Africa Report 22/12/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

The number of refugees in Uganda at the end of 2015 was reported to be rising, due to a surge in violence in neighbouring countries. As of 31 December, Uganda is hosting around 512,700 refugees and asylum seekers, compared to 460,000 in July 2015 (ECHO 12/01/2016; UNHCR 07/2015). 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 24 February 2016, there are more than 33,000 refugees from Burundi. Around 21,850 have arrived since the beginning of 2015. In the first week of February the weekly inflow decreased to 418, compared to 728 and 601 of the two previous weeks. 49% are under 18 years of age. 24,438 are being hosted in Nakivale refugee settlement, 4,521 are in Kampala, 1,679 in Oruchinga refugee camp, 410 in Kyaka II camp (UNHCR 29/02/2016; 09/02/2016; 04/02/2016; 13/01/2015). 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).

South Sudan: As of 24 February, 187,731 South Sudanese refugees have arrived in Uganda since December 2013, bringing the total to 210,214 (UNHCR 29/02/2016). As of 4 February, over 11,700 new refugees have arrived in 2016 (UNHCR 10/02/2016). Around 110,900 are in Adjumani camp, at least 45,400 in Kiryandongo, around 20,900 in Rhino camp, and 7,935 are in Kampala (UNHCR 09/02/2016). Adjumani camp is almost full, but its capacity can be stretched to host 10,000 more refugees. Transit centres are reported to be at their limit (UNICEF 13/02/2016).

4% of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda have specific needs, and include the elderly, disabled, and single women caregivers (UNHCR, UNICEF, et al. 28/08/2015; JOAC 15/08/2015). Refugees cite increasing violence, as well as food insecurity, as reasons for leaving (UNHCR 10/02/2016). Children account for 117,380 of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda. Gaps in services are reported, especially in health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH (UNICEF 13/02/2016).

Somalia: Almost 35,900 Somali refugees in Uganda as of 31 January 2016 (UNHCR 10/02/2016).

DRC: Over 191,800 DRC refugees as of 31 January 2016 (UNHCR 10/02/2016).

Others: As of 31 January 2016, in Uganda there are 17,106 refugees from Rwanda, 9,639 from Eritrea, 2,900 from Sudan, 2,570 from Ethiopia, and 1,042 from other countries (10/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

According to Human Rights Watch, NGOs working on politically sensitive issues have reportedly been subject to intimidation and threats (HRW 02/07/2015). On 26 November, a new law was passed giving 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; News24 28/11/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

As of 29 December, many poor households in Karamoja continue to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, with Crisis (IPC Phase 3) recorded in Moroto and Kaabong districts, because food stocks were depleted early (FEWSNET 29/12/2015). dted dry conditions affecting the region since the first months of 2015 (WFP 10/02/2016). As of 19 January 2016, more than 640,000 people are facing food shortages in Karamoja because of the drought situation (IRIN 19/01/2016).

According to projections to March 2016, the rest of Uganda will likely be in Minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity (FEWSNET 29/12/2015).

Food availability

Food availability is not a major issue in Uganda, however the use of food or food access can be inadequate in some areas (Government 30/09/2015). In Karamoja, unexpectedly heavy rainfall (200% more than average) has increased the availability of water, favouring pasture and livestock conditions (FEWSNET 30/11/2015). Reports indicate that many poor households in Karamoja exhausted their food stocks at the beginning of December. Usually the food stocks last until March (FEWSNET 29/12/2015).

Food access

In Karamoja, in 2015, the prices for sorghum, maize grain, and flour, were 54%, 52%, and 18% higher than in 2014, as of November (WFP 30/11/2015).

Health

In 2015, Ministry of Health reported several outbreaks of cholera, malaria and typhoid, likely due to above average rains caused by El Niño. The effects of El Niño are expected in 2015-2016 to increase the incidence of diseases including malaria, cholera, asthma, and acute respiratory infections, in 33 of 112 national districts (New Vision 26/10/2015; UNICEF 13/01/2016). Constant new arrivals of refugees as well as growing population are posing particular strain on primary healthcare services (UNICEF 13/01/2016).

Cholera

On 3 February, media sources reported that cholera has spread to Bulambuli district. Since the beginning of the outbreak in January, over 150 cases have been recorded and eight people have died in at least five districts. Lack of safe water was reported to be the main cause of the spreading of the disease (The Monitor 03/02/2016; UNICEF 10/02/2016).

HIV/AIDS

Two parliamentary committees have proposed to close the Uganda AIDS commission (UAC), which oversees HIV control and prevention, in order to cut costs. 1.5 million people live with HIV in Uganda, including 143,000 children (Reuters 10/02/2016).

Malaria

As of 2 February 2016, over 1 million cases of malaria, including 658 deaths, have been recorded in Uganda since July 2015. In all 2014, over 1.5 million cases and 7,277 related deaths were reported. The most affected districts are Agago, Amuru, Apac,

Gulu, Kitgum, Kole, Lamwo, Nwoya, Oyam and Pader (Ministry of Health 02/02/2016; WHO 2014). Since the beginning of 2016, Kasese and Adjumani districts have reported more than 3,500 cases per week, although Gulu remains the district with the highest number of cases (Ministry of Health 10/02/2016).

In 2014, there were 1.5 million malaria cases in Uganda (WHO 2014). Of all the reported cases, only 39% were confirmed through laboratory analysis (Government 04/11/2015).

Measles

In the week up to 24 January, 66 cases of measles were reported over 38 districts of Uganda, compared to 92 cases in the previous week. No district recorded cases over the emergency threshold of five (Ministry of Health 29/01/2016; 04/02/2016; 10/02/2016). As of 2014, Uganda's measles-vaccination coverage of children between 12 and 23 months was 82% (World Bank 2014).

Nutrition

SAM rates range between 3% and 4.5% in the settlements constantly recording new arrivals of refugees from neighbouring countries (UNICEF 13/01/2016).

WASH

Only 19.1% of the population has access to improved sanitation, while 79% has access to an improved water source (World Bank - Access to Improved Sanitation 2015; World Bank - Access to Improved Water Source 2015). Waterborne diseases are a major issue, in particular for refugees, given water contamination and low hygiene conditions in camps and settlements (Plan UK 17/03/2014). Increased rains have caused the contamination of several water sources causing an increase in the risk of spreading of the ongoing cholera outbreak (UNICEF 10/02/2016).

Education

The open policy Uganda has for refugees grants them access to services, including education, under the same conditions as the local population. However, overcrowding of education facilities in camps, and high student-to-teacher ratios are challenges (IOM 31/08/2015; UNHCR 24/11/2015). Language barriers are also an issue (UNICEF 17/06/2015).

Only 61% of the 5,368 Burundian children in Uganda are enrolled in school. As of 19 November, the student-to-teacher ratio in schools for Burundian refugees is 123:1 (UNHCR 22/10/2015; 24/11/2015).

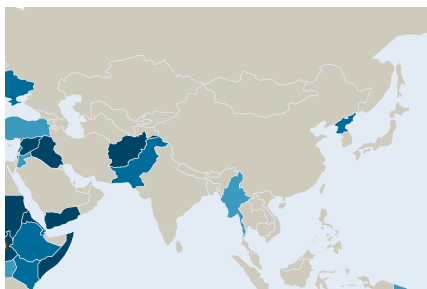
Protection

Protection issues mainly concern the violent repression of political activists and opposition parties, as well as the situation of refugee children, who are exposed to exploitation, discrimination, and abuse (Daily Monitor 20/11/2015; HRW 14/10/2015; 08/11/2015). 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). On 12 January, Amnesty international, Human Rights Watch, and other organisations, urged Uganda to suspend the “crime preventers” program. Such groups, mainly constituted by civilians, would have to collaborate closely with the police; however, these groups are allegedly affiliated with the ruling NRM party, are reported to be partisan, and involved in assault and extortion (HRW 12/01/2016).

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).

Updated: 01/03/2016



ASIA

AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

6 March: Afghan forces have reportedly withdrawn from several outposts in the central areas of Uruzgan province (AFP).

5 March: The Taliban refused to participate in direct peace talks with the government (AFP).

2 March: At least three people were killed and 19 were injured in a suicide attack close to the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province (AFP).

KEY FIGURES

- Over 1.1 million people are internally displaced because of conflict (ECHO 03/12/2015). Over 300,000 were displaced in 2015 (FEWSNET 31/01/2016).
- 8.9 million in need of humanitarian aid. Around 700,000 people are in need of emergency shelter and NFIs (Food Security Cluster 14/01/2016; OCHA 05/01/2016).
- At least 1.7 million people are in need of protection assistance (OCHA 05/01/2016).
- 1.76 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Food Security Cluster 28/01/2016).
- At least 3.1 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA 05/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security is reported to be worsening due to increased instability and displacement, as well as slow economic growth and widespread poverty. Newly displaced people are at particular risk (FAO 15/10/2015; FAO 13/08/2015; FEWSNET 31/10/2015; WFP et al 30/11/2015).
- Health services are severely underequipped and understaffed, particularly in conflict areas (Medical Teams International 02/10/2015; OCHA 25/11/2014).
- Protection: Civilians are often intentionally targeted by the Taliban (Amnesty International 14/05/2015). Nine in ten women are reported to regularly face physical, psychological, or sexual violence (Al Jazeera 03/07/2015)

OVERVIEW

Assistance needs due to armed conflict and frequent natural disasters include food, healthcare, and protection. 8.9 million are reported to be in need of humanitarian

assistance.

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 withdrawal of most international forces at the end of 2014. Throughout 2015, the Taliban increased their influence and managed to lead several attacks on province capitals in the last months of the year. IS presence has also been growing in the east, with significant activity reported in Nangarhar. Increased insecurity and economic challenges caused a significant increase in the outflow of people from Afghanistan throughout 2015, despite calls from the government to stay and contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

Politics and security

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) withdrew from Afghanistan in December 2014, leaving only around 12,000 NATO personnel to provide training and equipment to Afghan security forces (Talk Radio News Service 22/06/2015). A steep surge in violent attacks was recorded throughout 2015, making it the most violent year since the beginning of the war (Al Jazeera 28/12/2015). The Taliban gained control of an increasing number of districts, notably in Farah and Faryab, Badakhshan, Takhar, and Baghlan (UNSC 02/02/2015; ECHO 12/10/2015). They also attempted to seize control of provincial capitals in the last three months of the year (Long War Journal 16/10/2015, 14/11/2015). This change in strategy pushed the US to stop the complete withdrawal of its troops scheduled for 2016 (BBC 15/10/2015). Afghan forces' operation to free Taliban-controlled districts around Kunduz city at the end of 2015 had very limited success: the Taliban reportedly control of many areas, raising concern over a possible new attack on the city (Afghanistan Analysts 06/02/2016).

Political instability

President Ashraf Ghani and Prime Minister Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in in September 2014 (Reuters 29/09/2014). Rival candidates in disputed presidential 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 (Reuters 19/06/2015; local media 01/04/2015). President Ghani has indicated that the elections will be held in the second half of 2016 (Tolo News 31/12/2015; Reuters 29/12/2015).

Peace talks

Afghan officials and Taliban met in July 2015 in Islamabad, Pakistan, for a first round

of peace talks (AFP 08/07/2015). The Taliban pulled out at the end of the month (AFP 24/07/2015; The Telegraph 30/07/2015; The Age 31/07/2015). Four-way talks between the governments of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and the US started on 11 January 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan, aiming to revive the peace negotiations within the coming six months (VOA 02/01/2016; Reuters 07/01/2016; IPCS 06/02/2016; Tolo News 06/02/2016; AFP 06/02/2016; The Diplomat 08/02/2016). On 24 January the Taliban indicated that preconditions for their participation in the talks include their removal from the UN's terrorist blacklist and the reopening of their political office in Doha, Qatar (AFP 24/01/2016).

As winter comes to an end and the 'fighting season' approaches, local media sources have reported that Russia is urging the Taliban to participate in the peace talks to prevent a new fighting season (Tolo News 25/02/2016). On 27 February, after the first of two suicide attacks that day, President Ghani declared that the government will not hold peace talks with factions of the Taliban that target Afghan civilians (RFERL 28/02/2016). On 5 March, the Taliban refused to participate in direct peace talks with the government, reiterating that their pre-conditions. However, Afghan officials were reported to remain optimistic about starting peace talks with the Taliban in the coming weeks (AFP 05/03/2016; 06/03/2016).

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). In September 2015, 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). On the other side, Pakistan accused Afghanistan several times of harbouring militants carrying out attacks in Pakistani territory, the last of which being the attack to Bacha Khan University in Charsadda on 20 January (Muslim Press 23/01/2016).

Conflict developments

In 2015, 11,002 civilian casualties were recorded in Afghanistan: 3,545 dead, and 7,457 injured. This represents a 4% decrease in civilian deaths, and a 9% increase in civilian injuries, compared to 2014. In 2014, 10,548 civilian casualties were reported: 3,699 deaths and 6,849 injured (UNAMA 13/02/2016; 02/02/2015).

Helmand: The Taliban reportedly gained control of Sangin district, a strategic location for transport and for generating opium revenue, in December (BBC 21/12/2015). On 22 February, the Afghan army reportedly retreated from two army bases in Musa Qala district, and from one in Nawzad district. Government sources reported that the decision was part of a tactical repositioning of forces in order to

prioritise crucial districts such as Sangin and the areas surrounding Lashkar Gah (RFERL 22/02/2016). On 6 March, reports indicate that Afghan forces have withdrawn from outposts in central Uruzgan province (AFP 06/03/2016).

Kabul: On 27 February, at least 12 people were killed and eight were injured in a suicide attack near the Defence Ministry (AFP 27/02/2016).

Other incidents: On 2 March, at least three people were killed and 19 were injured in a suicide attack close to the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, Nangarhar province (AFP 02/03/2016). On 27 February, at least 13 people were killed and around 40 were injured by a suicide attack in Asadabad, in Kunar province (Al Jazeera 27/02/2016). On 22 February, a Taliban suicide attack killed 13 people, and injured at least 19 in the district of Sia Gerd, Parwan province, and northeast of Kabul (AFP 22/02/2016). On 21 February, more than six people, including four children, were killed by an improvised explosive device in the district of Waz Khwa, Paktika province (Radio Free Europe Radio Liberty 21/02/2016). On 17 February, armed men, reportedly belonging to Afghan special forces, killed two patients and an 11-year old caregiver at a health centre run by an international NGO in Wardak province (ECHO 20/02/2016; HRW 19/02/2016).

Stakeholders

Taliban

The Taliban has regained strength, especially since ISAF forces withdrew in December 2014. In 2014 the movement was composed by an estimated 60,000 people, compared to 25,000 militants in 2009. 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; Counter Extremism 21/01/2016). The Taliban is increasingly financed by criminal enterprises including heroin laboratories, illegal mining, and kidnapping (UNSC 02/02/2015). Media sources report that, in December, the Taliban leader Mansour was shot and wounded in Quetta, Pakistan, by one of the men belonging to his own group (AFP 11/01/2016). A splintering of the Taliban in different factions has been reportedly ongoing since 2013, with concerns over possible advantages for the Islamic State, which might represent an attractive alternative for the defecting members of the Taliban (AlBawaba 08/12/2015; Business Recorder 06/09/2015).

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 several district of Nangarhar province. IS launched its first offensive

against Afghan forces on 27 September, attacking a checkpoint in Nangarhar (The Tribune 28/09/2015). On 13 January, IS carried out an attack on the Pakistan consulate in Jalalabad, demonstrating its capacity to strike the capital (Reuters, 29/06/2015; The Diplomat 02/02/2016).

International military presence

NATO's combat mission in Afghanistan ended on 31 December 2014, leaving just 13,000 troops in the country. The focus of the current mission is on supporting Afghan forces' fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations (NATO 06/2015). Its headquarters are in Kabul, with four other bases in Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar, and Laghman (NATO 27/02/2015). The US will maintain all its 9,800 NATO troops until the end of 2016, and then reduce them to 5,500 in 2017 (BBC 15/10/2015; US Government 12/02/2016). NATO troops from Germany, Italy, and Turkey have not set an end date to their presence (Fox News 11/10/2015).

Afghan National Security Forces

The Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are composed of around 350,000 personnel, including troops and police. However, according to a government official, Afghan security forces lack proper management and are in deep need for reform, in order to enable them to successfully contrast insurgency (Tolo News 12/02/2016).

Pro-government militias

In Khanabad district, Kunduz province, the membership of US-funded pro-government militias, also known as local police, grew to 3,000 in 2015, 1,000 more than in 2014, according to the district governor Hayatullah Amiri. The militia was founded with the purpose of mobilising rural communities against the Taliban. However, civilians have reported a rise in abuse by these groups, including extortion, theft, and assault (Daily Mail 03/06/2015; IRIN 07/09/2015). Around 22,000 combined local police and pro-government militias are reportedly operating in Faryab province; however episodes of corruption and weapon-trade with insurgent groups, involving these militias, were reported (Gandhara RFERL 19/01/2016).

Displacement

Over 1.1 million displaced people were within the country as of November 2015 (IDMC 16/07/2015; ECHO 16/11/2015). Afghanistan is home to over 236,000 Pakistani refugees, and to around 130,000 documented and undocumented Afghans who returned from Pakistan in 2015 (ECHO 16/11/2015; HRW 18/11/2015). Around 68,600 people live in Kabul informal settlements, including IDPs and returnees. Over 55,000 of these, live in mud-houses with no running water or sanitation facilities, as open

defecation increases the health risks. Children are often forced to travel long distances to fetch water (OCHA 31/12/2015; Terre des Hommes 26/02/2016). The average household size in the settlements is 8.9. 29% are children under five. 61% of households have at least one pregnant or breastfeeding woman; 18% have at least one person with a disability (OCHA 10/02/2016).

IDPs

More than 1.1 million people were reported internally displaced due to conflict as of December. Of these, more than 335,400 were newly displaced in 2015, representing a 78% increase in IDPs compared to 2014. Most were displaced from Kunduz, Helmand, Farah, Kabul, Badakhshan, and Badghis (OCHA 03/02/2016; ECHO 18/02/2016). Access to water, food, adequate shelter, and employment opportunities is very limited for people displaced in remote and inaccessible areas (IDMC 31/10/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

As of 10 February 2016, around 237,000 Pakistani refugees were reported in Afghanistan, with at least 67,000 living in Gulan camp in Khost province. 67% are under 18 years of age (UNHCR 10/02/2016; OCHA 20/01/2016). In 2015, UNHCR started implementing a return plan for Pakistani refugees who fled military operations in FATA that began in June 2014.

Refugee returnees

Between January and October 2015, over 54,700 registered and 95,700 undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan. Over 2,700 registered and 260,500 undocumented Afghans returned from Iran. Around 220,000 of the undocumented returnees were deported, most from Iran (USIP 13/01/2016; Tolo News 19/12/2015). The number of documented Afghan refugees returning home from Pakistan under the UNHCR programme more than tripled compared to the 16,995 of 2014 (UNHCR 21/12/2015). Police abuse of Afghans in Pakistan is reportedly pushing many refugees to return (UNHCR 31/05/2015; HRW 17/11/2015; Reuters 04/09/2015).

Refugees from Afghanistan in other countries

As of 23 December, Kabul passport office still reported 4,000 applications per day after having peaked to 10,000 as of 24 September (Tolo News 23/12/2015; VOA 24/09/2015).

Pakistan: As of 3 December, over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, and an estimated 1.2 million unregistered, are reported to be in Pakistan (ECHO 22/01/2016). On 12 January, Pakistan decided to extend the permit of residence (PoR) of registered Afghan nationals for six months, allowing them to stay in Pakistan until

30 June 2016 (DAWN 14/01/2016).

Iran: As of 3 December, 982,027 registered Afghan refugees, and an estimated 1.5 million unregistered, are reported to be in Iran (ECHO 03/12/2015).

Europe: Overall 80,900 Afghans entered Europe as asylum seekers in 2015 (ECHO 16/11/2015; UNHCR 29/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access in Afghanistan deteriorated in 2015 as insecurity grew. The Taliban has historically targeted humanitarian workers, and the situation is expected to worsen as the Taliban takes control of an increasing number of districts throughout the country (AFP 06/11/2015; The Guardian 04/06/2015; Humanosphere 03/06/2015). By the end of 2015, humanitarian access is reported to be a major concern (WFP 31/12/2015). Additionally, access following natural disasters can be challenged by the terrain and lack of adequate transportation infrastructure (USAID 18/11/2015; OCHA 12/11/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Humanitarian presence is falling. Security fears are causing a reduction in applications to work in the country (AFP 06/11/2015). In January, 17 security incidents involving humanitarian aid workers were recorded, with five killed, seven injured, and 19 kidnapped (OCHA 10/02/2016). In 2015, 73 aid workers were reported to have been attacked: 39 national aid workers were killed, 21 wounded, and nine kidnapped; four international aid workers were kidnapped (Aid Workers Security Database 04/01/2016). On 19 February, five ICRC aid workers, kidnapped three days earlier by unknown gunmen in Ghazni province, were released (AOP News 18/02/2016; ICRC 19/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Throughout the lean season there is generally no agricultural production with households living on their food stocks. However, the large conflict-induced displacement has caused a deterioration in the food security situation (FAO 19/02/2016). Over 1.76 million people are reported to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security. In the IPC classification for the lean season from January to March 2016, six provinces of Afghanistan are in conditions of Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity, while 12 other provinces are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). In particular, 10% to 15% of the population in Badakhshan, Kunduz, and Paktika, are in an Emergency (IPC Phase 4) situation. Women and children are the most vulnerable (OCHA 05/01/2016; FAO 19/02/2016; Food Security Cluster 31/01/2016; 28/01/2016; 14/01/2016).

Health

At least 3.1 million people are reportedly in need of health assistance at the end of 2015 (OCHA 05/01/2016). Health services are severely underequipped and understaffed (Medical Teams International 02/10/2015). There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists, and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA 25/11/2014).

Gaps in health services also include lack of maternal care and problems in the delivery of treatment for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (OCHA 31/07/2015; Medical Teams International 02/10/2015).

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the two remaining countries where polio is endemic (DAWN 05/11/2015). 19 polio cases were recorded in 2015, compared to 28 in all 2014 (GPEI 30/12/2015). In December, outbreaks of measles, Congo-Crimean haemorrhagic fever (CCHF), scabies, and pertussis were reported (WHO 04/02/2016).

Prevalence of diarrhoea, cholera, and malaria is high nationwide, due to poor WASH conditions (ACTED 10/11/2015).

Heroin and opium abuse

3.5 million people (11% of the population) are involved in abuse of heroin and opium derivatives, according to the Ministry of Health. Between 650,000 and 890,000 are women, and 100,000 are children (IWPR 03/12/2015). High rates of unemployment are reportedly exacerbating drug abuse (IWPR 07/12/2015).

Polio

On 6 February, a case of polio was reported in Kandahar (DAWN 06/02/2016). In 2015, 20 polio cases were reported in Afghanistan. 28 were recorded in 2014 (GPEI 10/02/2016).

Nutrition

At the end of 2015, around 2.9 million people are reported to be in need of some kind of nutrition assistance (OCHA 05/01/2016). The nutrition situation is worsening, with over 500,000 children reportedly affected by severe acute malnutrition in 2015, compared to 360,000 in 2014 (UNICEF 12/09/2015; IASC 17/09/2015).

WASH

Around 1.5 million people were reported to be in need of WASH assistance in 2015 (OCHA 05/01/2016). Approximately 65% of the urban population and 81% of people

living in rural areas do not have access to clean drinking water (ACTED 10/11/2015). No city in Afghanistan has a comprehensive and functional sewage system (government 22/09/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter is among the priority needs, given the high number of people displaced and the harsh climate. (IOM 05/10/2015). At the end of 2015, over 700,000 people were reported to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs (OCHA 05/01/2016).

Education

Despite enrolment rates having registered a steady increase over recent years, more than 4 million children are still out of school, with particular issues in terms of gender equality in access to education (BBC 02/11/2015; UNICEF 23/07/2015). In eastern Afghanistan, only 50% of the students who enrol in the first year of school complete the fifth year (WarChild UK 02/02/2016).

In Helmand province, more than 150 schools have been forced to close due to intensification of conflict, leaving around 100,000 students vulnerable to potential recruitment by militant factions (IRIN 16/12/2015).

IS has reportedly started teaching its ideology in schools in the districts under their control, such as Shaigal, in Kunar province (PBS 17/11/2015).

Protection

The deterioration in security is bringing protection needs to the fore, as civilians are being targeted. At least 1.7 million people are reported to be in need of some form of protection assistance, with reported risks for over 6.3 million people (OCHA 05/01/2016). In 2015, 11,002 civilian casualties were recorded in Afghanistan: 3,545 dead, and 7,457 injured. This represents a 4% decrease in civilian deaths, and a 9% increase in civilian injuries, compared to 2014 (UNAMA 13/02/2016; 02/02/2015). Fighting on the ground was the main cause of civilian casualties. Other causes include improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and suicide attacks. In 2015, anti-government forces reportedly caused 62% of all civilian casualties, compared to 72% of the previous year. Taliban offensives often target civilians (UNAMA 13/02/2016; 02/02/2015; Amnesty International 14/05/2015).

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).

Mines and ERW

IEDs caused 21% of civilian deaths in 2015, compared to 28% in 2014, while ERWs caused 4% in 2015, the same as in 2014 (UNAMA 13/02/2016). In Afghanistan, as of 31 December 2015, there were still 589km² of mine-contaminated areas (MAPA 29/02/2016). Funding shortfalls might jeopardise demining operations (MAPA 16/09/2015).

Gender

Violence against women is on the rise, including sexual violence (Tolo News 26/11/2015). Around 87% of women in Afghanistan experience at least one form of violence, be it physical, psychological, or sexual. 62% experience at least two types. However, sexual violence is underreported because of resulting social stigma as well as lack of access to Taliban-controlled areas. Usually, less than 10% of the cases reported to the authorities are actually prosecuted (UNFPA 18/02/2016).

In 2015, UNAMA documented a 37% increase in female casualties (1,246 casualties, including 333 dead and 913 injured) compared to 2014 (UNAMA 13/02/2016). Nine women out of ten are reported to regularly face physical, psychological, or sexual violence. Forced marriage, often underage, is also a problem (Al Jazeera 03/07/2015). In Nangarhar province, especially in the most remote areas, tribal courts are reportedly increasing the use of summary justice measures against women. These measures include stoning, mutilation, and forced marriage (IWPR 13/02/2016).

Children

In 2015, the number of child casualties in Afghanistan was 2,829, including 733 deaths and 2,096 injured, representing an increase of 14% compared to 2014. In 2014 the number of child casualties was 2,474: 714 dead and 1,760 injured) (UNAMA 13/02/2016; 02/02/2015).

Human Rights Watch reported that throughout the last year, in Kunduz, the Taliban increasingly used madrasas and other religious schools to recruit and train children aged 13–17 to be child soldiers (HRW 17/02/2016).

Also the Afghan national police, local police, and armed groups have been listed for recruitment and use of children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/05/2015). On 4 February 2016, a 12-year old was killed by the Taliban in Trin Kot, Uruzgan province, because of his membership of an anti-Taliban militia last summer (AFP 04/02/2016).

Vulnerable groups

On 20 January 2016, at least eight people were killed and 25 were injured in a targeted suicide-attack on a minibus carrying media workers in Kabul (AFP 20/01/2016; UNAMA 21/01/2016). On 29 January, a famous writer and journalist was killed in Nangarhar province (HRW 02/02/2016).

Updated: 07/03/2016

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

28 February–7 March: A truck bomb claimed by Islamic State (IS) killed over 50 civilians and wounded almost 100 at a checkpoint near Hilla, south of Baghdad. The attack follows recent IS bombings, in Sadr City on 28 February and in Muqdadiah on 29 February, which together killed over 100 civilians (WSJ, AFP, UN, HRW, Amnesty International, Reuters).

4 March: Some 17,000 people fled Ramadi between December and March (USAID).

KEY FIGURES

- 22,370 civilian casualties recorded in 2015 (UNAMI 31/01/2016).
- 10.1 million people need humanitarian assistance (IOM 14/12/2015).
- 3.3 million IDPs (IOM 18/02/2015).
- 245,022 registered Syrian refugees are in Iraq (UNHCR 15/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Health is a priority sector, with over 10 million people in need (OCHA 14/12/2015).

- Protection is a major concern: human rights abuses by all armed groups are reported (UN 26/01/2016).

- Access continues to be severely constrained in large parts of Anbar, Salah al Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninewa (OCHA 26/07/2015).

OVERVIEW

The Islamic State insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, and led to international military intervention. Iraq now hosts 3.3 million IDPs, one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world. Access constraints and human rights violations, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups, are of major concern.

Politics and security

Islamic State (IS) advanced into Iraq in January 2014. It now has control over swathes of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Kirkuk provinces, and maintains a stronghold in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city (ISW 09/02/2016). Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), and Kurdish fighters are all fighting IS advances. The conflict has inflicted high civilian casualties (OCHA 14/12/2015; IOM 19/01/2015). Over 35,000 civilians died in 2014, the most violent year since 2007. 22,500 conflict-related civilian casualties were recorded in 2015. **3,107 civilian casualties have been reported in the first two months of 2016, including 410 killed and 1,050 injured in February (UNAMI 01/03/2016).**

Political instability

Iraqi politics are increasingly tense, as the country's deep sectarian divisions are stoked by frequent violence against both Shia and Sunni civilian populations (UN 26/01/2016).

Support for Prime Minister Abadi has waned as his reforms continue to face setbacks (UN 26/01/2016). Participation in weekly protests against corruption and rising unemployment, which continued throughout the last half of 2015 across the country, began to dwindle in January as there was little sign of improvement (ISW 21/12/2015; UN 26/01/2016). The 2016 budget envisions a deficit of USD 20 billion, due in large part to low global crude oil prices, constraining the government's ability to deliver services and appease tensions (AFP 16/12/2015). On 9 February, Abadi announced a cabinet reshuffle, replacing senior political leaders with technocrats (ISW 15/02/2016).

Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I): KR-I President Masoud Barzani's extended term expired on 20 August 2015, however he continues to rule, leaving KR-I in a legal vacuum that parties are still trying to resolve (ISW 20/08/2015; UNHCR 31/12/2015). In early February,

the Kurdistan Regional Government announced major budget cuts, reducing public sector salaries by 10–20% (Iraq Oil Report 04/02/2016). Conflict between the Turkish government and PKK across the border is fuelling tensions in KR-I: police clashed with dozens of pro-PKK demonstrators outside the UN building in Erbil on 7 February (ISW 11/02/2016).

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. IS controls nearly 300,000km² of territory in Syria and Iraq, and enjoys substantial support in Sunni areas under its control (AFP 01/06/2015). It has attracted an estimated 30,000 foreign fighters (UN 09/02/2016). In the second half of 2015, IS lost key positions in Iraq, and intensified its use of suicide attacks in early 2016, which may indicate a turn towards a more defensive strategy.

Government forces: Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) number around 48,000 troops, compared to pre-crisis estimates of 250,000. Many personnel have fled or joined other armed groups, both those opposed to and allied with the ISF (Vox 17/11/2015; Foreign Policy 28/03/2015). Falling global oil prices have led to significant budget deficits, hampering the government's capacity to undertake military operations (ODI 10/2015). Having lost vast territory in 2014 and early 2015, ISF have begun to recapture key territory, including Ramadi (ISW 28/12/2015).

Shia militias: Three main 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 between 80,000 and 120,000 fighters (Foreign Policy 28/03/2015; Al Jazeera 23/01/2015). While the PMF operationally support Abadi's government, they also describe themselves as loyal to Iran's supreme leader (Reuters 21/10/2015).

Sunni tribal fighters: Sunni tribal fighters have played an increasingly important role in military operations against IS since 2015, particularly in Anbar province (UN 16/02/2016).

KR-I forces: The Kurdish Peshmerga, supported by Kurdish fighters from Syria and Turkey, are engaged in a counter-offensive against IS. Divisions are reportedly widening between forces loyal to Barzani's ruling Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) forces operating in both Turkey and northern Iraq, which has hampered operations against IS (ISW 09/11/2015).

International forces: The role of international forces in Iraq is a fiercely political issue, constraining PM Abadi's ability to call on support (ISW, 21/12/2015). Since August 2014, a US-led Combined Joint Task Force of over 30 countries has been conducting airstrikes against IS locations in support of Iraqi government forces (BBC 21/10/2015, Business Insider 09/12/2014). The US announced the deployment of additional special operations

forces in November (ISW 02/12/2015). In late July 2015, Turkey joined the coalition, but also stepped up airstrikes in northern Iraq against the PKK (The Economist 01/08/2015). The presence of Turkish troops near Mosul has caused tensions with Baghdad. In December, Turkey removed some troops in response to an ultimatum from Iraq (AFP 14/12/2015).

Conflict developments

Late 2015 and early 2016 has been marked by government, PMF and Kurdish progress against IS, compared to mid-2015, which was marked by stalemate, and 2014, when IS rapidly advanced across the Iraq. ISF have retaken some key targets in recent months, including Ramadi, but continue battling IS in Haditha and Falluja (ISW 28/12/2015; ICG 01/01/2016). IS retains control of large territory in Anbar and Ninewa, including Mosul, Iraq's second largest city. Its continued use of spoiling attacks and strong defences have offset or delayed the progress of major offensives (ISW, 21/12/2015). While IS military offensives have become increasingly rare, its use of suicide tactics in built up areas are growing more prevalent.

Baghdad: On 28 February, a suicide bombing killed 70 civilians and wounded 100 at a busy market in Sadr City, a Shia majority area. IS claimed responsibility for the blast – the deadliest attack on civilians this year (Reuters 29/02/2016). On 25 February, nine people were killed and 20 wounded in a suicide attack on a Shia mosque in Shuala district, claimed by IS (AFP 25/01/2016). A controversial security wall is being built around Baghdad: some say the wall will help contain the regular attacks and suicide bombings; others argue that isolating the capital will deepen sectarian grievances (Al Bawaba 08/02/2016; Inquisitr 08/02/2016).

Anbar: Operations in January and February are driving new waves of mass displacement (NRC 12/02/2016). **Some 17,000 people have fled Ramadi for Falluja district since December (USAID 04/03/2016).** IS has largely lost control of Ramadi following an ISF offensive, although booby traps remain in places (ISW 01/02/2016). On 9 February the road between Ramadi and Baghdad was reopened (ISW 11/02/2016). Satellite imagery shows some 5,700 damaged buildings in Ramadi (UNOSAT 18/02/2016).

Falluja has been under siege by government forces and PMF since late 2015. Acute shortages of food, medicines, and fuel are reported via telephone from city residents. Several citizens have reportedly died of starvation and lack of access to healthcare (Reuters 02/02/2016). Clashes between tribal forces and IS reportedly halted on 21 February, as IS reportedly threatened to massacre 100 detained residents if the tribesmen continued their assault (AFP 21/02/2016).

Haditha remains contested: IS continues to launch suicide attacks against ISF positions (ISW 22/02/2016).

Babil: An IS suicide attacker drove a truck into a busy roadblock near Hilla on 6 March 2016. Up to 61 people were killed, including 52 civilians, and some 95 people were injured (WSJ 07/03/2016; AFP 06/03/2016; UN 06/03/2016).

Diyala: ISF control most areas in Diyala, with a heavy presence of Shia militias (ISW 30/10/2015). However, IS attacks – most often bombings – are frequent (ISW 19/11/2015). **On 29 February, an IS suicide bombing targeted a Shia funeral in Muqadiyah, killing 38 people and injuring dozens. Shia retribution against the Sunni population is feared, as happened following the 11 January IS attack on Muqadiyah (UN 29/02/2016; HRW 31/01/2016; Amnesty International 06/02/2016).**

Kirkuk: Hostilities continue in Kirkuk. An attack on a pipeline disrupted exports for two days in February (ISW 22/02/2016). US special forces reportedly carried out raids on Hawija in December 2015 and January 2016 (ISW 06/01/2016).

Ninewa: IS continues to control Mosul and large areas to the city's south, although government and Peshmerga forces took some villages southeast of Mosul in January and February (ISW 01/02/2016; 11/02/2016). In late February, Peshmerga forces began massing near Makhmour, north of Mosul. They reportedly will not attack the city until ISF launch operations to retake the city, which are expected in 2016 (ISW 22/02/2016). The Ninewa Provincial Council voted against participation of PMF in operations in the governorate, which could delay any attack on Mosul (ISW 29/02/2016).

At least 520 civilians are stranded between military frontlines east of Sinjar mountain (UN 20/02/2016).

Salah al Din: IS remains active west of Samarra, clashing with PMF and ISF in February (ISW 11/02/2016).

Displacement

There are approximately 3.3 million IDPs and 245,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq. Conflict-induced internal displacement has been ongoing since January 2014. Most Syrian refugees are in KR-I. Another 1.1 million people remain displaced from pre-2014 conflict (ECHO 30/09/2015).

IDPs

As of 4 February 2016, there are approximately 3.3 million IDPs in over 3,700 locations (IOM 18/02/2016). The number and spread of IDPs pose a major challenge to needs assessment and assistance.

Displacement has mainly occurred in waves since January 2014. Between September and November 2015, IOM noted a slight decrease in the number of IDPs due to return movements (IOM 18/12/2015). Between December and February, displacement increased,

primarily due to military operations in Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates (IOM 18/02/2016). A spike in displacement in Anbar governorate was recorded in early February: 3,500 new IDP arrivals in Amiryat al Falluja camp were recorded in just three days (NRC 12/02/2016).

Baghdad hosts around 603,000 IDPs, Anbar 575,000, Dahuk 404,000, Kirkuk 377,000 and Erbil 361,000. 76% of IDPs (2.5 million) have fled from or within Anbar and Ninewa (IOM 18/02/2016). As the crisis enters its third year, social tensions over access to services and assistance are mounting in areas hosting high concentrations of IDPs and refugees (UNDP 06/01/2016).

71% of IDPs live in private accommodation. 17% face critical shelter arrangements, while 10% live in camps (IOM 18/02/2016). The five camps reporting the highest levels of need are: Kerbala (Kerbala), Arbat IDP and Ashti IDP (Sulaymaniyah), Qoratu (Diyala), and Yahawa (Kirkuk) (CCCM 30/01/2016).

IDP returnees: As of 4 February, 534,000 IDPs have returned to their locations of origin since 2014. The number of returnees increased by 6% in January (IOM 18/02/2016). 11% of returnees are unable to return to their homes, instead living in unfinished buildings, informal settlements, or rental accommodation in their places of origin (IOM 07/01/2016). Returnees often lack livelihood opportunities, food and NFIs; many find their property destroyed and damaged and documents missing. Health, education, and infrastructure are typically lacking in places of return (UNHCR 30/11/2015).

Refugees and asylum seekers

245,543 Syrian refugees are registered in Iraq (UNHCR 15/02/2016). 41,700 non-Syrian refugees are also registered in the country (UNHCR 23/04/2015).

Syrian refugees: KR-I hosts an estimated 97% of Syrian refugees, with 114,139 in Erbil, 93,084 in Dahuk, and 29,923 in Sulaymaniyah. 4,510 were last known to be in Anbar (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

39% of refugees live in nine camps. There are 47,544 in the Domiz camps in Dahuk, 10,279 in Kawergosk, and 10,960 in Darashakran in Erbil (UNHCR 15/02/2015). 1,519 Syrian refugees were last reported in Al Obaidy camp, in IS-controlled Al Qa'im in Anbar, but information is limited due to access constraints (UNHCR 15/02/2015).

Population movement in both directions has decreased in recent months: 4,000 Syrians arrived in KR-I and 800 returned to Syria in January, the lowest monthly arrival and departure numbers in the past year (UNHCR 31/01/2016). Arrivals in 2015 surpassed 61,000, slightly higher than in 2014. Almost 25,000 refugees returned to Syria in 2015 and 16,000 crossed to Turkey (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

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). Iraqi citizens can no longer seek visas on arrival at the Turkish border, and must now pre-apply for visas in order to enter Turkey (AFP 06/02/2016). As of 15 January, 53,334 Iraqis were registered in Jordan (UNHCR 15/01/2016). 45,000 Iraqi refugees are registered in Iran (WFP 30/09/2015). An estimated 39,500 Iraqi refugees are estimated to be living in Syria, mostly in the greater Damascus area (USAID 11/12/2015).

Humanitarian access

Access is severely constrained. Around five million people live in areas under control of armed groups and are inaccessible to relief actors. Populations are frequently prevented from accessing humanitarian aid, as access between governorates and across borders has been restricted. Road closures, mines and booby traps are among the most concerning security and physical constraints.

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Access to the estimated five million people in areas under armed opposition groups' control is limited (OCHA 04/10/2015). Large swathes of Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al Din are inaccessible to most INGOs, although limited aid is channelled through local partners (ODI 10/2015). **Besieged Falluja has been inaccessible to WFP for a year (WFP 29/02/2016).**

Access of affected populations to assistance

Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, and Diyala have implemented strict security policies and have been accused of coercing returns and obstructing IDPs' access to assistance. Access remains contingent on sponsorship, leaving many families stranded at checkpoints (UNHCR 31/12/2015). Scrutiny of people seeking to enter Baghdad has increased since December, including at Bzibz bridge (ECHO 11/12/2015).

Border crossings: Most Syrian refugees enter via the Peshkabour crossing. In 2015, only 20% entered as asylum seekers. New registration procedures mean most Syrians must now KR-I enter on 15-day visas and apply for asylum later (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

Security and physical constraints

High insecurity and unexploded ordnance (UXO) hinder access to affected populations. Road closures are blocking supply lines, especially in Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al Din, and Ninewa governorates (FAO 18/01/2016; OCHA 04/10/2015). Military operations surrounding Falluja have severely disrupted the movement of commodities, resulting in extreme shortages and high prices of food local markets (WFP 05/02/2016). Truck drivers closed the road between Erbil and Dohuk in KR-I in protest at the government's management of the economy (ISW 11/02/2016). Poor run-off and over-absorbent mud

surfaces render some roads to IDP camps impassable to trucks in wet winter conditions (REACH/CCCM 11/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015) Food rations for IDP families have been cut by up to 50% since April 2015, and one in four IDP households is using negative coping mechanisms (WFP/FAO/REACH 26/11/2015; FAO 18/01/2016).

The increasing number of IDPs and refugees is putting pressure on host communities with already limited resources, in particular in KR-I (FAO 18/01/2016). Food insecurity is most prevalent in Duhok and Ninewa governorates, where 5% and 6% of households report inadequate consumption, compared to the national average of 3% (WFP 20/01/2016). **The need for assistance in Anbar remains huge (WFP 29/02/2016).**

Food availability

Agricultural productivity and crop yields have been severely affected by conflict (WFP/FAO/REACH 26/11/2015). Heavy rains since October have also damaged wheat crop supplies and disrupted autumn planting and fieldwork (FAO 18/01/2016; WFP 26/11/2015). Basic foodstuffs are no longer available in shops in parts of Falluja (WFP 05/02/2016).

Food access

Access to markets is severely restricted in the most conflict-affected areas (FAO 18/01/2016). In Falluja, armed groups are restricting access to rural and peri-urban areas, where civilians usually obtain basic food supplies (WFP 05/02/2016).

Food prices are particularly high in areas where road closures are severely disrupting supply lines – mainly in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al Din governorates. Wheat and sugar prices are 50% higher in Anbar than in Baghdad (FAO 18/01/2016). Prices of basic foods in Falluja have increased more than 500% since December: wheat flour has gone up 823%, imported rice 655%, sugar 809% and vegetable oil 525% (WFP 29/02/2016).

Livelihoods

Besieged and displaced populations face major difficulties accessing the Public Distribution System as military operations, insecurity, and high fuel prices prevent distributions (WFP 31/10/2015; 29/02/2016). 29% of IDPs have not received cash assistance from the authorities. 71% of families do not have an income source (UNHCR 28/01/2016). 72% of IDPs report access to employment among their top three needs, while 22% are unable to meet basic needs (OCHA 04/10/2015).

Security concerns, lack of access to fields, and disrupted procurement and distribution

systems continue to affect farmers in the most conflict-affected areas (FAO 18/01/2016).

Health

More than 10.1 million people need health support (OCHA 14/12/2015). 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). As the public health system collapses, NGOs and other providers are increasingly struggling to support the heavier caseload (Reuters 15/12/2015). Polio and cholera broke out in 2014 and 2015 respectively (WHO 22/11/2015).

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). An estimated 84% of health facilities are either not operating or only partially operating in Anbar, Ninewa, Salah Al Din, Diyala and Kirkuk (WHO 10/02/2016). Kidnapping of medical staff in Babuqa, Diyala governorate, are reported (ISW 11/02/2016).

The leading causes of morbidity in refugee and IDP camps are acute respiratory infections, acute diarrhoea, and skin diseases (WHO 09/02/2016).

Ramadi hospital has been assessed as irreparable following recent fighting. Three primary health centres are damaged but reparable once booby traps are cleared. Six mobile clinics, one fully equipped hospital and three mini hospitals are needed, as are supply chain of essential medicines, health promotion for IDPs in camps, and 15 ambulances (WHO 17/01/2016).

In KR-I, the budget crisis is affecting the delivery of health services to Iraqis and Syrian refugees both in and out of camps. Medicine shortages are a key concern, as is access to mental healthcare for refugees outside camps (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

WASH

6.5 million people need WASH assistance in Iraq (OCHA 14/12/2015). Provision of WASH services to returnees in northern Iraq is a priority (UNICEF 31/01/2016). Concern is growing over the state of Mosul Dam, which is falling into disrepair. Its collapse could inundate downstream settlements (ISW 01/02/2016; **The Guardian 02/03/2016**).

Refugees: Camps continue to face critical WASH needs. Water supply remains insufficient for 6,200 people in Domiz 1 camp, Dahuk (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

1.9 million people require shelter and NFI support (OCHA 14/12/2015). Shelters are

generally overcrowded and lack adequate WASH facilities (Amnesty International 20/01/2016; IOM 29/09/2015). Weak tenure security raises the risk of eviction (UNHCR 31/12/2015). Overall, the percentage of IDPs in informal settlements remained stable in 2015, while the percentage in collective centres fell by 33%. The number of formal IDP camps doubled in 2015 (CCCM 17/01/2016). Although shelter conditions are slowly improving, some 660,000 IDPs continue to live in critical shelter conditions, including informal settlements, and unfinished and abandoned buildings.

Refugees: 3,604 new or improved shelter plots are required in Gawilan, Kawergosk, Basirma and Qushtapa camps, and a further 719 shelter units are required in Erbil. Non-camp refugee populations require urgent shelter upgrading and community infrastructure support (UNHCR 31/12/2016).

Education

3.3 million people are in need of education assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015). More than two million children are out of school. 70% of displaced school-aged children have lost a full year of education. Over 5,300 schools have been destroyed, damaged or converted for shelter or military purposes, including 1,500 in Anbar province (UNICEF 31/01/2016). Many schools continue to operate at least two shifts per day (UNICEF 31/12/2015).

Teachers have not received salaries in five months in parts of KR-I, with teachers and students having to travel outside their communities to access schools, language constraints are increasingly reported (UNICEF 31/01/2016).

Refugees: 76% of school-aged refugee children in camps and 63% outside camps are attending school (UNHCR 31/10/2015). Schooling challenges in camps include overcrowded classrooms, and shortages of teachers and support personnel (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Protection

8.2 million people are in need of protection assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015). All sides have committed grave human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. Attacks targeting civilians, killings, abductions, rape, sexual violence, child conscription, and destruction of civilian property and looting have all been reported (UN 26/10/2015). Indiscriminate bombings have resulted in major civilian casualties (Minority Rights Group 30/11/2015). The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has confirmed IS used mustard gas near Erbil in August 2015 (AFP 15/02/2016).

IS has targeted all those opposed to its ideology (UN 26/10/2015). Sharia courts have been established in IS-controlled territories, carrying out extreme punishments (UN 19/03/2015; 20/01/2015). Evidence of mass killings has been found in Ramadi and Sinjar, and is suspected in Mosul (AFP 04/12/2015; UN 26/10/2015).

Government judicial processes are increasingly arbitrary. A 2005 anti-terrorism law has been used to facilitate mass trials. 92 death sentences have been handed down since late December (Amnesty International 18/02/2016).

Reports of pro-government armed groups and militias exacting human rights abuses also proliferate. ISF, Kurdish forces, and other militias have reportedly abducted Sunni civilians, including in Diyala and Salah al Din, as well as in Sinjar after retaking the city from IS in November (UN 04/12/2015; 26/10/2015). Forced demolitions by Peshmerga forces have been reported in northern Iraq, targeting Arab households (Amnesty International 20/01/2016).

Vulnerable groups

Yazidis: Between 1,500 and 3,700 Yazidis have been held captive since IS took Sinjar in June 2014 (UN 26/10/2015; Reuters 11/02/2016). Yazidis have reportedly carried out retribution attacks against Sinjar's Muslim population, looting and burning houses and mosques (AFP 15/11/2015). Yazidi returnees face barriers recovering property in Sinjar due to lost documentation (IOM/UN HABITAT 29/11/2015).

Journalists: Iraq is one of the world's most dangerous countries for journalists. Two journalists were shot dead while reporting in north Baghdad on 12 January 2016 (AFP 12/06/2016). In Mosul, at least 48 journalists have been abducted, 13 of whom were executed, since IS took control of the city in June 2014 (RSF 27/10/2015).

Children

Grave violations against children, including sexual violence, maiming, and forced recruitment, are regularly reported (UNAMI/OHCHR 11/01/2016; UN 26/10/2015). 1,400 children have been abducted in Iraq and 3,000 child casualties have been recorded since January 2014 (UNSC 09/11/2015). 10 grave violations of children's rights were verified in January 2016 (UNICEF 31/01/2016). The number of child soldiers who died fighting under IS in 2015 was double estimates for 2014 (BBC 19/02/2016). Approximately 1.5 million IDP children are in need of protection and assistance. 1.4 million children live in areas outside government control (UNICEF 31/01/2016).

Documentation

IDPs: 10% of IDPs are not registered with the authorities, which limits their access to cash assistance and services (UNHCR 28/01/2016). Some IDPs have had identity documents confiscated at checkpoints (OCHA 17/11/2015). Without a nationality certificate, civil identification card, housing card, and food ration card, vulnerable Iraqis struggle to access essential public services and compensation schemes, including food distribution (PDS) (ODI 10/2015).

Refugees: Complex and lengthy procedures make it difficult for refugees in KR-I to access

residency permits. Conversion of 15-day visas into asylum-seeker claims is no longer possible at the Peshkabout border, where most Syrians arrive (UNHCR 31/10/2015). **Only 3% of January arrivals were admitted as asylum seekers (UNHCR 31/01/2016).** Parents face difficulties obtaining birth certificates for their children from KR-I authorities, resulting in a growing number of stateless Syrian children (Independent 30/11/2015).

Gender

Reports show an increase in sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and forced recruitment of women (HRW 15/04/2015). Early marriage is a predominant SGBV concern in KR-I (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

Mines and ERW

The government estimates there are approximately 25 million landmines in Iraq (UN 26/10/2015). In addition to explosives from the current conflict, pre-existing minefields remain along borders with Syria, Turkey, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, and between Iraq and KR-I (MAG 30/11/2015). Eight people have been killed since early February attempting to survey their homes or disable devices in Ramadi (UN 22/02/2016).

Updated: 07/03/2016

SYRIA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

3 March: 63,000 people have been displaced in Aleppo governorate in a month, following government offensives (UNHCR; CCCM Cluster).

1 March: Between July 2015 and January 2016, the wheat price increased 56%, and rice 29% country-wide (WFP).

KEY FIGURES

- 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria (UNICEF 23/02/2016).

- 6.6 million IDPs (OCHA 31/10/2015).

- 4.5 million people are living in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA 31/10/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Protection is the highest priority need. 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, are estimated to be in need of protection assistance (UNICEF 23/02/2016).

- 12.1 million people lack access to adequate water and sanitation facilities; 70% of the population lack regular access to clean drinking water (OCHA 07/12/2015).

- Only 43% of health facilities are fully operating: 11.5 million people lack access to adequate healthcare. The conflict has caused significant damage to health facilities, and fuel shortages further hamper access to health services (OCHA 29/12/2015).

OVERVIEW

13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 6.6 million IDPs.

The conflict has killed over 260,000 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.

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For more information, see the [SNAP project's reports](#).

Politics and security

The conflict in Syria began in 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).

An estimated 1,300 civilians were killed in February (SNHR 01/03/2016). According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, 55,000 people were killed in 2015, including 21,000 civilians (SOHR 31/12/2015). More than 270,000 people have been killed since fighting began in March 2011 and more than one million people have been wounded or

suffered permanent disability (SOHR 23/02/2016; WHO 01/2016). 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).

In November 2015, the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), which includes all main international stakeholders, met in Vienna. The talks resulted in agreement on establishing a transitional government within the next six months, and elections within the next 18 months (BBC 19/11/2015). A cessation of hostilities came into effect 27 February. The agreement involves all major Syrian actors apart from IS and JAN. Violations have been reported, but the level of violence is reported to have decreased substantially across Syria (BBC 29/02/2016; Al Jazeera 28/02/2016; **UNHCR 06/03/2016**).

Stakeholders

Government forces aim to regain territory taken by various armed groups since the conflict broke out in 2011, and to strengthen President Assad's position. By December 2014, the Syrian Arab Army consisted of an estimated 150,000 troops (ISW 12/2014). Government forces have control of the western parts of Syria bordering the Mediterranean and Lebanon, including Damascus, Tartous and most of Latakia, in addition to areas in Al-Hasakeh, Aleppo, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, and Idleb governorates (ISW 01/2016).

Islamic State (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) aims to build a caliphate in Iraq and Syria – and eventually a global caliphate, and to hold and extend the territory it currently holds. According to US officials, IS has an estimated 30,000 troops in Syria and Iraq, with foreign fighters accounting for about two thirds (NBC 28/02/2015). Ar-Raqqa governorate is IS's stronghold in Syria, and has been under IS control since October 2014. IS holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor, and Homs governorates (ISW 01/2016).

Democratic Union Party (PYD) and People's Protection Units (YPG): The Syrian Kurdish groups are fighting to establish an autonomous or independent region in the majority-Kurdish areas in northern Syria. YPG claims to have 40,000 fighters (Reuters 14/08/2014). The Kurdish groups 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 01/2015).

Other armed groups are predominantly fighting to overthrow the Assad government and establish a new government, although the various groups differ in their view of this new state. Islamist groups like the Al Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) seek to establish a state based on Shari'a law, while other groups seek a secular state. Various alliances between armed groups have been formed, both militarily and politically. In October, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) was formed by an alliance including YPG and the Syrian Arab Coalition (ISW 29/12/2015; Reuters 12/10/2015).

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). An unknown number of Iranian troops are also present in Syria (ISW 01/10/2015; Reuters 01/10/2015). A US-led coalition began airstrikes on IS positions in September 2014. Russia launched its first airstrikes in Syria on 30 September 2015 (ISW 19/10/2015; BBC 12/10/2015). Turkish cross-border activities targeted YPG-positions in northern Aleppo governorate mid-February (AFP 14/02/2016).

Conflict developments

The cessation of hostilities that came into effect on 27 February has substantially reduced the death toll. The average daily death toll in February was 120, compared to 20 after the ceasefire. However, heavy clashes involving IS forces, who are not part of the agreement, are reported in several governorates (BBC 29/02/2016; AFP 29/02/2016). Government offensives in Aleppo and Dar'a governorates in February caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure and new waves of displacement (ECHO 08/02/2016). IS has claimed responsibility for an increasing number of suicide attacks in cities (SOHR 22/02/2016).

Al Hasakeh: Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) advanced against IS forces mid-February, and have cut two main routes from Ar-Raqqa to Mosul in Iraq. On 20 February, SDF forces seized Shaddadi city from IS – previously an IS stronghold in Al-Hasakeh. As of late February, SDF continues to advance (SOHR 28/02/2016; 20/02/2016; AFP 19/02/2016).

Aleppo: Heavy clashes are ongoing between IS and government forces in the area around Khanasser town, after government forces retook the town in late February, thereby securing their main supply route into Aleppo city (SOHR 29/02/2016). In mid-February, Turkish artillery shelled YPG positions in northern Aleppo governorate on several occasions (SOHR 22/02/2016; AFP 17/02/2016). In early February, government forces, supported by Russian airstrikes, launched a renewed offensive in Aleppo governorate and made significant gains. As of late February, 75,000 people have been displaced (CCCM Cluster 22/02/2016; Al Jazeera 05/02/2016).

Ar-Raqqa: In late February, IS launched an attack on Tal Abyad town, but the town was quickly retaken by YPG forces. Turkish forces also reportedly shelled the area. Heavy clashes continue outside the town (SOHR 29/02/2016; 28/02/2016).

Dar'a: Unconfirmed reports estimate that 28,000 people have been newly displaced after government forces launched an offensive north of Dar'a city late January (ECHO 08/02/2016; OCHA 08/02/2016).

Homs: Clashes are ongoing between IS and government forces in eastern Homs governorate (SOHR 29/02/2016).

Latakia: Heavy clashes are ongoing between IS and government forces in Latakia

countryside (SOHR 28/02/2016). More than 12,000 people have been displaced in the governorate since mid-November (OCHA 30/01/2016; Reuters 29/01/2016; SOHR 25/01/2016).

Displacement

IDPs

There are 6.5 million IDPs within Syria, with the largest numbers reported in Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates (OCHA 29/02/2016).

Since September 2015, government offensives in the northern governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb, and Lattakia have displaced more than 338,000 people: 160,000 in Aleppo governorate alone, including 63,000 since 1 February (UNHCR 29/02/2016; CCCM Cluster 03/03/2016). In southern Syria, 53,000 people have been newly displaced since November 2015, including 10,000 displaced in the last two weeks (UNHCR 29/02/2016).

Many IDPs have been displaced several times (OCHA 16/10/2015).

Refugees

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): Over 95% of the 450,000 Palestinian refugees who remain within Syria are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs (UNRWA 14/01/2016). Two-thirds (280,000) are internally displaced (UNRWA 14/01/2016).

Iraqi refugees: An estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees live in Syria (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

Returnees

74,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey returned to Kurdish-controlled areas in northern Syria in 2015 (OCHA 22/09/2015). Syrian refugees in Jordan are increasingly returning to Syria, as funding shortfalls have led to a worsened humanitarian situation (AP 05/10/2015). 25,000 Syrian refugees left Iraq in 2015, either to return to Syria or continue to Europe (UNHCR 08/02/2016).

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries

More than 4.7 million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries as of February 2016 (UNHCR 15/02/2016). In 2015, more than one million fled Syria. Since the war began, almost 900,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe: more than 500,000 registered in 2015 (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

Turkey: 2,620,500 registered refugees (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Lebanon: 1,069,100 refugees (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

Jordan: 635,300 refugees (UNHCR 19/01/2016).

Iraq: 245,000 refugees (UNHCR 15/01/2016).

Egypt: 117,600 refugees (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

PRS: An estimated 110,000 Palestinian refugees have left Syria (UNRWA, 14/01/2016). 42,000 are recorded by UNRWA in Lebanon and 18,000 in Jordan (UNRWA 14/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

4.6 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (areas not reached with assistance on a regular basis), including up to two million children (UNSC 27/01/2016O; 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 report a lack of staff due to Syrians fleeing the country, in particular affecting NGOs that provide health services (IRIN 07/09/2015).

84 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011 (OCHA 22/12/2015; 11/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

4.6 million people live in besieged or hard-to-reach areas (UNSC 27/01/2016). Almost 500,000 civilians live in 18 besieged areas, mainly in Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idleb governorates. More than half of the areas have been besieged for more than three years (UNSC 27/01/2016; ECHO 11/01/2016). People in besieged areas lack access to humanitarian assistance, and are in particular need of food, clean drinking water, and health services (UNSC 27/01/2016; Human Rights Watch 08/01/2016).

A UN agreement has allowed for some assistance to reach besieged areas in February, but the population is still unable to leave these areas (BBC 29/02/2016). UN agencies were only able to reach 1.5% of the population in besieged areas and 7% of the population in hard-to-reach areas during 2015 (OCHA 14/12/2015).

Deir-ez-Zor: The situation is deteriorating for 200,000 people in the besieged western part of Deir-ez-Zor city, where there has been almost no humanitarian access since January 2015. Food, nutrition, and health supplies are reported as priority needs. The humanitarian situation is expected to further deteriorate given the renewed IS offensive mid-January (UNSC 27/01/2016; OCHA 21/01/2016; 15/01/2016).

Idleb: An estimated 12,500 people in al Fouaa and Kefraya towns are facing a deteriorating humanitarian situation, due to increasing shortages of food, basic

commodities, medical items, and fuel. The only hospital in the area has stopped operating. Airstrikes have reportedly caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure, including houses and communication towers. Food, water, and healthcare are priority needs (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Northern Homs: An estimated 120,000 people in northern rural Homs cannot be reached by assistance after supply roads were cut by government forces mid-January. Deaths related to lack of medical care have been reported, and the humanitarian situation is expected to continue to deteriorate (OCHA 11/02/2016).

Rural Damascus: Madaya, home to 42,000 people, had been without assistance since October 2015, when it was reached in mid-January. According to MSF, 46 people have died of starvation in the town since early December (AFP 30/01/2016; MSF 29/01/2016; OCHA 15/01/2016). Access to healthcare is severely restricted (ECHO 14/01/2016; Syrian American Medical Society 09/01/2016). In Moadamiyah, an estimated 45,000 people are in urgent need of assistance after government forces closed the last open road to the city in late December. Critical shortages of food and medicine are reported (OCHA 31/01/2016; UNSC 27/01/2016).

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).

Intensified ground fighting and airstrikes in Aleppo governorate since late January have severely restricted humanitarian access: humanitarian organisations suspended activities at the Bab al-Salam border crossing on 4 February due to increased insecurity. Humanitarian access from the north to eastern Aleppo city has been cut off (ECHO 06/02/2016; OCHA 04/02/2016). As of late December, at least five international NGOs and one local NGO had ceased operations in Idlib, Aleppo, and Latakia governorates due to increased insecurity and access constraints (OCHA 22/12/2015).

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

8.7 million people require food assistance (WFP 27/10/2015). Food insecurity is a major concern in besieged areas, due to limited food availability, extremely high prices, and few employment opportunities (WFP 31/01/2016).

Food availability

Wheat production in 2015 was 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 15/12/2015; FAO/WFP 23/07/2015). 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 15/12/2015; FAO/WFP 23/07/2015; FAO 17/06/2015).

Severe food shortages are reported in besieged areas, causing the population to resort to eating grass and leaves (WFP 31/01/2016; UNHCR 12/01/2016; UNICEF 12/01/2016).

Food access

Compared to pre-crisis levels, the price of rice has increased 913%, and the price of wheat 621%. **Food prices increased substantially over 2015: between July 2015 and January 2016, the price of wheat increased by 56%, and the price of rice by 29%** (WFP 31/12/2016; **01/03/2016**). The conflict has affected market functionality across the country, particularly in rural areas (WFP 31/12/2016). In besieged areas, markets are severely disrupted in besieged areas and extremely high food prices are reported: in Deir- ez-Zor, the price of a standard food basket costs 12 times more than in Damascus. Wheat is on average six times more expensive in besieged areas in Rural Damascus compared to Damascus city (WFP 31/01/2016; **01/03/2016**; 31/12/2016; OCHA 15/01/2016).

Food prices have spiked in opposition-held areas in Aleppo governorate in early February, after government forces cut a main supply route (The Guardian 06/02/2016).

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).

In southern Syria, the most common source of income is engagement in armed groups (CARE 09/02/2016).

Health

11.5 million people lack access to adequate healthcare facilities (OCHA 11/2015). **58% of public hospitals and 49% of primary health centres are only partially functional or closed (WHO 29/02/2016). Only 43% of health facilities are fully operating (OCHA**

29/12/2015). Russian and Syrian government forces appear to have deliberately and systematically targeted hospitals over the last three months in the advance on Aleppo (Amnesty International 03/03/2016). The national surveillance system has broken down (Reuters 13/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Health services in Aleppo, Dar'a, Homs, Hama, Idleb and Al Hasakeh governorates have been the most affected by shortages and damage (UNICEF 31/07/2015). The number of available health professionals has fallen to approximately 45% of 2011 levels (WHO 27/03/2015). Local medicine production has fallen by 70% and many lifesaving treatments are not available (WHO 12/11/2015; Health Cluster 30/09/2015). A shortage of ambulances has been 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). One out of three children under five was not reached by routine vaccination during 2015 (OCHA 11/2015).

In mid-February, at least seven health facilities, including six hospitals, were damaged or destroyed in airstrikes in Aleppo, Idleb, and Dar'a governorates. An MSF-supported hospital in Idleb governorate was hit by airstrikes 15 February. 13 attacks on health facilities were recorded in January (WHO 17/02/2016; OCHA 16/02/2016; MSF 15/02/2016).

Since 2011, 697 medical staff have been killed (PHR 18/12/2015). Physicians for Human Rights has recorded 336 attacks on health facilities since the onset of conflict, the vast majority by government forces (PHR 18/12/2015). 2015 was the worst year on record for attacks on medical facilities since the onset of conflict, with 112 attacks recorded (PHR 18/12/2015).

In Aleppo city, 95% of doctors have fled, been detained, or killed. More than two-thirds of the city's hospitals are no longer functioning (PHR 18/11/2015).

WASH

12.1 million people lack access to adequate WASH facilities (OCHA 11/2015). New waves of displacement have put further strain on water and sanitation networks (UNICEF 10/07/2015).

Water

70% of the population lack regular access to clean drinking water (OCHA 07/12/2015). The

availability of clean drinking water is estimated to be less than one-third of pre-crisis levels (UNICEF 31/08/2015). An estimated half of safe water production capacity has been lost or damaged (ICRC 02/09/2015). The reliability of urban piped water is severely reduced. Fuel shortages also affect water supply (UNICEF 10/07/2015). In Aleppo and As Salamia, Hama, many people are receiving less than 5% of pre-crisis levels of water (UNICEF 10/10/2015).

The water supply in Aleppo city, which had been cut off since mid-January, was restored at the beginning of March (OCHA 25/02/2016; AFP 04/03/2016). Deliberate disruptions to water supply systems are used as a war tactic (UNICEF 19/08/2015). At least five million people in Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and Dar'a governorates were affected by long and deliberate water cuts in 2015 (UNICEF 10/10/2015).

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

2.4 million people are in need of shelter assistance, and 5.3 million people are in need of NFIs (OCHA 11/2015; Shelter Cluster 31/01/2016).

Shelter

Limited information is available on the 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).

Displaced people in northern Aleppo governorate along the Syria-Turkey border are in urgent need of shelter, as displacement camps are overstretched following a spike in arrivals in February (OCHA 16/02/2016; 08/02/2016).

Education

2.7 million children are currently out of school – approximately half of all school-aged children. Another one million children are at risk of dropping out as a result of insecurity and displacement (UNICEF 01/10/2015; Education Cluster 22/09/2015; UNICEF 15/09/2015). In areas of prolonged active conflict, enrolment is estimated to be at around 6% (Save the Children 03/2015). Attendance levels have dropped in Homs, Idleb, Hama,

and Aleppo governorates following increased airstrikes and ground fighting since late September (UNICEF 10/2015). In Aleppo governorate, children have reportedly stopped attending school due to increased insecurity early February (OCHA 08/02/2016).

Schools are frequently deliberately targeted. **One in four (over 6,000) has been damaged, destroyed, occupied, or is used as shelter by IDPs.** There is a lack of safe learning spaces, adequate WASH facilities and lack of learning material (Education Cluster 22/09/2015; **OCHA 01/03/2016**). 52,000 teachers are no longer teaching (UNICEF, 01/10/2015).

Protection

13.5 million people are in need of protection assistance, including six million children (OCHA 11/2015).

Non-state armed groups and pro-government forces continue to commit human rights violations on a large scale (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). Chemical weapons attacks have been reported, including the use of mustard gas (BBC, 06/11/2015; Reuters 18/07/2105; HRW 03/06/2015). More than 17,000 barrel bombs were dropped by government forces in 2015, according to Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR 10/01/2016).

Since 2011, 65,000 people have been recorded as forcibly disappeared by the government: 58,000 are civilians, including human rights activists, journalists, doctors, and humanitarian workers. Detention centres are overcrowded, and detainees are subject to torture and extrajudicial execution (HRC 03/02/2016; HRW 16/12/2015; Amnesty International, 05/11/2015). Since the start of the conflict, 11,500 people have died from torture while in detention (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).

Children

Six million children are in need of assistance, triple the number in January 2013 (UNICEF 15/11/2015). Various opposition groups, including JAN, Kurdish groups, and IS have been found to recruit children (HRW 15/07/2015; SOHR 15/07/2015; NOREF 16/02/2015). More than 12,000 children have been killed since 2011 (NRC 06/10/2015). Rates of child marriage and child labour have increased as a result of increasing poverty (UNICEF 10/10/2015).

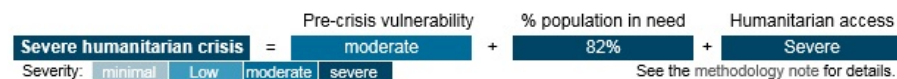
Gender

Gender-based violence has been committed by all parties to the conflict, including

enforced disappearances, forced recruitment, and the use of women as human shields (SNHR 27/11/2015). Sexual violence has been used as an instrument of torture and as a tactic of war (UN News Centre 19/12/2015).

Updated: 07/03/2016

YEMEN COMPLEX, CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

4 March: Gunmen attacked a home for older people in Aden, killing 16 people and kidnapping one (MEE 05/03/2016; NY Times 03/07/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 21.2 million people - 82% of Yemen's population - are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 22/11/2015).
- 14.4 million people are food insecure, including 7.6 million severely food insecure (OCHA 22/11/2015).
- 2.4 million IDPs in Yemen (**Protection Cluster 17/02/2016**).

KEY PRIORITIES

- WASH: 19.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (OCHA 22/11/2015).
- Health: 14.1 million people lack access to healthcare (OCHA 22/11/2015). Over 1,000 health facilities have stopped or reduced operations.
- Food security: Imports of staple foods have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict, leading to steep price increases. Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food (FAO 01/10/2015; 08/07/2015; OCHA 29/05/2015).

OVERVIEW

Yemen's political transition has turned into armed conflict between Houthis from the

north and the government. A coalition led by Saudi Arabia, Southern secessionists, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and Islamic State (IS) activity throughout the country compound the security and political challenges. Access to safe drinking water, food, healthcare, and other basic services continues to decline. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has declared Yemen a Level 3 emergency in July 2015.

Politics and security

Instability and violence continue across the country since conflict escalated in March 2015. Houthis, based in the north, who had been in control of the capital since September 2014, dissolved Parliament in February, and began to advance further south in March. 20 of Yemen's 22 governorates are directly affected by airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling (OCHA 22/12/2015). A Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces in March, and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has 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).

Over 6,100 conflict-related deaths and 35,000 injuries have been registered since March 2015 (OCHA 18/02/2016). At least 3,081 civilians have been killed and 5,733 injured (OHCHR 04/03/2016). The actual numbers are expected to be much higher due to underreporting (WHO 22/12/2015). Peace talks have not brought any agreement or cessation of hostilities, with the last round of UN-led talks held in Geneva in December. A second round was expected to begin mid-January but has been postponed (AFP 09/01/2016).

Stakeholders

Pro-government forces, supported by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes, aim to regain control of Houthi- and AQAP-controlled areas. However, the Yemeni army is deeply divided, with units loyal to President Hadi fighting pro-Houthi units (ABC 15/04/2015). Separatists from the Southern Movement have been fighting Houthi forces in the south (AFP 14/10/2015).

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are based in Sa'ada governorate. Factions in the Yemeni army who are allied with the Houthis include members of the former central security force, a unit seen as aligned with 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 political branch of AQAP (ICG 27/02/2015). According to the

national security service, there are around 1,000 Al Qaeda militants in Yemen, originating from 11 Arab and non-Arab countries (AFP 17/01/2015).

Islamic State (IS) 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, its first attack on 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 2015. UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan, and Egypt are also members of the coalition (CNN 29/03/2015). The coalition has deployed at least 10,000 ground troops in Yemen – the actual number is likely much higher (ECHO 07/12/2015; Reuters 08/09/2015). Increasing numbers of foreign mercenaries are also reported (The Guardian 08/12/2015; NY Times 25/11/2015). Saudi Arabia claims that Iran is providing financial and material backing to Houthi militants, a claim Iran denies (Amnesty International 26/03/2015; BBC 22/02/2016). Lebanese Hezbollah has also been accused by the Yemeni government of backing Houthi militants (Critical Threats 01/03/2016).

Conflict developments

Airstrikes continue in Sanaa, Hodeidah, and Taizz governorates, while heavy ground fighting is ongoing in Hajjah, Al Jawf, Marib, Taizz, and Lahj governorates (Critical Threats 04/03/2016; BBC 22/02/2016).

Abyan: AQAP continues to solidify its presence in the south of Yemen with the seizure of Shoqra on 8 February (AFP 08/02/2016). They also took control of a police headquarters in Zinjibar on 6 February (ECHO 08/02/2016). AQAP retreated from Ahwar on 20 February, after failing to consolidate control (Critical Threats 22/02/2016).

Aden: Widespread insecurity in Aden continues as government forces, armed men believed to be linked to AQAP, and other local militias fight each other (AFP 24/01/2016; Reuters 04/01/2016; Al Jazeera 03/01/2016). Over the past weeks, there have been at least five attacks and clashes between pro-Hadi forces and militia. Prominent Aden citizens such as police chiefs and military commanders were targeted (Critical Threats 07/03/2016). UAE has withdrawn its troops from Aden, after the airport they were guarding was overrun by militias (AWN 24/02/2016; MEE 24/02/2016). AQAP or southern secessionists may be behind these attacks (Critical Threats 01/03/2016).

IS has carried out two suicide bombings since late January. One, on 17 February, killed at least eight people and wounded at least 60 (Critical Threats 17/02/2016).

Gunmen attacked a home for older people run by Catholics on 4 March, killing 16, including four nuns. One Catholic priest was kidnapped. AQAP has denied responsibility; the gunmen are believed to be linked to IS (MEE 05/03/2016; NY Times 03/07/2016).

Sanaa: Heavy ground fighting between government and Houthi forces continues as pro-government forces have taken control of the strategic Nihm area, northeast of the city (ECHO 29/02/2016). Nihm area is on important supply routes to areas north of Sanaa (Al Jazeera 03/02/2016). Heavy airstrikes continue; airstrikes on 27 February on a market in Nihm killed at least 32 people, mostly civilians (ECHO 29/02/2016).

Taizz: Houthi forces have established checkpoints around Taizz city, which has led to a de facto blockade of goods brought in by civilians and humanitarian actors (HRW 31/01/2016; OHCHR 23/10/2015; ICRC 21/10/2015). AQAP and the Saudi-led coalition are reportedly cooperating in their battle against the Houthis in Taizz (BBC 22/02/2016).

Displacement

Over 2.4 million people have been displaced in Yemen since March 2015 – adding to an estimated 800,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants already in need of assistance (Protection Cluster 17/02/2016; OCHA 12/06/2015).

IDPs

More than 50% of an estimated 2.4 million IDPs originate from the five most conflict-affected governorates: Taizz, Amran, Hajjah, Sanaa, and Abyan (Protection Cluster 10/12/2015).

Taizz governorate hosts the highest number of IDPs (392,429), followed by Amran (288,437) and Hajjah (228,453) (ECHO 10/02/2016; Protection Cluster 10/12/2015).

Returnees, refugees and migrants

Estimates indicate that over 883,000 returnees, refugees, and migrants in Yemen require assistance, including Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia (OCHA 12/06/2015).

Around 92,500 new arrivals were registered in Yemen in 2015 (UNHCR 31/01/2016). As of 31 January, over 10,500 arrivals have been newly recorded (UNHCR 31/01/2016). Ethiopians transiting through Yemen make up the vast majority; the rest are from Somalia.

Refugees: As of 30 November, 265,833 registered refugees are living in Yemen: most are Somali (253,215), and 6,082 are Ethiopian (UNHCR 03/02/2016; 30/11/2015). Since the escalation of conflict last March, more than 27,000 Somalis and 7,543 Ethiopians have returned to their countries of origin. Around 3,800 Sudanese and 2,000 Djiboutian nationals have also returned (IOM 01/02/2016).

Arrivals from Yemen in other countries

Since March 2015, more than 171,000 people, including Yemenis, refugees, and third-country nationals (TCNs) have left Yemen (IOM 01/02/2016). Some 33,000 had arrived in Djibouti and 31,000 in Somalia (IOM 18/02/2016). 51,000 arrivals have been recorded in Oman, 11,500 in Ethiopia, and 6,600 in Sudan (DRC 31/01/2016). 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 18/01/2016; IOM 01/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Checkpoints, insecurity, administrative hurdles, import restrictions, and the reluctance of transporters to access volatile areas are hampering the delivery of assistance by both road and sea (OCHA 02/01/2016; 20/12/2015; WFP 29/07/2015). Fuel shortages are further hampering operations (OCHA 30/06/2015; 13/11/2015; OHCHR 29/09/2015; OCHA 27/08/2015).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

Ten humanitarian workers have been killed since March 2015 (OCHA 24/01/2016). Humanitarian workers in Taizz governorate have been targeted, harassed, and abducted by armed groups (OCHA 31/08/2015). On 1 December, two ICRC staff were abducted by unidentified gunmen in Sanaa city – one remains in captivity (ICRC 01/12/2015). On 29 February, an MSF ambulance was hijacked in Lahj governorate (MSF 01/03/2016).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Taizz city has been under a de facto siege since the beginning of September, with little to no humanitarian assistance reaching the 240,000 people in the city. Although a food convoy and medicine supplies managed to access Taizz city in January and February, the situation remains critical (USAID 19/02/2016; OCHA 24/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

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). Financial institutions are credit for traders shipping goods into Yemen (Critical Threats 07/03/2016). Agreements at the national level for humanitarian aid to pass through checkpoints, are not always passed on to local levels. Aid supplies are therefore sometimes stuck for weeks (OCHA 01/03/2016). Bridges and roads are frequently damaged in airstrikes (ECHO 26/10/2015).

Aden and Hodeidah airports, and Ras Isa, Balhaf and Ash Shihr ports are closed (Logistics Cluster 13/01/2015; 27/01/2016; FAO 31/01/2016; Reuters 28/02/2016).

As of March, main access challenges are in Sa'ada and Hajjah governorates due to airstrikes and artillery barrages. Constraints are also heavy on the frontlines of Marib and Al Bayda governorates (OCHA 01/03/2016).

National average fuel prices remain over 80% higher than pre-crisis levels, although prices fell in January due to increasing imports (OCHA 13/02/2016;). Fuel prices in Taizz remain the highest due to conflict (WFP 31/01/2015). The fuel shortages are creating severe challenges for the transportation of food, water, and medical supplies, and the operation of water pumps and generators (FAO 31/01/2016; ECHO 14/05/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

More than half of the population, 14.4 million people, are food insecure – two million more than in June 2015, and four million more than before the escalation of conflict. 7.6 million people are severely food insecure (OCHA 22/11/2015). The food security situation is particularly concerning for the IDP population (WFP 12/2015). Ten out of 22 governorates face emergency (IPC 4) levels (USAID 19/02/2016). These levels will likely remain until at least June (FEWSNET 29/02/2016).

Food availability

Yemen ordinarily imports 90% of its food, but imports of staple foods, such as cereals, have almost completely ceased since the escalation of conflict (FAO 01/10/2015; OCHA 29/05/2015). The Central Bank is cutting subsidised credit for staple imports, which may lead to a further reduction of imports (Critical Threats 07/03/2016).

A 30% reduction in the cereal harvest is estimated in the key cropping regions (central highlands, southern uplands, and western coastal plain) compared to previous years (FAO 31/01/2016). Wheat and meat products are only sparsely available in 15 governorates (FEWSNET 17/11/2015).

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).

Critical inputs for crops, such as seeds and fertilisers, are lacking (FAO 28/01/2016).

Food access

Despite a slight improvement in the market situation due to local harvests and increased imports, access to food has not significantly improved due to low household purchasing power among the poor and IDP populations (WFP 31/01/2016; FEWSNET 30/01/2016). Food prices in January 2016 were on average 2% higher than pre-crisis levels (OCHA 13/02/2016).

More than 70% of IDP households have reportedly resorted to negative food-related coping mechanisms, including reducing meal size and frequency, and asking friends or relatives for food (WFP 28/01/2016; 30/11/2015).

The central bank has ended its de facto subsidy of rice and sugar imports. The bank was covering all the country's import needs of medicine, wheat, rice, sugar and milk, at the official exchange rate, until mid-February (Reuters 19/02/2016; Critical Threats 22/02/2016).

Livelihoods

By September 2015, over one-quarter of businesses in Yemen had closed; two-thirds had laid off half of their workforce (OCHA 01/02/2016). In Taizz city, 80% of shops have closed (Amnesty International 09/02/2016). More than 2.5 million people have lost their source of income due to the suspension of basic services and social safety nets (FEWSNET 17/11/2015; 18/08/2015). Access to remittances has halved since March, further deteriorating livelihoods (UNDP 22/01/2016).

The Social Welfare Fund, which provides financial assistance to poor households, has stopped functioning, affecting over seven million direct and indirect beneficiaries (UNICEF 25/01/2016). In areas affected by ground conflict, many people have not received public salaries since March 2015 (FEWSNET 18/08/2015). Aden, Taizz, Lahj, Al Dhalee, Abyan, Hajjah, and Sa'ada are most affected (FAO 31/08/2015).

Critical inputs for crops, such as seeds and fertilisers, are lacking (FAO 28/01/2016). High prices of inputs are contributing to the reduction of livestock production in the highlands. Highlands are in high season with limited rainfall, which has forced

livestock owners to reduce their flock by selling animals (FAO 31/01/2016).

The fishing sector has faced increasing difficulties: fishing boats are reportedly targeted by militia, especially in Hodeidah, Taizz and Hajjah governorates. An estimated 65% of fishermen have lost their livelihoods, along with 650,000 casual workers engaged in packing, storage, or transportation (FAO 31/01/2016).

Health

14.1 million people lack access to adequate healthcare – five million more than before the escalation of conflict (OCHA 22/11/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

At least 600 health facilities have closed due to damage, shortage of supplies or lack of staff (OCHA 18/02/2016). Health facilities have suffered more than 100 attacks since March last year, including airstrikes on MSF-supported hospitals in Razeah, Sa'ada, which killed six people and injured ten (ICRC 11/02/2016). According to MSF, hospitals are perceived to be targets for airstrikes and largely avoided unless there are emergencies (MSF 18/01/2016)

Health staff are increasingly unable to report to work, and non-Yemeni health staff, who comprised 25% of health workers, have been evacuated (WHO 27/04/2015).

Ambulance services are not functioning in most areas that are heavily affected by conflict due to fuel shortages and security threats. Militias have commandeered ambulances (MSF 22/01/2016; ECHO 24/11/2015).

Medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and cancer are not available and there are acute shortages of critical medical supplies – trauma kits, medicines, blood bags and other necessities (OCHA 12/06/2015). Yemen's national blood transfusion centre in Sanaa is operating at a minimum, due to shortages of fuel and essential supplies (WHO 27/09/2015). Prior to the conflict, Yemen imported 80% of its medical supplies (OCHA 30/06/2015).

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. As of January None of Taizz's 20 hospitals are fully operational, and only six are partially functioning (WHO 07/01/2016). Humanitarian organisations are struggling to deliver

medical and surgical supplies due to insecurity (WHO 07/01/2015).

Nutrition

Three million people are in need of nutrition assistance, and 2.1 million people are malnourished (OCHA 22/11/2015). Almost 1.3 million children are malnourished, including 320,000 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases (UNICEF 26/01/2016). In addition, 1 million children are expected to suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in 2016, compared to 690,000 before the crisis (UNICEF 25/01/2016). 220 nutrition service facilities have closed due to insecurity and lack of supplies (OCHA 01/02/2016).

In Hajjah governorate, GAM is at 20.9%, and SAM is at 3.8% (OCHA 15/10/2015; FEWSNET 30/01/2016). Lahj also faces 20.5% GAM in lowland areas (FEWSNET 30/01/2016). An assessment in Hodeidah governorate found 31% GAM, 9% of whom are severely malnourished – a significant increase from 18% GAM in 2014 (UNICEF 25/08/2015). An August assessment found 19.3% GAM in in Aden governorate (OCHA 19/02/2016; FEWSNET 30/09/2015).

WASH

19.3 million people – 3 in 4 Yemenis – lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation (OCHA 22/11/2015). Almost ten million people have lost access to safe water due to fuel shortages (OCHA 18/02/2016; 05/06/2015). Diesel needed to deliver public water and sanitation is 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. Fuel shortages are hindering trucked water deliveries (OCHA 22/05/2015). Some families spend one-third of their income on water (Thomson Reuters Foundation 12/08/2015). In Sanaa and Taizz, the price of water has tripled since the escalation of conflict (OHCHR 23/10/2015; WFP 19/08/2015). Taizz and Al Dhalee governorates are facing particularly low access to water (FEWSNET 17/11/2015).

Sanitation

Solid waste collection has been suspended and sewage treatment plants have reduced operations in several major cities (UNDP 25/01/2016; OCHA 19/06/2015). Garbage has been accumulating on the streets, due to fuel shortages and lack of access – Taizz governorate is particularly affected (UNDP 25/01/2016; OCHA

02/02/2016; 02/09/2015; UNICEF 07/07/2015). Government services are unable to collect waste from dump sites due to significantly reduced capacity (UNDP 26/01/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

2.8 million people are in need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA 22/11/2015). Shortages have led to an increase in commodity prices, as well as transport costs (Shelter Cluster 31/12/2015).

Shelter

Housing available for rent is becoming increasingly limited and costly; in some areas rental prices have tripled. 42% of IDPs are staying in rented houses (Protection Cluster 17/02/2016). 46% of IDPs are in public areas, schools, abandoned buildings or makeshift shelters (Protection Cluster 17/02/2016).

IDPs staying with host families (8% of IDPs) are reporting overcrowding, lack of food, and lack of adequate WASH facilities (OCHA 18/12/2015; Protection Cluster 17/02/2016).

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

1.8 million children are estimated to have lost access to school as a direct consequence of the current conflict (OCHA 18/02/2016). An estimated 1.6 million children were already out of school (UNICEF 17/11/2015; OCHA 18/02/2016; 13/11/2015). Registration and attendance rates are low (30–70%) in most governorates (UNICEF 17/11/2015).

Over 1,700 schools are closed due to continued insecurity (UNICEF 25/01/2016). Almost 800 schools have been damaged, including 174 destroyed. Some 58 schools are occupied by armed groups, and 169 are hosting IDPs (OCHA 22/12/2015; UNICEF 17/11/2015). The Saudi-led coalition has stated that schools are legitimate targets if used for military purposes, and have targeted school buildings (Amnesty International 11/12/2015; Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack 11/06/2015).

In northern governorates, teachers are no longer receiving salaries (OCHA 22/12/2015).

Protection

14.1 million people are in need of protection assistance, four times the number before the escalation of conflict (OCHA 22/11/2015). 13,080 human rights violations have been reported since March 2015, an average of 41 reports per day (OCHA 18/02/2016). Reports of gender-based violence have increased by 70% since last March (OCHA 31/12/2015).

Use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on civilian infrastructure, increased recruitment of children, and attacks against humanitarian workers have been reported (Human Rights Watch 10/01/2016; 25/11/2015; Save the Children 01/12/2015; OCHA 19/06/2015). In 2015, at least 6,119 civilians died or were injured by the use of explosive weapons, the highest number in the world (AOAV 25/02/2016). Armed groups have detained children, carried out extrajudicial executions, and subjected detainees to general ill-treatment (Human Rights Watch 02/09/2015).

Government detention facilities are severely overcrowded, and food, electricity, water, and fuel shortages reported (OHCHR 05/01/2016).

At least eight journalists have been killed in Yemen so far this year, and 13 are in captivity. Media agencies are frequently raided, and journalists targeted, tortured, and harassed (International Federation of Journalists 09/02/2016; BBC 18/01/2016).

Mines and ERW

Cluster munitions have been used by Saudi-led coalition forces (Cluster Munition Monitor 03/09/2015). At least 13 governorates are contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines. Anti-personnel mines have been reported in Abyan, Aden, Marib, Lahj, and Taizz (HRW 27/01/2016). Lack of access to contaminated areas is hampering mine action response (OCHA 14/09/2015).

Children

7.4 million children are in need of protection assistance (OCHA 22/11/2015). Over 750 children have been reported killed and 1,120 injured since March – the majority in coalition airstrikes (OCHA 28/02/2016; Save the Children 10/02/2016; UNICEF 12/01/2016; Save the Children 01/12/2015). An estimated eight children are killed or injured every day (OCHA 18/02/2016).

At least 740 children have been recruited by armed groups since the escalation of the conflict – almost five times as many as in 2014 (OCHA 22/12/2015). Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP, and government forces are reported to be recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 01/10/2014).

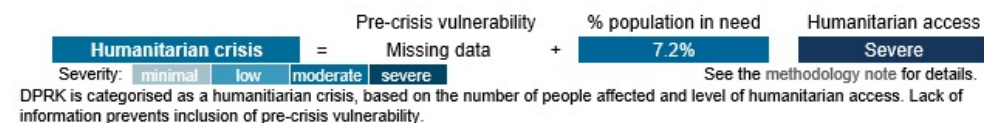
The Muhamasheen minority (about 10% of the population) suffer marginalisation and have greater humanitarian needs than most of the rest of the population. Muhamasheen mainly live in the cities most affected by conflict, including Aden, Taizz, Hodeidah and Sa'ada, and many have been internally displaced. Displaced Muhamasheen fled to open farmland, parks, and public spaces (Minority Rights Group 13/01/2016; International Dalit Solidarity Network 01/10/2015; UNICEF 20/02/2015).

Migrants en route to Saudi Arabia are vulnerable. 89% of migrants in reception centres in Hodeidah and 94% of migrants in reception centres in Aden report human rights abuse. This includes theft, GBV, trafficking, arbitrary detention and physical violence (IOM 26/01/2016; USAID 19/02/2016; UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Updated: 03/07/2016

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA DROUGHT, FOOD

INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new significant developments this week, 18/02/2016. Last update: 10/02/2016.

KEY FIGURES

- 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).

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian access remains extremely limited in DPRK, and very little information is available on the humanitarian situation. 70% of the population is dependent on government rations, which is highly vulnerable to shortages in food production. DPRK is disaster-prone, regularly experiencing intense rain, floods, and droughts.

Politics and security

Tensions between DPRK and South Korea increased after a landmine at the border injured two South Korean soldiers in early August 2015 (Guardian 04/08/2015). The tension resulted in a brief exchange of fire at the border – no casualties were reported – and DPRK and South Korea later agreed on a deal to reduce tensions (BBC 25/08/2015). Tensions escalated again in early January 2016 after DPRK claimed to have tested a hydrogen bomb, and further increased in early February when DPRK launched a long-range rocket (Reuters 08/02/2016; BBC 06/01/2016).

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 further complicate assistance, in particular due to the suspension of banking channels for fund transfers (UN 01/04/2015).

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 (70% of the population), are dependent on government rations and highly vulnerable to shortages in food production (OCHA 31/08/2015). The government rations in July and August 2015 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). 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).

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 are estimated to have been reduced by 40–50% in areas affected by the April-June drought, compared with normal levels. Rice planting was significantly affected by reduced rainfall in 2014, with 2015 output forecast at 12% lower than in 2014 (FAO 09/09/2015). Maize output is estimated to have fallen 15% from 2014 to

2015. Soybean production has also been affected (FAO 13/07/2015).

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).

In areas affected by the April-June drought, a 72% increase in diarrhoea cases among children under five has been recorded (UNICEF 26/01/2016).

Nutrition

According to FAO, 10.5 million people were undernourished in 2014 (FAO 27/05/2015).

Chronic and acute malnutrition remains one of the major contributors to maternal and child mortality (UNICEF 26/01/2015). 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

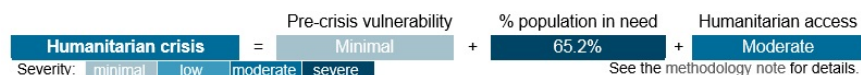
Lack of teaching/learning materials in addition to the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in school buildings remain a challenge (UNICEF 26/01/2015).

Protection

DPRK has been found to be responsible for widespread human rights violations against its citizens, including abductions, arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial executions, and forced labour (UN General Assembly 19/01/2016; 08/09/2015; Human Rights Watch 08/06/2015; UN 17/03/2014).

Reviewed: 18/02/2016

LEBANON DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 February: 40,807 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (OCHA).

KEY FIGURES

-3.3 million people in need (UNHCR 15/06/2015).

-1,069,111 Syrians registered as refugees (UNHCR 31/12/2015). The actual number is thought to be around 1.5 million (UNHCR 18/12/2015; Amnesty 02/11/2015).

-42,189 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) (OCHA 15/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- 55% of refugees live in informal settlements, unfinished buildings, or other substandard housing – an increase of 15% from 2014 in 2015 (UNHCR 03/11/2015). 1.8 million people in Lebanon are estimated to be in need of shelter assistance, including Syrian refugees, PRS, and Lebanese nationals (Shelter Sector 31/10/2015).

- 61% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have reported severe and crisis coping strategies, up from 28% last year (WFP 13/01/2016; UNHCR 31/07/2015).

- An increasing number of refugees face protection issues related to hurdles to obtaining or renewing residence permits and other important documentation (Amnesty 02/11/2015; HRW 12/01/2016).

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. Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees.

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 (Daily Star 16/12/2015). An alliance formed on 18 January between Lebanon's two largest Christian political parties may be a step towards resolving the political crisis (NYT 18/01/2016 ALM 18/01/2016).

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. On 20 December, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and militants in Lebanon exchanged rocket fire following reports that a senior Hezbollah commander was killed by Israeli airstrikes in Damascus (DW 20/12/2015; BBC 20/12/2015). Exchanges of fire continued into early January 2016, with Hezbollah allegedly attacked two IDF vehicles on 4 January. No civilian casualties have been reported (UN 04/01/2016; AFP 04/06/2016).

Fighting between the Lebanese Armed Forces and Jabhat Al Nusra has been ongoing in northern Lebanon, along the border with Syria, since August 2014. Violence broke out first in the town of Arsal, which has been a flashpoint for clashes since. On 5 November six people were killed in Arsal by a suicide bomber at a Muslim clerics meeting (AFP 05/11/2015).

Two suicide bombings in southern Beirut killed 41 people killed and wounded more than 200 on 12 November. The attack took place in Bourj al-Barajneh, a neighbourhood considered to be a Hezbollah stronghold, and Islamic State claimed responsibility (AFP 13/11/2015). Authorities have arrested 23 people in connection to the attacks, including Syrian and Lebanese nationals (Reuters 25/11/2015).

Palestinian refugee camps have seen tensions and fighting between Fatah and Islamist groups and the deployment of Palestinian joint security forces (UN 25/08/2015; Daily Star 27/08/2015).

Displacement

Refugees

As of 31 December 1,069,111 Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, a decrease from the peak of 1,185,250 million registered in May 2015. **Akkar is hosting 101,001; Bekaa 371,809; Beirut 28,587; Mount Lebanon 282,511; North Lebanon 159,931; and South Lebanon and El Nabatieh governorates 125,272 (UNHCR 31/12/2015; 30/10/2015).** 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).

The number of Syrians in Lebanon not registered with UNHCR is unknown, although the total number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon is estimated to be closer to 1.5

million (UNHCR 18/12/2015; Amnesty 02/11/2015).

The number of Syrian refugees recorded has been steadily decreasing since refugee registration was suspended on 6 May 2015, and refugees who registered after 5 January 2015 were deregistered. In the second half of 2015 there was an increase in onward movement of refugees, both through and from Lebanon (UNHCR 03/11/2015). For Syrians who have been living in Lebanon, dwindling assistance and difficulties obtaining or renewing legal residence in Lebanon are prompting onward movement (Protection Sector 31/10/2015). Many Syrians arrive directly from Syria and transit via the Masha'a or Aboudiyeh crossing-points.

Palestinian refugees from Syria: 40,807 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (OCHA 29/02/2016). 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. The security situation in Arsal also restricts access (WFP 31/12/2015). In the north, where winter conditions have caused some refugee families to move, it has been difficult for humanitarian actors to implement programmes (UNPF 31/12/2015).

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 2015, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa (UNHCR 25/01/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Refugees live across more than 1,700 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (ECHO 11/02/2016; 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). In Baalbek-Hermel governorate,

humanitarian actors frequently have to temporarily halt their activities due to security incidents (OCHA 01/12/2015). Snows in early January have particularly affected mountainous areas. Roads have been closed and access to parts of the country, especially in the north, have been limited, including to areas where refugees are living (Reuters 01/01/2016; Daily Star 03/01/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

1.5 million people are in need of food assistance (Food Security Cluster 11/02/2016). In December 2015, 23% of people were moderately food insecure, compared to 13% in 2014 (WFP 07/01/2015; 18/12/2014). Among the Syrian refugee population, approximately 23% are experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity in 2015, compared to 12% in 2014 (UN News 23/12/2015; WFP 31/10/2015). 94.5% of Palestinian refugees from Syria are estimated to be food insecure (OCHA 12/01/2016). Levels are highest in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP 01/07/2015).

Following cuts to the value of food vouchers allocated to refugees and vulnerable Lebanese, about 80% of people are adopting negative coping mechanisms such as taking out loans (WFP 31/12/2015).

Livelihoods

Syrian refugees are barred from working in Lebanon (WFP 16/06/2015). 61% of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have reported severe and crisis coping strategies, up from 28% last year (WFP 13/01/2016; UNHCR 31/07/2015). The percentage of Syrian households below the poverty line increased from 50% to 70% between 2014 and 2015, and of those households, only one in five adults reported earning some income in the last 30 days (UNHCR 03/11/2015). 90% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon are estimated to have gone into debt to pay basic expenses (UNHCR 20/11/2015). The Livelihoods Cluster estimates that 700,000 people are in need of livelihood support (UNDP 31/10/2015).

Health

3.3 million people are in need of healthcare (Health Cluster 31/10/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Health services are available, but costly, and the cost for refugees is reportedly rising (UNHCR 30/11/2015). 39% of Syrian refugees surveyed in June say that they are not seeking medical care because of the expense (UNHCR 20/11/2015). Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access (WHO 01/2015).

WASH

3.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF/UNHCR 05/05/2015). 39% of

Syrian refugee households do not have access to safe drinking water (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF 23/10/2015). WASH conditions are often below standards in Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut (IFRC 03/02/2015).

Sanitation

10% of Syrian refugees do not have access to bathroom facilities (UNHCR/WFP/UNICEF 23/10/2015). 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 limited the provision of services (OCHA 01/12/2015).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter

1.8 million people are in need of shelter assistance (Shelter Sector 31/10/2015). **In particular, 195,000 households were in need of shelter and NFI support this winter (UNHCR 31/01/2016).** 79% are Syrians, 15% are Lebanese, and 6% are Palestinian (Shelter Cluster 15/12/2015).

55% of refugees live in informal settlements, unfinished buildings, or other substandard housing – an increase of 15% from 2014 in 2015 (UNHCR 03/11/2015). 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 be living 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: 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 (UNRWA 22/05/2015). 50% of PRS are living in camps (UNRWA 14/01/2016).

Lebanese returnees: At least 50,000 Lebanese nationals returned from Syria between the

beginning of the crisis and May 2015, when they stopped being registered (UNDP, UNHCR; 06/05/2015). Many had been residing in Syria for decades and are thought to be concentrated in the same areas as the majority of Syrian refugees and face similar vulnerabilities (IOM 24/04/2015). Assessments in 2014 indicated that at least 51% of returnees are shelter insecure (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

Education

School enrolment among Syrian refugees increased by 60% in 2015 compared to 2014 (Education Sector 31/10/2015). Syrian children constitute about 40% of Lebanon's public school students and at the end of 2015, 207,000 Syrian children are enrolled in public schools in Lebanon through the double-shift system that schedules classes for Lebanese children in the morning and classes for refugee children in the afternoon (Guardian 07/01/2015; USAID 11/12/2015).

However, 983,280 children are still in need of education assistance

(UNICEF/Government 22/12/2015). This includes over half of the overall number of school-aged Syrians – more than 200,000 refugee children (UNHCR 04/11/2015; OCHA 12/01/2016). The enrolment rate for 15–17 year-olds among the Syrian refugee population is particularly low, at 5% (HRW 29/01/2016).

14% of households have withdrawn their children from school due to increased food insecurity (WFP 31/12/2015).

Protection

Main protection concerns include the presence of ERW; child labour; 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 munition strike areas: 15.23 km² is contaminated by ERW. 1,757 people were killed by IEDs in Lebanon between 2011 and 2014 (OCHA 02/12/2015). 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). In total 9.9% of households have children who are working (Save the Children 30/11/2015). There

are concerns of early marriage being used as a coping mechanism for vulnerable families (Guardian 02/02/2016). There are also reports of children returning to Syria to join armed groups in the hope of pay (Disaster Emergency Committee 28/09/2015). 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). In January 2015, the Lebanese government introduced new criteria making it extremely difficult for Syrian nationals to renew Lebanese residence permits, including requiring a “pledge of responsibility” from a Lebanese national. Syrians lacking valid residence permits are left vulnerable to arrest, harassment, exploitation and deportation (Amnesty 02/11/2015, HRW 12/01/2016).

An estimated 90% of PRS in Lebanon are not documented (HRW 12/01/2016).

On 8 January Lebanese security forces forcibly returned 400 Syrians, who were in Beirut International Airport en route to Turkey, following changes in Turkey's visa policy towards Syrians (HRW 11/01/2016; NYT 08/01/2016).

Forced evictions: 18,000 people are thought to have been evicted from 115 informal tented settlements since the beginning of the year, approximately 51% of whom (an estimated 9,276 individuals) were evicted in Bekaa governorate. 39% of the evictions (8,720 individuals) were in Akkar governorate, and 10% (1,699 individuals) in North governorate. An additional 150 families are thought to be at risk of eviction in Ouzai collective shelter in Mount Lebanon governorate and 50 families in Ghazieh in South governorate. (UNHCR 15/10/2015). In total, 4% of the refugee population in Lebanon is considered to be at risk of eviction (OCHA 12/01/2016).

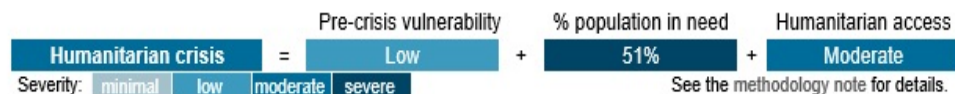
Documentation

Refugees who entered after 5 January 2015 and have been subsequently registered should be deregistered, according to government regulations. 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). This has led to increasing numbers of refugees who are undocumented and vulnerable.

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, the UN has recorded approximately 70,000 Syrian births in Lebanon. However, an estimated 92% of refugees in Lebanon report not being able to complete the administrative steps to register births (NRC 01/02/2016). Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962 are also stateless in Lebanon.

Updated: 03/03/2016

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES **COMPLEX, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY**



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24 February: Israeli authorities have recently intensified the destruction or confiscation of property in Area C: almost 500 Palestinians have been displaced due to housing demolitions since the start of the year (EU 24/02/2016; OCHA 22/02/2016).

22 February: Over 40 people have been killed and over 1,000 people injured across oPt since the start of 2016; the vast majority Palestinian (OCHA).

KEY FIGURES

2.3 million people need humanitarian assistance; 1 million in the West Bank and 1.3 million in Gaza (OCHA 25/01/2016).

1.8 million people are in need of protection assistance (OCHA 25/01/2016).

1.6 million people are food insecure (OCHA 25/01/2016).

1.7 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA 14/12/2015).

1.4 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

Protection: People are facing or at risk of forced displacement, administrative detention, exposure to explosive remnants of war (ERW) and outbreaks of physical violence.

Health: Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages. Mental health disorders constitute a major medical concern.

Shelter: An estimated 100,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been living in damaged and makeshift structures since the 50-day war in 2014.

OVERVIEW

Ensuring the delivery of essential services including healthcare, food, water and electricity remain of concern across the Gaza strip and the West Bank due to access restrictions imposed by Israel and neighbouring countries. Needs are particularly acute in Gaza, where around 100,000 Palestinians remain displaced from the 50-day war in 2014 and the ongoing blockade continues to severely restrict the delivery of services and the movement of people and goods.

Politics and security

Heightened tensions across oPt in September developed significantly in October: violent clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces, as well as a series of stabbing attacks by Palestinians against Israelis, have been a regular occurrence since 1 October. Israeli authorities have implemented new security measures including the deployment of at least 300 more soldiers, additional checkpoints, longer prison sentences for stone throwers, and accelerated a policy of punitive demolition of the family homes of Palestinian attackers. There has also been a sharp increase in the numbers of arrests and detentions (20/01/2016). Some of these measures are said to constitute forms of collective punishment and a violation of human rights (OCHA 31/01/2016; 06/01/2016; AFP 09/01/2016).

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 resigned in June. Hamas now governs the Gaza Strip, and Fatah the West Bank (Al Jazeera 17/06/2015).

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 (Independent 01/07/2015; Al Jazeera 01/07/2015). Sunni militants linked to IS have said they were behind rockets launched from Gaza in recent months, but Israel holds Hamas responsible (AFP 02/01/2016).

On 20 January it was announced that Israel has begun constructing a security fence along its border with Jordan, with the stated aim of blocking the movement of illegal migrants (AFP 20/01/2016).

Hamas is an Islamist organisation established in 1987 during 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 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. **Although the level of violence is currently below the peak towards the end of 2015, regular demonstrations and violent clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinian residents continue. International media report that since 1 October, violent clashes have killed 178 Palestinians, 28 Israelis, an Arab Israeli, a US citizen, a Sudanese and an Eritrean (AFP 01/03/2016).** At least 39 of the Palestinians killed were children (PRCS 20/02/2016). Over 15,000 Palestinians and 350 Israelis are reported to have been injured (OCHA 06/01/2016). Live ammunition accounts for 27% of injuries (OCHA 08/12/2015). **Over 40 people have been killed and over 1,000 have been injured since the start of 2016; the vast majority Palestinian (OCHA 22/02/2016).** The majority of Palestinians have been killed while carrying out attacks on soldiers, but others have been killed during clashes and demonstrations (AFP 01/03/2016).

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Clashes and protests between Palestinians and Israeli security forces have been occurring across the West Bank almost daily since 1 October. Settler violence has increased since early October (OCHA 08/12/2015). The majority of injuries recorded have been in the

Qalqilya, Hebron, and Bethlehem governorates (OCHA 08/12/2015; 02/01/2016).

Gaza

Violent clashes and protests have occurred regularly since 1 October. On 25 December around 40 Palestinians were injured in clashes with Israeli forces at several points along the barrier separating Gaza from Israel (AFP 25/12/2015).

People are frequently injured in the Access Restricted Area (ARA), which is also referred to as the Israeli buffer zone. This is the area along the land and sea borders of Gaza. Israeli forces open fire on those accused of entering. **Since the start of February the number of recorded incidents of Israeli forces shooting in to this area has increased compared to previous months: no injuries have been reported (OCHA 08/02/2016; 22/02/2016).**

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 95,000 of whom were displaced by the July–August 2014 conflict (OCHA 25/01/2016). 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). The escalation of tensions and violence since October has resulted in the increased speed and use of punitive housing demolitions.

Many IDPs are believed to be staying with the host communities, but their exact location, shelter requirements and other needs are unclear (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

Israel continues to impose a blockade on Gaza, severely restricting the movement of goods and people.

In response to the latest wave of violence Israeli authorities have intensified access restrictions across the West Bank, including the implementation of more checkpoints and roadblocks. Since October, 91 new obstacles have been implemented and remain in place. This is in addition to over 450 pre-existing obstacles, representing a 20% increase in the overall number (OCHA 31/01/2016). Restrictions on Palestinian freedom of movement are causing delays and hindering access to services and livelihoods (OCHA 06/01/2016).

Access of relief actors to affected populations

The Palestinian Red Crescent has reported 377 assaults on the organisation since 3 October, and regular restrictions on the movement of their ambulances by the Israeli authorities (PRCS 27/02/2016). Almost half of the society’s ambulances have been

damaged by Israeli forces since October (Al Jazeera 19/12/2015).

Between January and end of October 2015, 28% of applications that allow for the movement of UN national staff were denied or pending, marking an increase in denials compared to 2014 (OCHA 25/01/2016).

Access of affected populations to assistance

West Bank and East Jerusalem: The Hebron governorate remains the most severely affected by access restrictions (OCHA 02/01/2016). There is only one route out of the city (AFP 12/11/2015). Youths aged 15–25 have been banned from certain streets (OCHA 02/01/2016). In East Jerusalem, a number of checkpoints and obstacles have been removed, however one checkpoint in Jabal Al Moukaber and roadblocks in Eisawiah continue to affect the movement of residents and hinder access to medical assistance (PRCS 19/01/2016)

Gaza

Rafah Crossing is often closed. For the first time since early December the crossing was opened over 13-14 February, allowing 700 people to exit Gaza and 700 others to return from Egypt. Currently at least 25,000 Palestinians are registered as humanitarian cases waiting to leave Gaza via Rafah (Al Jazeera 14/02/2016; OCHA 08/02/1016).

Erez Crossing: The number of crossings in October was 26% below the 2015 monthly average (OCHA 13/11/2015; 19/10/2015; 12/10/2015). During November the number of crossings increased. The crossing remains open only for those with Israeli issued permits, primarily medical cases and aid workers (OCHA 30/11/2015).

In November an increase in the number of medical referrals out of Gaza was issued due to the deteriorating health service in Gaza. However, the number of exit permits being approved has decreased, making access to external facilities more difficult (OCHA 08/12/2015).

There is a 55% energy deficit in Gaza. The entire population of Gaza is affected by rolling power cuts that are in effect daily, due to lack of fuel and interrupted supply from Egypt. In the past two weeks the electricity schedule has reduced from 12-16 hours of electricity a day, to between four and eight hours a day (OCHA 25/01/2016; 04/01/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

1.6 million people are food insecure, equating to 31% of the population: 47% of the population of Gaza and 16% of the population of the West Bank (OCHA 25/01/2016). 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.

Livelihoods

The olive industry makes up 25% of agricultural income in oPt, supporting the livelihoods of 100,000 families. The yield for 2015 is 25% less than 2014. An estimated 11,000 olive trees have been vandalised by settlers in 2015. This is the largest figure recorded since 2011 (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Since the start of the year over 1,000 Palestinians in Area C have lost structures relating to their livelihood activities, as a result of property demolitions (OCHA 22/02/2016; 16/02/2016).

As of 28 February, Palestinians have been banned from entering Maale Adumim settlement for five days, following an attack that injured an Israeli security guard. 500 Palestinian workers are affected (AFP 28/02/2016). This is the third time this year that Palestinians have been banned from entering settlements (Al Jazeera 20/02/2016).

Health

1.4 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

Patients requiring medical assistance regularly have to be referred to services in either Egypt or Israel.

Al Shifa hospital in Gaza is running with only 80% of staff, and half the buildings are at risk of collapse (Al Jazeera 08/12/2015). Gaza's electricity supply has decreased to between four and eight hours a day, placing additional strain on health infrastructure (OCHA 25/01/2016).

Child 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).

Mental health

There are indications that the rate of suicide has increased since Operation Protective Edge in Gaza in 2014. Social stigmatisation of surviving family members, due to the religious condemnation and cultural view of suicide, prevents accurate reporting (AFP 30/09/2015; OCHA 31/11/2015).

282,000 children are in need of psychosocial support (OCHA 02/12/2015). Trauma amongst children has become an increasingly significant problem since the escalation of

violence in October (SOS International 15/02/2016).

Nutrition

1.4 million people are in need of nutrition assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015).

WASH

1.7 million people are in need of WASH assistance, particularly access to water (OCHA 14/12/2015).

Water

More than 70% of Gaza's population receive just six to eight hours water supply every two to four days (OCHA 04/01/2016). The Coastal Aquifer Basin is the only source of fresh water in Gaza. Only 5% of this water is potable (Al Jazeera 08/11/2015).

Over 85% of the Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank are not connected to water (OCHA 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

Sanitation

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).

Sanitation facilities are in dire conditions across the Gaza strip. A cluster of around 70 makeshift tin homes in Khuzaa, on the outskirts of Gaza city, have no plumbing or washing facilities. The community is susceptible to the spread of bacteria and viruses (Al Jazeera 21/12/2015).

Shelter

An estimated 1 million Palestinians are in need of shelter and NFI assistance (OCHA 25/01/2016).

The 90,000 people displaced by the 2014 Gaza-Israeli hostilities remain in need of improved temporary shelter (OCHA 31/01/2016). 590,000 people are living in damaged houses or makeshift shelters. The Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism agreed by Palestinian and Israeli governments has allowed for the import of materials needed for the reconstruction of 15% of the houses destroyed (OCHA 31/01/2016).

In Area C of the West Bank, 107 communities have been identified as living in bad conditions and are in need of assistance (Shelter Cluster 16/11/2015).

Education

600,000 people are in need of education assistance (OCHA 14/12/2015). UN schools in the Gaza have temporarily closed due to a recent spell of cold and wet weather (AFP 31/01/2016).

The heightened level of violence that began in October continues to impact children's access to school. Roads are blocked around Hebron and some schools are closed (SOS International 15/02/2016).

On 21 February Israeli authorities dismantled a school in the Bedouin community of Abu Nuwar, east of Jerusalem, due to lack of a building permit (OCHA 22/02/2016).

Protection

The Israeli authorities are accused of detaining individuals without trial, including children; forcibly displacing communities; legalising the use of force feeding of prisoners; and building on and claiming Palestinian land (Al Jazeera 30/07/2015; EU 27/01/2016). Israeli authorities have been accused of increasingly using torture methods against detainees. The Palestinian Authority has also been accused of using torture methods on prisoners (B'T Selem and HaMoked 12/2015; AFP 24/02/2016). **Since 18 February, 84 administrative detention orders have been placed on Palestinians: 39 were newly arrested and 45 others had their detention prolonged. The total number of Palestinians held under administrative detention inside Israel is 700 (AFP 29/02/2016).**

At least 361 violations against Palestinian journalists were documented in 2015, 100 of these since the latest wave of violence began in October (Al Jazeera 14/12/2015).

Since October there has been a sharp increase in the number of human rights workers subjected to physical attacks, harassment, arrest, detention and death threats, and particularly around Hebron (UN Human Rights Council 18/12/2015).

Demolitions

1,081 demolitions were recorded from January 2014 to the end of October 2015 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, 394 (36%) of which were residential. 4,327 individuals have been affected. This is a 25% increase in 2015 from 2014 (Shelter Cluster Palestine 30/10/2015). Since 1 October at least 100 people have been displaced as a result of punitive housing demolition in Hebron, Ramallah, and East Jerusalem: at least half the displaced are children (OCHA 02/12/2015).

Israeli authorities have recently intensified the destruction or confiscation of property in Area C due to a perceived lack of building permits: almost 500 Palestinians, over half of them children, have been displaced due to housing demolitions since the start of the year. More than a third of the properties demolished had been provided through humanitarian assistance after previous demolitions. The

number of people displaced due to housing demolitions equates to over half the amount displaced in 2015 (OCHA 22/02/2016; 16/02/2016; EU 24/02/2016).

There are 11,000 outstanding housing demolition orders against Palestinian property in Area C of the West Bank (OCHA 06/01/2016).

Vulnerable groups

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. Communities are also often temporarily displaced to allow for Israeli military training (OCHA 09/11/2015; 06/01/2015).

On 22 November the Israeli government approved a plan which allows for the construction of five Jewish settlements in the Negev region in Area C of the West Bank, including on two Bedouin villages, home to 7,500 people (Al Jazeera 26/11/2015). The Israeli government plans to relocate the Bedouin communities to three designated sites away from their current location (UNRWA 19/01/2016).

Over 85% of the Bedouin communities are not connected to the electricity and water networks (OCHA 06/05/2015; 30/04/2015).

Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW)

Palestinian civilians and security forces continue to be killed and injured by explosive remnants of war. Over 7,000 ERW are estimated to remain in Gaza, a result of the 2014 hostilities (ECHO 31/12/2015).

Children

Over 200 children have been injured in clashes with Israeli forces since violence escalated in October (Al Jazeera 19/12/2015). At least 39 Palestinian children have been killed (PRCS 21/02/2016).

The Israeli army continues to arrest or detain Palestinian children as young as 11 (HRW 20/07/2015). The number of Palestinian children in Israeli prisons has risen from 156 at the end of September to over 400 by the end of December (UNICEF 17/02/2016). This is the largest number of children inside the Israeli prison system since 2009. Three-quarters of them are reported to have experienced some form of physical violence following arrest. Six children are currently under administrative detention: this is the first time this measure has been used against Palestinian minors in four years (OCHA 31/01/2016; Defense for Children International, 20/01/2016).

Updated: 01/03/2016

PAKISTAN CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 29/02/2016. Last update 22/02/2016.

KEY FIGURES

- Around 1 million IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA (OCHA 22/02/2016).
- 1.5 million Afghan refugees, the majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (UNHCR 18/11/2015).
- 4,654 violence-related deaths were recorded in 2015, compared to 7,611 in 2014, and 5,694 in 2013 (DAWN 02/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

Health: Inadequate facilities, lack of trained staff, and mismanagement has led to a spike in the caseload of some communicable diseases (DAWN 27/06/2015; 16/05/2015; The Nation 13/04/2015). In Tharparkar district, Sindh province, outbreaks of drought-related waterborne and viral diseases have caused the deaths of 190 children and the hospitalization of other 22,000 since the beginning of 2016 (DAWN 14/02/2016).

Food security: An estimated 58% of households in Pakistan are food insecure (ECHO 26/10/2015).

Protection: Protection issues in Pakistan concern mainly the situation of women and children, violence against minorities and refugees (especially Afghans), and violence against media workers (HRW 18/11/2015).

OVERVIEW

The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas. Over 1 million people remain displaced within Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. Additionally 1.5 million registered and around 1.2 million undocumented Afghans are staying in Pakistan.

The needs of IDPs and Afghan refugees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are of particular concern.

Politics and security

Political stability and security are limited in several regions of Pakistan, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), and Gilgit-Baltistan (World Bank 24/09/2015; Diplomacy Pakistan 17/11/2015; Tribune 13/05/2015; DAWN 09/07/2015). The military offensive against the Pakistani Taliban (TTP), which began in 2014, and continued attacks by TTP have had a severe humanitarian impact in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Elsewhere, sectarian violence continues, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. Balochistan is also affected by a prolonged separatist insurgency. Conflict flares sporadically at the Line of Control dividing Pakistan and India in the disputed region of Kashmir (SATP 18/10/2015). 4,654 violence-related deaths were recorded in 2015, compared to 7,611 in 2014, and 5,694 in 2013 (DAWN 02/01/2016).

Foreign relations

Pakistan's relations with India have been tense for decades, and have deteriorated with the recent surge in violence in Kashmir (Jakarta Post 03/10/2015). On 9 December, media sources reported that India and Pakistan had agreed to resume peacetalks, starting dialogue over territorial disputes "from scratch" (AFP 09/12/2015).

Relations with Afghanistan have deteriorated recently. 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 the 20 January Taliban attack on Bacha Khan University in Charsadda (ICG 01/10/2015; Reuters 18/09/2015; VOA 02/11/2015; DAWN 20/01/2016; 21/01/2016; The Guardian 20/01/2016). On 11 January, Islamabad hosted the first round of four-way talks between Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, and the United States to revive the peace process between Afghanistan and the Taliban. Pakistan will also host the first direct peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban, which are expected to take place in the first week of March (AFP 11/01/2016; DAWN 23/02/2016).

Security incidents

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)

As of 13 February, at least one person was killed and eight were wounded during a clash, with no firearms involved, between the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) in the area of Nakial bazaar, in Kotli (DAWN

13/02/2016).

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

On 20 January, at least 20 people were killed and more than 50 were injured in a Taliban attack on Bacha Khan University in Charsadda. Some sources report more than 30 dead (DAWN 20/01/2016; The Guardian 20/01/2016). On 19 January, at least 11 people were killed and 36 injured in a suicide attack on a market in Peshawar during the morning rush hour (AFP 19/01/2016).

Balochistan

Several armed groups, including the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), have been fighting for greater autonomy since 1948. A sharp rise in acts of violence in 2014 persisted through 2015. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also increasing (ICG 01/10/2015).

Police officers have been frequently targeted in attacks, with a particularly high number in Quetta since June 2015 (DAWN 20/10/2015; 27/07/2015; 14/07/2015; 11/06/2015; 06/06/2015; Dunya News 09/01/2016). Over 8,000 suspected militants were arrested and 204 killed in 2015, according to the home secretary of the province (ICG 01/10/2015). On 6 February, at least nine people were killed and over 35 injured by a bomb attack on a military convoy in Quetta (Reuters 06/02/2016).

Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In January 2016, renewed security operations caused the displacement of an additional 2,000 people in FATA (ECHO 20/01/2016). The government carried out large-scale operations against the Taliban in North Waziristan and Khyber agency (FATA) 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).

On 20 February, three IDPs were killed and one was injured by an improvised explosive device in Navi Mandi, Datta Khel tehsil. On 19 February, militants blew up a new school facility in Tiarza tehsil, South Waziristan, damaging particularly the girls' wing and heavy construction machinery that was nearby. Additionally, 18 construction workers were abducted from the area, but released briefly afterwards (DAWN 20/02/2016). On 21 January, a rocket fired from Afghanistan killed at least three people in Angoor Adda Bazaar, in South Waziristan (AFP 21/01/2016).

Natural disasters

Pakistan is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to earthquakes or

disasters triggered by hazards related to climate change, and the population is highly exposed to large-scale events (UNDP 04/12/2015; DAWN 04/10/2015). Flooding in 2010 and the 2005 earthquake were particularly damaging disasters (IOM 31/08/2015; DAWN 08/10/2015).

Earthquake

On 25 December, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake with epicentre in northeastern Afghanistan injured 90 people in Pakistan, killed three, and damaged 12 houses, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, and Gilgit-Baltistan (AFP 26/12/2015; ECHO 26/12/2015; OCHA 31/12/2015).

Displacement

More than 1 million remain displaced of the over 5.3 million people who were forced to leave their homes due to security operations that started in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the FATA in 2009 (OCHA 22/02/2016; 31/12/2015). In addition, Pakistan hosts over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees and an estimated 1.2 million unregistered Afghan nationals (ECHO 16/11/2015).

IDPs

Over 1 million people remained displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-February 2016 (OCHA 22/02/2016). In the week up to 20 January, renewed security operations displaced an additional 2,200 people (ECHO 20/01/2016). Only around 2% of IDPs are in camps; the rest are in host communities. The largest IDP populations are in Bannu, Peshawar, and Dera Ismail Khan (OCHA 21/01/2016; 08/10/2015; UNHCR 30/09/2015; 01/12/2015). An estimated 75% of the displaced are women and children (OCHA 30/09/2015).

The phased return of IDPs in FATA started mid-March 2015. As of 18 February, almost 740,000 people (125,312 registered families) have returned: 74,645 families to Khyber agency, 37,064 to North Waziristan, 9,865 to South Waziristan, 3,038 to Kurram, and 700 to Orakzai (OCHA 22/02/2016; 12/10/2015). Returnees find damaged infrastructure and limited access to basic services (UNDP 27/01/2016).

Refugees in Pakistan

1.5 million documented refugees and over 1.2 million undocumented Afghan refugees live in Pakistan as of 22 January 2016 (ECHO 22/01/2016). Of these, 281,000 are being hosted in Balochistan (DAWN 07/12/2015).

Pakistani authorities have included the repatriation of refugees in a new anti-terrorism action plan, after the Taliban attack on a school in Peshawar in December

2014 (AAN 09/03/2015). On 14 January 2016, registered Afghan refugees were granted a six-month extension to their stay, until 30 June 2016, and on 19 February, an extension of their stay until the 31 December 2017 was reported to be under consideration of the ministers' cabinet (DAWN 14/01/2016; 19/02/2016).

Pakistani refugees in neighbouring countries

As of 8 December, around 236,600 Pakistani refugees are reported to be in Afghanistan (UNHCR 21/12/2015). As of September, the return of Pakistanis from Afghanistan's Paktika and Khost provinces was reported to be unlikely, as they were already being integrated by many host communities (Solidarités International 02/09/2015).

90,000 Pakistanis were repatriated from the EU in 2015 (AFP 06/11/2015). However, the EU has voiced its concerns over the difficulties repatriating undocumented Pakistani migrants, and Pakistan has accused EU members of deporting Pakistani nationals without verification (Tribune Pakistan 26/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

The principal concern in terms of humanitarian access is violence against healthcare workers. Frequent episodes of violence targeting health workers delivering polio vaccinations have occurred, especially in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN 13/11/2015; VOA 14/02/2015; BBC 17/02/2015; Al Jazeera 28/03/2015).

Access of aid workers to affected population

Several security incidents involving aid workers were reported in 2015. Four peace volunteers were 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 (ECHO 26/10/2015). According to the most recent IPC analysis, Tharparkar and Badin districts, Sindh province, were in Crisis in November 2015 (ECHO 08/01/2016). As of June, four districts were facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, including South Waziristan and North Waziristan agencies in FATA, and Chagai district in Balochistan. 29 districts were facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, mostly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, FATA, and Balochistan (FAO 20/11/2015; Food

Security Cluster 03/02/2016).

Livelihoods

95% of the cultivable land in FATA is reportedly either fallow or damaged. For returning IDPs, seeds, tools, equipment, and fertilisers are priorities so they can reclaim land for agriculture (OCHA 11/02/2016). 70% of the IDP population in FATA depends on daily labour and other unstable sources of livelihoods. Only 30% have more stable occupations, such as in agriculture or shop-keeping (OCHA 11/02/2016).

Health

Concerns about inadequate facilities, unskilled and untrained staff, and mismanagement in the national healthcare system have been raised recently, also following a spike in the caseload of some communicable diseases (DAWN 27/06/2015; 16/05/2015; The Nation 13/04/2015). Together with Afghanistan, Pakistan is one of the two countries where polio remains endemic. Other communicable diseases are dengue, hepatitis A and B, typhoid, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, measles, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, and rabies (GPEI 24/11/2015; CDC 31/07/2015; DAWN 29/01/2015; 01/10/2015; Al Hasan 03/07/2015).

Child health

On 24 November, the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services unanimously passed the "Islamabad Compulsory Vaccination Bill" in order to enforce basic immunisations. The bill will have to go through the NHS ministry and the Senate for amendments and final discussion (DAWN 25/11/2015).

Tharparkar district of Sindh province has experienced drought for four consecutive years. As of 19 February, 172 children have died, and over 22,000 have been hospitalised in Thar area in 2016, because of waterborne and viral diseases, including diarrhoeal diseases, and other drought-related causes (Al Hasan 23/02/2016; DAWN 14/02/2016; 09/01/2016; IRIN 04/02/2016). A lack of food and medicines is reported (Al Hasan 01/02/2016). Access to healthcare in Tharparkar district is very limited, with families that often have to travel an average of 17km to reach health facilities (IRIN 04/02/2016).

Dengue

In 2015, 9,899 cases of dengue were recorded, including seven deaths, compared to 1,991 cases and 18 deaths in 2014. In 2013, the number of cases was 20,710, including 104 deaths (Al Hasan 01/02/2016). Reports indicate that dengue has become an all-season disease in Karachi, due to inadequate response of health authorities (Al

Hasan 16/02/2016; 14/12/2015).

Malaria

In 2015, more than 44,700 cases of malaria were recorded in Sindh. The most affected districts were Khairpur, Thattha, Larkana, and Mirpurkhas (Al Hasan 26/01/2016).

Polio

As of 27 February, five polio cases have been recorded in Pakistan in 2016: three in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, one in Karachi, Sindh, and one in Quetta, Balochistan (Al Hasan 27/02/2016). 51 cases of polio were reported in Pakistan in 2015 and 290 polio cases in 2014 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative 30/12/2015). However, refusals of polio vaccinations are still recorded in many provinces (DAWN 17/09/2015). According to government officials, the overall decrease in cases is explained by increased security for health personnel and improved social mobilisation, especially in FATA and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (DAWN 19/10/2015). In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, only 18 cases were reported in 2015, compared to 68 in 2014. Of these, 10 were recorded in Peshawar, likely because of non-monitored movements of children to and from Afghanistan (DAWN 12/01/2016; 04/01/2016). Vaccination teams are working on the official entry points over the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 2015, only an estimated 16,000 children missed immunisation in the country, compared to around 292,000 in 2014. However, people enter the country from different routes, making it very challenging to reach a 100% coverage (DAWN 06/02/2016; 14/02/2016). On 10 January 2016, Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed to synchronise vaccination campaigns (DAWN 10/01/2016). During the 15-19 February vaccination campaign, polio workers were refused access in a private school in Ayesha Manzil, in Karachi, Sindh. The school officials reported parents' refusal as the main cause for access restriction (DAWN 18/02/2016). In Balochistan, more than 15,000 children did not receive their vaccination during a campaign because of refusal or absence. The refusal rate was reported to be higher in Quetta than in other parts of the province (DAWN 16/02/2016).

Swine flu

A new outbreak of swine flu was reported in Punjab with 95 cases, including 12 deaths. 14 cases were recorded in Peshawar, and over 13 in Islamabad (Al Hasan 18/01/2016). 22 cases were recorded in Rawalpindi, including eight dead (Al Hasan 01/02/2016).

Nutrition

Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate in Pakistan is as high as 15.1%. Over 3.5

million children are undernourished, and 1 million children (5.8%) suffer from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) (ECHO 26/10/2015; 22/01/2016). In South Waziristan agency, global acute malnutrition rates among IDPs are above the WHO emergency threshold of 14% (OCHA 17/09/2015). In Sindh, the areas worst affected by the drought have reached 25% GAM and 11.1% SAM (ECHO 24/02/2016).

WASH

In Pakistan, 91.4% of people have access to an improved water source, while 63.5% have access to improved sanitation (World Bank - Improved Water Source 2015; Improved Sanitation 2015). The presence of waterborne diseases, and the fact that polio is still endemic, make WASH a priority (UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Water

In July, around 50% of the 1,500 government-run health facilities did not have access to water. Water sources are rapidly depleting in K-P and FATA due to overburdening for farming and food production purposes. (Inter Press News 15/11/2015).

On 21 December, a severe shortage of drinking water was reported in the city of Gwadar, in Balochistan, a result of the Ankara Dam drying up. This is the second severe water shortage affecting Gwadar in the last six years. As of 16 February, 100,000 people in the city still have no access to clean water, with children and women forced to carry water for miles to cover their needs. The government is still carrying out water trucking (DAWN 21/12/2015; 06/02/2016; 16/02/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

Emergency shelter in Pakistan is a priority for many of those affected by the 26 October earthquake, most of whom are still displaced in mountainous areas while winter approaches and temperatures decrease (OCHA 30/11/2015; DAWN 05/11/2015; 24/11/2015). Shelter is a main concern for over 1.2 million who are still displaced in the FATA as a result of 2014 security operations (IDMC 24/08/2015).

Education

Pakistan education suffers from low budget and resources, gender inequality, and security issues. The Guardian 02/04/2015; Brookings 19/10/2015). Rural areas, in particular, are affected by a lack of education facilities, requiring many children to walk long-distances to attend school, exacerbating security issues for girls, and reducing the likelihood of parents sending their children to school (Peace Child 08/01/2015). Schools reportedly lack basic facilities such as drinking water and toilets. Teachers are reported to lack adequate education (DAWN 22/06/2015).

In FATA there are over 6,000 education facilities but only around 4,800 are functional. 1,200 schools are non-functional because of the security situation or militants' threats (DAWN 24/01/2016). In 2016, in FATA the average literacy rate is 24%: 36% for males, and 10.5% for females (DAWN 24/01/2016).

Schools in Punjab reopened on 1 February. All private and public schools were closed between 26 and 31 January, officially due to "extreme cold weather". However, other sources report that the government decided to close the schools because of their poor security measures (DAWN 31/01/2016).

Protection

Protection issues in Pakistan concern mainly the situation of women and children, violence against minorities and refugees (especially Afghans), and violence against media workers. Lack of documentation for refugees, underreporting of violence episodes against women and children, and inadequate or inappropriate behaviour of the police are among the main protection issues. (Pakistan Gender News 28/11/2015; DAWN 01/06/2015; 02/11/2015; Tribune Pakistan 14/05/2015; HRW 18/11/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Media workers have been increasingly targeted by different factions in the last years, reaching a peak of 32 attacks in 2014. In 2015, as of 28 November, eight cases of violence against journalists were recorded, and in almost all cases the attacks remained unpunished (DAWN 11/09/2015; Reuters 03/11/2015; 09/09/2015; Pakistan Today 28/11/2015).

Updated: 29/02/2016

JORDAN DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

26 February: The number of Syrian asylum seekers stranded at the border with inadequate assistance has grown to 28,000. Reports of theft, violence and extortion are rising. Maternal and neonatal deaths continue to be recorded (ECHO).

KEY FIGURES

- Over 636,000 Syrian refugees and 53,000 Iraqi refugees in Jordan (UNHCR 31/01/2016; 15/01/2016).
- Only 14% of refugees are food secure, compared to 53% last year (3RP 18/12/2015).
- Rates of return to Syria increased significantly from July—September 2015. October and November rates were lower, but remain concerning given the ongoing instability in Syria (UNHCR 30/11/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security and livelihoods are a key priority, as refugees and host communities struggle with dwindling resources and rising living costs (WFP 31/10/2015).
- Protection activities are important to build social cohesion between refugees and host communities and reduce rising SGBV and child marriage rates (SGBV Working Group 01/12/2015).
- Shelter is a major concern outside of camps: humanitarian shelter programmes have been constrained by government and lack of funding (NRC 01/06/2015).

OVERVIEW

Jordan hosts a large refugee population. Most are from Syria and Iraq, with others from oPt, and smaller Sudanese, Somali, Yemeni and other communities. Registered Syrian refugees alone account for almost 10% of Jordan's population, with unofficial figures much higher. While 20% of Syrian refugees live in official camps, most live among Jordanian host communities, which has put pressure on local infrastructure and services. As a result, many refugees and vulnerable Jordanians live in substandard shelter, and face food security and livelihoods, WASH, health, education and protection needs.

Politics and security

The influx of Syrian refugees has strained basic public services, including health, education, and WASH infrastructure, placing pressure on the Jordanian government and contributing to tensions between refugee and host communities (Jordan Response Plan 2015).

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). Economic growth slowed from 3.1% in 2014 to 2.4% in 2015, in part due to reduced trade between Jordan's and its conflict-affected neighbours (AFP 02/02/2016).

Ramtha, a town of 120,000 located 90km north of Amman, was hit by multiple shells in 2015, resulting from unstable security conditions on the Syrian side of the border (The Jordan Times 07/10/2015).

On 23 January a group of 36 people trying to enter Jordan from Syria were caught in clashes with border guards: 12 people were killed and 36 others injured (AFP 23/01/2016).

Displacement

Over 636,000 Syrian refugees are now registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR 31/12/2015). Since a rapid initial influx in 2013 and steady growth in 2014, the number of Syrians in Jordan remained at around 620,000–630,000 throughout 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 31 January, 636,169 Syrian refugees are registered in Jordan (UNHCR 31/01/2016). The government of Jordan claims that the actual number of Syrian refugees hosted in Jordan is around 1.4 million (AFP 11/01/2016). 30,167 Syrians arrived in 2015 (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

50.7% of registered refugees are female. 51.5% are below 18 years of age, 45% are between 18 and 59, and 3.5% are older than 60 years (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

519,667 refugees (82%) are reported to be hosted in urban areas, while 116,502 (18%) are in camps. Of the refugees living outside camps, 177,829 live in Amman governorate, 141,465 in Irbid governorate, 77,698 in Mafraq governorate, and 49,599 in Zarqa governorate (UNHCR 31/01/2015).

There has been a pattern of refugees returning to camps, mainly due to increased economic vulnerability. 30,708 Syrian refugees now live in Azraq camp, an increase of

over 150% since January 2015, even though Syrians have been reluctant to move to Azraq camp because of its remote desert location and harsh weather conditions, including sandstorms (AccuWeather 25/10/2015; UNHCR 31/01/2016). There are a further 79,422 Syrian refugees in Zaatari camp, Mafraq, as well as 6,324 in the Emirati Jordan Camp, Zarqa (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Returnees to Syria

Returns from Jordan to Syria increased between July and September 2015, but tapered off in October and November (UNHCR 30/11/2015). Reasons for return include reunion with family members, increasing vulnerability, lack of livelihood opportunities in Jordan, a desire to continue education, and perceived security improvements in Syria (UNHCR 30/11/2015). 288 spontaneous returns were recorded in January 2016 (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

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, increased sharply over summer (NRC 06/10/2015; UNHCR 13/10/2015). 50% of refugees assessed in late December indicate an intention to leave Jordan (NRC 01/02/2016). 291 refugees travelled abroad from Jordan in January 2016 (UNHCR 31/01/2016).

Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS)

By end 2015, an estimated 16,000 PRS had been displaced to Jordan (3RP 18/12/2015). 80% are vulnerable. UNRWA estimates the number will continue to grow throughout 2016, reaching as many as 18,000, despite the government's non-admission policy, which has been in place since January 2013 (UNRWA 14/01/2016). The policy means PRS who do enter risk arrest, detention and forced return. 59 forced returns of PRS to Syria were reported to UNRWA between January and November 2015, including at least 18 children (UNRWA 14/01/2016).

Non-Syrian refugees

At the end of August 2015, almost 58,000 Iraqi, Somali, Sudanese and Yemeni refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR 31/08/2015). As of 15 January, there are 53,334 registered Iraqi refugees in Jordan, nearly 90% of whom live in Amman (UNHCR 15/01/2016). Arrivals spiked during the second half of 2014, but have since stabilised (UNHCR 15/01/2015). 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).

According to UNHCR, there are 769 Somali refugees and 3,514 Sudanese refugees: most live in Amman (UNHCR 31/10/2015). On 6 January, some 600 Sudanese refugees were rounded up, detained and ultimately deported to Khartoum (IRIN 06/01/2016; HRW 16/12/2015).

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). Jordan has increasingly restricted border access to Syrian asylum seekers since 2013 (Newsweek 06/03/2015). Unofficial border closures and push-backs reportedly began in October 2014 and reports of large stranded populations were frequent throughout 2015 (IRIN 08/01/2015).

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 portal (Government 25/08/2015). The government has previously blocked urban shelter projects. As of October, shelter was the most under-funded response sector with just 27% of its appeal funded (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

A surge in violence in Syria since October has triggered renewed displacement towards Jordan. **As of February 2016, 28,000 Syrian asylum seekers are stranded at the border, compared to 17,000 in January, and 5,000 in October 2015 (ECHO 26/02/2016; HRW 08/12/2015; AFP 11/01/2016).** Only 415 people were allowed to enter Jordan in December (ECHO 22/12/2015). **Entries remain at extremely low levels (ECHO 26/02/2016).** The stranded population is extremely vulnerable: 70% are women and children, some are elderly and some injured. Food, water, NFIs, and health assistance have been provided, but access is limited and current levels of aid do not meet the population's growing needs (ECHO 03/12/2015). **Deaths have been regularly recorded, including maternal and neonatal deaths. Protection concerns are rising, with reports of theft, violence, and extortion mounting (ECHO 26/02/2016).**

Food security and livelihoods

Food insecurity among refugees in the country increased in 2015. Only 14% of Syrian refugees are food secure, compared to 53% in 2014, according to the Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) (3RP, 18/12/2015). In Azraq camp, 22% of refugees are food insecure (UNHCR 31/10/2015).

In host communities, there was a 37% increase in the number of food insecure in 2015 compared to 2014, and 86% live below the poverty line, a 24% increase since 2014. In June 2015, 67% of households reported using negative coping strategies, a 32% increase

since 2014 (WFP 30/06/2015).

Jordan's agricultural industry has been negatively impacted by neighbouring conflicts. Border closures impeding exports to Syria and Iraq cost approximately USD 707 million in 2015 (Bloomberg 26/10/2015).

Livelihoods

With scarce livelihood opportunities, 90% of Syrians outside camps live in poverty (UNHCR 16/02/2016). 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. 20% of children have dropped out of school to work (UNHCR 24/09/2015).

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). Refugees are only officially allowed to work in Jordan with a government-issued permit, which is hard to obtain and expensive (Oxfam 09/11/2015). Of those Syrian refugees who do find work, 99% are employed informally, where they face extremely low wages and exploitation (UNICEF 30/06/2015; Oxfam 09/11/2015). On average, Syrian workers are paid less, work longer hours, and have poorer contracts compared to Jordanians in the same sector (ILO 11/05/2015).

Health

Health needs have risen as limitations on Syrian and Iraqi refugees' access to public services have been tightened. Maternal care, treatment of chronic conditions and war wounds are key health needs among the refugee population.

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 limited resources (ECHO 19/08/2015). Since August 2015, Iraqi refugees have not been eligible for subsidised healthcare, and have to pay higher rates applied to foreigners (UNHCR 31/08/2015).

Nearly 30% of refugees in Jordan suffer from non-communicable diseases, including hypertension and diabetes (3RP 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. Syrian refugees reportedly lack antenatal, postnatal and post-abortion care, breastfeeding support, and children's vaccination (UN FPA 31/10/2015). Rates of delivery in government facilities dropped to 44% in 2015, from 66% in 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 (EU 14/08/2015; UNICEF 30/06/2015). In Zaatari refugee camp, antenatal and postnatal care coverage indicators were below accepted standards, while the proportion of deliveries performed by caesarean section was 28%, almost double the accepted standard (25/09/2015).

Mental health

High needs for psychosocial support have been reported (EU 14/08/2015; UNHCR 02/09/2015). Refugee families who have had to move into camps report high levels of psychological stress (UNFPA 31/10/2015).|

WASH

Water resources are under significant strain due to the refugee influx. Water shortages have been reported. Municipal sewage and garbage services are stressed.

Water

Reports suggest that the public water system is under significant strain in areas where there are high concentrations of Syrian refugees (Government 17/03/2015). Local water shortages continue to increase (Chatham House 21/09/2015). 45–60% of water is lost through leakage and unauthorised connections, exacerbating shortages (3RP 18/12/2015).

Sanitation

Municipal sewage and garbage removal services are under stress (REACH 12/11/2014, Chatham House 21/09/2015). Only 43% of households have access to sewage systems (3RP 18/12/2015). 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

There is a lack of adequate shelter for refugees living outside of camps, as well as vulnerable members of host communities. Rents, as well as the threat of eviction, are high. Refugees need NFIs, especially during Jordan's harsh winter.

Shelter

Lack of adequate shelter is a main concern for Syrian refugees, especially among the 82% who live among host communities (UNHCR 30/09/2015). Available shelter is often inadequate, unaffordable, or insecure (NRC 17/06/2015). An estimated 91,000 housing units are required to meet demand in Jordan – triple the annual average demand (3RP, 18/12/2015). 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).

NFIs

Winter needs include thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulins, stoves/heaters, warm clothing, shelter insulation, and cash assistance. While most targeted Syrian refugees had been reached by December, only 28% of 30,000 targeted Iraqi refugees had received winterisation support (UNHCR 31/12/2015).

Education

Refugee children face major education constraints in Jordan. Up to 30% have never attended formal education (UNHCR 31/08/2015). Over 65% of all school-aged children in Zaatari camp attend school, and 43% of children in Azraq camp (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). While access to schooling remains a major challenge, annual enrolment improved by 10% at the start of the new school year in September 2015 (UNICEF 30/09/2015).

Protection

Protection space for refugees in Jordan has shrunk since 2014 (ECHO 09/10/2015). 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). UN experts have signaled gaps in the Jordanian government's mechanisms to prevent and protect victims of human trafficking and labour exploitation (UN 04/02/2016).

Gender

Many Syrian refugees face domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual violence (Reuters 01/10/2015). 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). Crowded living conditions and the difficulties of adapting to camp life are reportedly associated with an increase in gender-based violence (UNFPA 31/10/2015).

Children

There are approximately 327,000 Syrian refugee children in need in Jordan (UNICEF 04/02/2016). 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 growing concern. 33% of all marriages were child marriages in 2014: in 2013, 13% of marriages involved girls younger than 18 (STC 08/12/2015).

Vulnerable groups

In July 2015, Jordan was reported to have suspended all projects for the sheltering of Syrian refugees in urban areas of the country (Huffington Post 07/07/2015). Since April 2014, over 11,000 refugees have been forcibly relocated to camps by police for lacking documentation or work permits (Oxfam 09/11/2015).

Documentation

Refugees in camps who wish to move to urban areas must obtain “bail” from the government. In 2015, authorities increasingly tightened bail out regulations, effectively stopping camp-based refugees from moving to other areas of Jordan (Oxfam 09/11/2015). An estimated 45% those refugees living outside camps do not meet the requirements (Oxfam 09/11/2015). 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 2015. 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). By 31 January, a total of 301,311 Service Cards had been issued (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Many Syrians remain without personal documents after having to hand them over to authorities upon arrival to Jordan. A document return process has been underway since August, with 146,323 documents returned to 100,712 individuals as of 31 January – but 36% of documents taken by the authorities since 2012 remain to be returned (UNHCR 15/02/2016).

Updated 01/03/2016

MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 February: Fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army displaced 80 people in Nahmsan township, northern Shan state (Myanmar Times 26/02/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 1,020,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 30/11/2015).
- 660,000 conflict-induced IDPs (OCHA 16/06/2015; USAID 16/06/2015; IDMC 2015).
- 308,000 people in Rakhine, Kachin, and northern Shan lack access to essential services (UNICEF 26/01/2016).
- 460,000 people affected by flooding and landslides beginning last July/August will be in need of food assistance until mid-2016 (UNHCR 14/12/2015).
- 800,000 stateless Rohingya Muslims, mainly in Rakhine state (The Diplomat 26/08/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas remains severely restricted. At least 50,000 people in need are not able to receive regular assistance.
- People affected by flooding and landslides from July–November: 460,000 people are in need of food assistance in 12 states and regions. Over 9,000 people remain displaced. Livelihoods and WASH have been affected (OCHA 01/12/2015; UNHCR 14/12/2015).
- Rohingya population in Rakhine state: a large number of human rights abuses have

been reported against the Muslim minority (UN).

OVERVIEW

Protracted armed conflict between ethnic groups and the government continues to keep over 500,000 people in need of assistance. The affected area has remained largely unchanged over recent years. The end of 2015 saw landmark elections and a national ceasefire agreement, but several groups remain in direct conflict with the government, predominantly in Kachin and Shan states.

Flooding and landslides from June to November affected nearly 1.7 million people. Up to 10,000 remain displaced and damage to agriculture will continue to impact livelihoods and food security in 2016. Conditions for the Rohingya minority are deteriorating, particularly among those displaced in Rakhine state.

Politics and security

Myanmar's first election in 25 years took place on 8 November 2015 (Myanmar Times 09/11/2015). Despite 25% of parliamentary seats reserved for the military-backed Union Solidarity Development Party (USDP), the National League for Democracy (NLD), headed by Aung San Suu Kyi won over 79% of the available seats and has formed a government. The USDP conceded defeat and has the second largest minority, with 8% of available seats. The NLD-led parliament officially opened on 1 February, a transition which reportedly went peacefully (Myanmar Times 02/02/2016; AFP 01/02/2016).

Peace negotiations

On 15 October 2015, a National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed by eight of the 18 ethnic armed armies in Myanmar. Three prominent groups frequently in conflict with the government groups, including the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA, representing minorities in Kokang, Shan state), were excluded from negotiations. Their exclusion is thought to be the main reason why other participating armed ethnic groups did not sign the NCA (AFP 15/10/2015; BBC 15/10/2015; Bangkok Post 30/09/2015). Further peace talks with the eight signatories were conducted from 12–18 January, with both the NLD and military officials participating; a framework for future talks has been planned (Al Jazeera 12/01/2016; Irrawaddy 18/01/2016).

Conflict developments

The security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. Most armed clashes in 2015 were in Shan and Kachin states. Overall, reported fatalities dropped dramatically in the second half of 2015. Between February and May, 554 people were killed in violence between separatist groups and Myanmar forces. Between 1 June and 9 December, 58 people were killed. 71% of all fatalities occurred in Shan state, and Kachin reported the section-highest proportion, with 10% fatalities (ACLEDD 09/12/2015).

Kachin state: The Kachin Independence Organisation (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).

Karen: On 26 January, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) clashed with government forces and government backed armed groups in Kawkaik Township after government forces burned down the houses of suspected DKBA members, according to local media (Irrawaddy 26/01/2016).

Shan State: On 7 February, fighting between the TNLA and the SSA-S in northern Shan state intensified around Kyaukme and Namkham townships. The Myanmar Army has deployed 2,000 troops to TNLA territory and threatened to launch a 'clearance' operation if fighting does not cease (Myanmar Times 25/02/2016; Irrawaddy 26/02/2016; Myanmar Times 29/02/2016). Fighting between the TNLA and SSA-S has reportedly subsided as of 19 February (Myanmar Times 22/02/2016).

Separate incidents between the TNLA and Myanmar Army were also reported. On February 18, the Myanmar Army carried out airstrikes against the TNLA (Irrawaddy 18/02/2016). Fighting between the two continued in Namhsan township and 23 February (Myanmar Times 26/02/2016).

The SSA-S is a signatory to the ceasefire agreement, while the TNLA has not signed. The TNLA has accused the Myanmar Army of cooperating with the SSA-S. Over 3,500 have reportedly been displaced due to the fighting (OCHA 17/02/2016; Myanmar Times 16/02/2016; 15/02/2016; Irrawaddy 15/02/2016).

Natural disasters

Flooding and landslides

Landslides in late January in Hpakant, Kachin state, caused a mine to collapse. The accident left 30 people dead (Myanmar Times 27/01/2016). Between June and end November 2015, 172 people were killed by flooding and landslides. Rohingya displaced in Rakhine are considered to be particularly vulnerable, as the flooding damaged already inadequate shelter (OCHA 01/12/2015).

Displacement

662,400 people are estimated to be in protracted displacement nationwide, primarily due to conflict. 100,000 have been displaced since 2012, mainly Rohingya, in Rakhine state (Shelter Cluster, 28/12/2015). About 100,000 people were newly displaced in 2015, mainly in Kachin and northern Shan. Most have returned, but 10,000 remained displaced, including 4,000 who fled to China (OCHA 31/12/2015). Over 9,000 people remain displaced after a flooding in July-August, in 26 camps, mainly in Chin state and the Sagaing Region (UNHCR 14/12/2015).

Over 211,400 people are living in camps or camp-like settings. This number has remained largely constant for around two years. More than 10,000 people were displaced by conflict from October to November (OCHA 31/10/2015; 07/12/2015; IRIN 01/12/2015). Nearly 29,000 people live with host families, in a host community of around 120,000 people (30/11/2015).

IDPs

Rakhine: Around 145,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, are in protracted displacement in Rakhine. 100,000 were displaced in 2012 during ethnically motivated violence (Shelter Cluster, 28/12/2015). IDPs are spread over 67 locations in ten townships (OCHA 30/11/2015). Over 99,000 live in IDP camps in Sittwe and nearly 20,000 in Pauktaw (OCHA 01/11/2015; 14/01/2016). Around 50% of IDPs in Rakhine's camps are estimated to be under 18 and around 5% are over 60 (OCHA 30/11/2015).

More than 300 people fled from villages in Rakhine state during fighting between AA and Myanmar Army from 28 December to 4 January. The majority are from Kyauktaw Township. Authorities have ordered the IDPs to leave the Buddhist monasteries they have been sheltering in (03/02/2016).

Shan and Kachin: 10,000 people in total were displaced by conflict during 2015 in Kachin and northern Shan. 4,000 people remained displaced as of December (OCHA 31/01/2015). 1,500 people are staying in Hai Pa site, in Mong Hsu township, central Shan (Mizzima 05/02/2016).

Of the newly displaced, most are living in temporary sites, though numbers are hard to confirm. They are reportedly in need of shelter, NFIs, WASH, health and food assistance. Movements are fluid, with some people experiencing secondary displacement. Violence hampers access (ICG 01/01/2016; Democratic Voice of Burma 05/01/2016; IRIN 01/12/2015; OCHA 28/12/2015). The continued presence of armed actors and mines are cited as the main factors preventing return of IDPs (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Around 100,000 people are in protracted displacement in Shan and Kachin states due to fighting. 40,000 live in sites/settlements of less than 1,000 IDPs. In Kachin, it is estimated that around 8% of the IDPs in camps are over 60 years old and 34% are under 18 years (OCHA 30/11/2015; 14/01/2016).

In southern Shan, 6,000 people were displaced after an outbreak of conflict on 6 October 2015. 2,000 people remained displaced at the end of 2015 (OCHA 31/01/2015). On 20 January, nearly 400 people are reported to have been displaced by armed conflict in Mogoke Town, northern Shan (OCHA, 25/01/2016).

Clashes that erupted in early February in northern Shan state have reportedly displaced over 4,300 people (OCHA 17/02/2016; Myanmar Times 18/02/2016). 800 of the IDPs returned to their homes, but only to areas controlled by the SSA-S or Myanmar Army (Myanmar Times 29/02/2016). Over 3,300 people are sheltering in Kyaukme town and surrounding villages (OCHA 17/02/2016). Fighting between the Myanmar Army and TNLA on 23 February displaced another 80 people (Myanmar Times 29/02/2016). The IDPs are spread over at least 18 sites, most of them Buddhist monasteries (Myanmar Times 19/02/2016). Over 1,000 people are displaced in Namkham township and are mainly located in Mong Wee village (Myanmar Times 18/02/2016; OCHA 17/02/2016).

Chin and Sagaing: Over 9,000 people remain displaced in 26 camps after flooding in July (UNHCR 14/12/2015; OCHA, 31/12/2015). Over 5,200 people are still in temporary camps in Hakha, Tonzang and Tedim townships. Shelter and sanitation conditions are of concern (OCHA 31/12/2015; Red Cross 27/11/2015). As of February, the government had built new homes to shelter some IDPs (Government 13/02/2016).

Myanmar refugees in neighbouring countries

According to UNHCR, as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar (AFP 30/11/2014). Over 5,500 people have arrived in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand in 2015 (IOM 31/01/2016). Around 1,400 of these arrivals remain in detention centres (IOM 31/01/2016). No departures of Rohingya boat refugees have been reported since September 2015 (IOM 31/01/2016). This is reportedly due to the crackdown on smugglers, but also fears among the Rohingya of taking the journey (UNHCR 23/02/2016).

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. 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: Over 104,000 refugees are in Thailand. They are located in at least nine camps along the border with Myanmar (Border Consortium 26/02/2015). Rohingya in Thailand are subject to human trafficking. Many are held for ransom and abused (international media, 01/06/2015; 02/06/2015).

China: 4,000 refugees from Myanmar remain displaced due to fighting in Kokang during February–June 2015 (OCHA 31/12/2015).

Humanitarian access

In 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 over 100,000 IDPs and people in host communities in need (OCHA 30/11/2015).

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). In Kachin, around 2,800 people, including 1,000 IDPs, have been without humanitarian access since September 2015 (OCHA 31/12/2015). In Sumprabum township, where 1,200 IDPs reside, access is restricted due to insecurity. The government has not allowed humanitarian actors to reach the population via safer waterways (WFP 31/12/2015).

Humanitarian actors in Rakhine face severe access restrictions, which has worsened since 2012 (OCHA 30/11/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

There has been little to no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin. Around 50,000 IDPs have irregular humanitarian access (OCHA 31/12/2015). This includes families hosting around 8,700 of IDPs (OCHA 30/11/2015).

Security and physical constraints

Shan state: As of 7 February, fighting in northern Shan state has escalated, restricting access (Irrawaddy 15/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Over 840,000 people are in need of food assistance. This includes 381,800 people who are food insecure due to conflict, and 460,000 people affected by July–August flooding, who are expected to remain in need until mid-2016 when harvests will ease food insecurity. Ayeyarwady region has the highest number of people affected by flood-related food insecurity, at 154,400 people, followed by Bago (100,800) and Sagaing (74,400) (OCHA 30/11/2015).

Food availability

At least 229,280 hectares of farmland are believed damaged or destroyed by the July–August flooding. Most negatively affected agricultural land is in the north and west. In total, 89% of crops have been damaged. Estimates are that crop production is reduced by up to 30% in 2015 compared to 2014 (ASEAN 18/08/2015; Democratic Voice of Burma 18/08/2015; FAO 10/08/2015).

High temperatures caused by El Niño might delay the summer paddy harvest (Jun–Oct) if water shortages become more widespread. This can lead to rice shortages and an increase in rice prices (Irrawaddy 17/02/2016).

Food access

Local rice prices were nearly 30% higher in January 2016 than the previous year. The rise can partly be attributed to the low harvests after the July–August flooding (FAO 10/02/2016). Rice prices in 2015 were already over 27% higher than in 2014. Wheat and maize were 19.3% and 12.8% higher, respectively, compared to 2014 (FAO 15/01/2016).

Livelihoods

Flooding disrupted the 2015 harvest of some crops, including beans and pulses – some of Myanmar's biggest agricultural exports. An estimated 240,000 head of livestock were also lost. 223,000 of those were poultry, leading some to speculate that female-headed households have been more significantly impacted as they are more reliant on poultry for their livelihoods. Debris from flooding has blocked irrigation canals in several northern provinces, which can create difficulties for monsoon harvests of paddy crops in October (FAO 05/02/2016). Significant harvests are not expected until June 2016 (IFRC 10/11/2015; FAO 22/12/2015).

Due to a strong El Niño, fish farmers risk losing their fish to high temperatures. The July–August flooding had already destroyed 30,000 fish farms (government 19/02/2016).

Health

The number of people in need of health assistance increased from 421,000 to 537,000 over 2015, as an additional 100,000 people were assessed to be in need in Rakhine state, mainly from the Rohingya community (OCHA 12/2014; 12/2015).

Healthcare availability and access

In Rakhine, access to healthcare is a major challenge for over 421,000 people. Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital. (OCHA 16/12/2015). Health service providers in Rakhine face many restrictions and shortages of staff (OCHA 30/11/2015). In Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships, secondary health services are not accessible. Around 117,000 people in Kachin and northern Shan face challenges in accessing health care (OCHA 30/11/2015). People living in areas beyond government control in Kachin and northern Shan rely on facilities in China

While most IDP camps have primary health services, the quality is poor due to inadequate drugs and human resources (OCHA 30/11/2015).

Nutrition

119,000 people are in need of assistance. Nearly 100,000 are among Rohingya in Rakhine, the remainder are among the IDP population in Kachin. Malnutrition in Rakhine is most prevalent among people living along the border with Bangladesh (Reuters 29/01/2016). In Maungdaw township, 4,100 children were identified with SAM as of October 2015. A further 19,200 children are moderately malnourished (DVB 28/01/2016). In Buthidaung township, Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels are at 15.1% and SAM levels at 2% (OCHA 30/11/2015). The situation is reportedly exacerbated by the impact of flooding in 2015 on cropland, and the poor standards of WASH in IDP camps. People have responded with negative coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals from three to one a day, and eating less varied food (DVB 28/01/2016).

WASH

538,100 people are in need of WASH assistance. This includes 141,400 conflict-affected people in Kachin and Shan; as well as 385,700 people in Rakhine (mainly Rohingya). Latrines continue to be destroyed for firewood and shelter. Seasonal diarrhoea outbreaks remain a concern in IDP locations (OCHA 30/11/2015). Inadequate drainage systems in IDP camps in Rakhine state worsen living conditions (OCHA 30/11/2015). In Chin state, around 700 IDPs in Ral Hmone camp, Hakha, are facing shortages of drinking water (local media 23/02/2016).

Water shortages have hit Shan state and Sagaing region earlier than usual, due to a strong El Niño (Government 22/02/2016; local media 03/02/2016). Rakhine state faces similar water shortages due to prolonged dry seasons in 2014 and 2015 (Solidarités International 13/02/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

240,300 people are in need of shelter and NFI assistance. The majority are IDPs in Kachin and Rakhine (OCHA 30/11/2015). 21,000–39,000 homes were completely destroyed in July and August flooding, including 10,000 in Rakhine. The government reports that 490,000 additional homes were damaged (ECHO 23/08/2015; 16/08/2015; Government 08/10/2015).

Shelter

The majority of Rohingya who were displaced in Rakhine have been living in temporary shelters for over three years, without proper maintenance. Camps are often overcrowded and conditions often worsen during rainy seasons (OCHA 30/11/2015). Around 50% of IDP shelters do not meet minimum humanitarian requirements, and approximately 120,000 protracted displaced were without access to improved shelter across Myanmar (USAID 19/06/2015; USAID 16/06/2015).

NFIs

Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine have limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 99,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe 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). An unconfirmed number of IDPs in remote location displaced by flooding and landslides in Chin and conflict in Kachin are in need of winterisation assistance (UN Population Fund 13/01/2016; OCHA 31/12/2015).

Education

188,000 children in total are in need of education assistance; 66,000 in Kachin and northern Shan, and 122,000 in Rakhine (OHCA 30/11/2015). An assessment in September-October found that 60,000 children of ages 3-17 are not accessing formal education in Rakhine. In Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, less than 50% of communities have a school providing basic education, and the figure rises to 60% in Sittwe and Minbya townships. In functioning schools assessed, student-teacher ratios are 22:1 in Sittwe, 33:1 in Mrauk-U, 83:1 in Buthidaung and 123:1 in Maungdaw. Nearly 20% of schools in Rakhine run a double shift to accommodate their students.

Between 20%-30% of teachers are absent on any given day in Rakhine.

The assessment also showed that around 75% of basic education facilities have at least one latrine, and between 30%-35% of schools have gender segregated latrines in Rakhine. Around 35% have hand washing facilities and over 30% have clean water year-round. Poverty related issues such as lacking school fees or uniforms, or children providing livelihood support, are the main reasons for not attending. Attendance is reportedly higher in Buddhist communities compared to Muslim communities (REACH 30/11/2015).

In northern Kachin state, children are unable to attend school due to fighting that erupted mid-November. Many schools have closed. Enrolment is reportedly at 27% (local media, 20/11/2015).

Protection

Over 300,000 people are reported to be in need of protection assistance. Most are situated in Rakhine (over 183,000) and Kachin and northern Shan (around 117,000) (OCHA 30/11/2015). Various armed groups have reportedly forcibly recruited civilians (Democratic Voice of Burma 08/10/2015; local media 01/06/2015). The SSA-S reportedly kidnapped villagers in northern Shan in early February (Myanmar Times 12/02/2016; local media 12/02/2016). At least 11 people are reported to have been abducted from Muse township in January (Myanmar Times 20/01/2016). Over 100 villagers in Mongyang township, eastern Shan, have been displaced from fear of recruitment into the United Wa State Army (Irrawaddy 19/02/2016).

The Myanmar government has a record of arbitrary detention and the violent suppression of protests (Asian Human Rights Commission 01/10/2015). Most recently, a civil society member was arrested in Kachin for reportedly defaming military leaders (Irrawaddy 22/01/2016). Nearly 130 political prisoners are currently detained with over 470 awaiting trial, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW 17/01/2016). 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). From 2007 to October 2015, most landmine deaths have been reported in Kayin state. At least 448 people were killed or injured by antipersonnel mines between the start of the peace talks in December 2014 until October 2015 (MIMU 13/10/2015).

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). Civilians fleeing Law Naw village, Namkham township after clashes between the SSA-S and TNLA in early February, have accused the SSA-S of laying landmines around their villages (Myanmar Times 18/02/2016).

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 under the USDP government since March 2011 (local media 26/11/2014). Incidents of sexual violence perpetrated by the military are reportedly increasing (local media 25/11/2015).

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). Buddhist women who marry outside their faith face potential criminal penalties (HRW 27/01/2016).

Children

The Myanmar Army and other armed groups reportedly recruit child soldiers (OCHA 31/12/2015). From 2013 to January 2015, 723 cases of underage recruitment by the Myanmar Army were reported to the UN (Child Soldiers International 01/2015). The Myanmar Army released approximately 700 child soldiers in July and November (UN 20/07/2015; UNICEF 30/11/2015). The number of children remaining within the Myanmar army is unclear.

Other armed groups continue to forcefully recruit child soldiers within their ranks. Abductions by armed actors in Shan state have reportedly grown in frequency and scale since the ceasefire agreement (Myanmar Times 05/02/2016). The number of child soldiers in several armed groups is unclear. Child Soldiers International estimates 1,000 serving in the KIA alone. The actual numbers are likely to be higher (Myanmar Times 19/02/2016).

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. Bangladeshi officials state that Rohingya are citizens of

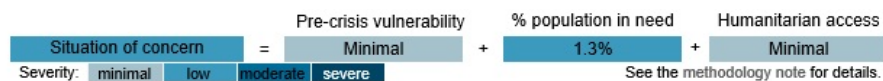
Myanmar and that Rohingya living in Bangladesh should be sent to Myanmar (Reuters 02/06/2015). Rohingya are allowed to have a maximum of two children (HRW 27/01/2016).

Documentation

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: 01/03/2016

TURKEY INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

19 February: Turkish security forces have reportedly shot and injured Syrian refugees, including children, who have attempted to cross the border unofficially with the help of smugglers (Amnesty International).

KEY FIGURES

- 2.5 million Syrian refugees registered in Turkey (UNHCR, Government 31/12/2015).
- 200,000 IDPs in the southeast due to conflict (Economist 23/01/2016).
- 240 civilians have been killed in fighting between government and PKK forces in the southeast since July (Economist 23/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Syrian refugee populations on the move need protection support and essential items.
- IDPs in the south east face urgent protection, shelter and health needs.
- Food and livelihoods support is important for refugee populations living in Turkey.

OVERVIEW

Turkey hosts the world's largest refugee population, including over 2.5 million Syrian refugees. The country has historically been an important transit hub for refugees and migrants, but since 2014, the displaced population has been characterised by an extremely high level of mobility, with largescale onward movements to nearby Greek islands and across the land border with Bulgaria. Internal displacement is increasing as tensions between government forces and Kurdish separatists have escalated since July 2015.

Politics and security

Turkey's relative stability, which has attracted large refugee populations fleeing wars in neighbouring Syria and Iraq, has been threatened in recent months. Conflict between Turkey's government and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has killed over 40,000 people since 1984, was reignited in July 2015 after a two-year ceasefire (Reuters 05/11/2015).

In addition to longstanding demands for greater Kurdish autonomy, the PKK accuses the Turkish government of not doing enough to prevent Islamic State (IS) attacks on Kurds. In 2014, Turkish soldiers reportedly stood by as IS attacked Kobane, a Kurdish enclave in Syria. On 20 July, a suspected IS suicide bombing killed 32 people, most of whom were young Kurdish activists, in Suruç, a rural town in Şanlıurfa province near the Syrian border (ICG 11/08/2015; BBC 14/01/2016) (Economist 23/01/2016).

Following the bombing, the PKK killed 18 Turkish police and soldiers in July, sparking the Turkish government to launch airstrikes on PKK positions in the southeast. Over 250 PKK forces were killed and 800 people with connections to PKK were arrested in the last week of July (ICG 11/08/2015). Violence has since been growing, and although the PKK declared a unilateral ceasefire on 10 October, fighting resumed on 5 November following parliamentary elections (05/11/2015). Since September 2015, over 500 people, including 50 children and 120 women, are reported to have been killed in armed clashes between the Kurds and the Turkish military (Kurdish Daily News 15/02/2016).

Elections

Turkey held parliamentary elections in June 2015. The People's Democratic Party (HDP), the moderate, pro-Kurdish party, won 13.1% of the vote, surpassing the parliamentary threshold of 10% and landing a major blow to the governing Justice and Development Party (AKP) (ICG 11/08/2015). However, after failing to form a coalition, snap elections were held in November. AKP won a parliamentary majority, returning it to government (BBC 14/01/2016).

The ruling party has been pushing for constitutional reform to strengthen the power of the President, whose role has traditionally been ceremonial (ICG 01/02/2016). Recep Tayyip Erdogan was directly elected President in 2014, having served as Prime Minister of an AKP government since 2003 (BBC 01/11/2015).

Stakeholders

Justice and Development Party (AKP) is a social conservative party and the dominant political force in Turkey. AKP secured a parliamentary majority in 2002, and has remained in power since, although it briefly lost its parliamentary majority between June and November 2015. (Euronews 01/11/2015).

Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK): Turkey and many western countries have declared the

PKK a terrorist organisation. PKK has often used violence in demanding more autonomy, and at times independence, from the Turkish state; although it has agreed to multiple ceasefires since 1984, they have not held (BBC 27/07/2015).

People's Democratic Party (HDP): A pro-Kurdish socialist party established in 2012, HDP has distanced itself from the PKK and its use of violence, entering into peace negotiations with the government between 2013 and 2015 (BBC 27/07/2015).

Republican People's Party (CHP) is socially liberal and democratic. It won 25.4% of the vote in November 2015 elections making it Turkey's main opposition party.

European Union: In November 2015, the EU agreed to provide Turkey with over USD 3.17 billion in aid to improve its management of migrant outflows, including by tightening its border controls (BBC 14/01/2016). Negotiations on the deal's implementation have stalled (ICG 01/02/2016).

Russia: Russia's military involvement in Syria has fuelled tensions with Turkey. The Turkish government has twice accused Russian aircraft of violating its airspace, most recently on 29 January (ICG 01/02/2016).

Islamic State: Islamic State is suspected of carrying out suicide attacks in Turkey, including a January 2016 blast in central Istanbul that left at least 11 people dead (ICG 01/02/2016).

Conflict developments

Turkish security forces launched a large-scale military operation in the southeast on 14 December 2015, which has continued at high intensity through January 2016. The government has repeatedly declared curfews in order to carry out military operations against PKK forces (RT 28/01/2016). On 19 January, Prime Minister Davutoğlu declared PKK forces had been cleared from Silopi town in Şirnak province (ICG 01/02/2016). Conflict in Diyarbakir and Cizre is ongoing (Economist 23/01/2016; AFP 03/02/2016).

Recent incidents

On 17 February, at least 28 people were killed and 61 wounded by a car bomb targeting the Turkish military in the heart of Ankara (AFP 18/02/2016). On 10 February, Turkish authorities reportedly found suicide vests and explosives on a group of people travelling through the southeast Syrian border town of Karkamis to Turkey (11/02/2016 Telegraph). On 18 January, one civilian died in after a rocket launched from IS territory in Syria hit the border town of Kilis (ICG 01/02/2016). In Cinar, Diyarbakir province, a car bomb attack and clashes killed at least 35 civilians and 45 combatants on 14 January (ICG 01/02/2016). On 12 January, 11 people, mostly foreign tourists, were killed in a suspected IS suicide bombing in Sultanahmet district, Istanbul (ICG 01/02/2016).

On 14 February, Pro-Kurdish protesters clashed with Turkish police in Istanbul in the anti-government stronghold of Gazi, leaving at least two wounded (International Business Times 14/02/2016).

Displacement

Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world, including over 2.5 million Syrian refugees (ECHO 10/02/2016, UNHCR/Government 31/12/2015). Conflict between the government and the PKK in the southeast has displaced some 200,000 people since July 2015 (Economist 23/01/2016).

IDPs

Displacement has surged in the southeast as government airstrikes and military operations have driven over 200,000 residents from their homes in a number of towns. Some 20,000 residents have fled Sur district in Diyarbakir, over 80% of the population (Economist 23/01/2016). More residents fled other districts in Diyarbakir as the government stepped up operations on 27 January (Reuters 27/01/2016).

Refugees and asylum seekers

Syrian refugees have fled to Turkey in large numbers since 2012. **As of 19 February 2016, over 2.6 million Syrian refugees were registered in Turkey (ECHO 19/02/2016).**

Numbers spiked in 2015, when over one million were newly registered (UNHCR/Government 31/12/2015). Most refugees live among host communities, although some 300,000 live in formal camps near the Syrian border (3RP 19/01/2016). More than 5,640 members of Syria's Turkmen minority, half of them children, fled across the Turkish border between 29 January and 1 February to escape an offensive by pro-government forces in Syria's northwest. Some are accommodated in Hatay province with relatives, 2,000 in AFAD Sanliurfa Suruc Centre and others to AFAD Hatay Güvecci centre (Government 09/02/2016).

In addition, there are over 200,000 Iraqi refugees in Turkey, as well as large populations from Afghanistan, Iran, and a number of African countries (Reuters 11/01/2016).

High levels of mobility among the refugee population mean needs are hard to track and regularly changing. Refugees and migrants are increasingly transiting through Turkey to reach Europe, particularly via Greece. Turkish Coast Guard detected 91,611 refugees entering Turkey over 2015, an increase of 512% from 2014, during which 14,961 irregular migrants were apprehended (IOM 11/02/2016). However a decrease in sea crossings from Turkey to Greece was seen in January and February 2016, compared with December 2015 (UNICEF16/02/2016).

A survey of Syrian refugee arrivals in Greece in December 2015 found 63% had left Syria earlier that year (UNHCR 08/12/2015). In the first six weeks of this year, 70,400 refugees

and migrants have crossed from Turkey into Greece — almost ten times as many as in the same period last year (Spectator 11/02/2016). From 1 January to 8 February, IOM has recorded 319 dead or missing on the eastern Mediterranean route connecting Turkey to Greece (IOM 09/02/2016). The number of fatalities increased over 300% from 2014 – 2015, with 69 recorded deaths in 2014 and 279 in 2015, the actual total being much higher (IOM 11/02/2016). Between 17 December 2015 and 31 January 2016, 110,211 people arrived to EU from Turkey, a high number despite winter conditions (UNHCR 12/02/2016). **An average of two children have drowned every day since September 2015 as their families try to cross the eastern Mediterranean. With children now accounting for 36% of those on the move, the chance of them drowning on the Aegean Sea crossing from Turkey to Greece has grown proportionately (IOM 19/02/2016).**

Humanitarian access

Curfews have been implemented in multiple towns in the southeast since violence and operations escalated in July 2015 (RT 28/01/2016). A curfew is in place over parts of Diyarbakir, including Sur district. The curfew area was expanded from six to 11 districts on 27 January (Reuters 27/01/2016). On 3 February, Turkish authorities lifted the curfew in nine areas of Diyarbakir (AFP 03/02/2016). Residents cannot leave their homes and reporters are prevented access to areas under curfew (RT 28/01/2016). Turkish security forces are reportedly blocking access to medical care and limiting the delivery of water, food, and electricity in the southeast. The enforcement of an extended curfew also limits access in some areas (Physicians for Human Rights 08/02/2016).

Up to 40,000 people, mostly women and children, have fled fighting in Aleppo. 20,000 were refused entry at the border and remain in nearby villages and camps in Kilis province (UN 13/02/2016, REACH 11/02/2016, BBC 08/02/2016). They have joined up to 50,000 IDPs already living in these areas (UN 13/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

With limited livelihood opportunities, refugee households face high levels of vulnerability and food insecurity. Poor families report earning only 20% of their pre-crisis incomes. Informal labourers are exploited, earning as little as USD 2.5 per day in the southeastern regions (3RP 19/01/2016). Poor livelihood opportunities are compounded by high living costs: rents have tripled since the onset of the refugee crisis and inflation has pushed prices of basic commodities upwards (3RP 19/01/2016).

The local economy in the southeast is under strain due to fighting. Unemployment has doubled in the past year. Damage to Diyarbakir is estimated at USD 300 million (Economist 23/01/2016).

Health

Syrian refugees are under temporary protection and entitled to access Turkish healthcare services. High arrival rates in 2015 have placed local health services under strain. Some clinics and hospitals have seen caseloads increase by up to 40% in 2015. Psychosocial support is lacking (3RP 19/01/2016). **Turkey has reportedly allowed a few dozen Syrian civilians with urgent medical needs to cross the border in over the past two weeks, although it has denied entry to individuals suffering from chronic diseases, such as cancer and those in need of dialysis. Turkish authorities would not allow families of those with life-threatening injuries to enter together, in some cases allowing the patient and a carer but leaving the rest of the family, including children, behind (Amnesty International 19/02/2016).**

Southeast: Urgent medical needs are reported in towns affected by conflict. Ambulances have not been allowed entry to locations where wounded are reported (Reuters 27/01/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

Syrian refugees in urban settings have difficulty meeting basic domestic needs, given their minimal financial means and the high cost of living for food, accommodation, water, electricity, gas and heating (3RP 19/01/2016).

90% of Syrian refugees live outside of camps. Many live in makeshift shelters in open areas, unable to afford the cost of rent (ECHO 23/12/2015).

Education

1,337,400 children need education assistance: 169,240 are in camps and 1,168,160 are living among communities (R3P 19/01/2016).

Outside camps, the school enrolment rate is only 25%, compared with a rate of 90% inside camps. Around 400,000 Syrian children in Turkey who are of school age are not receiving education (Human Rights Watch 08/11/2015; R3P 19/01/2016).

Temporary education centres in camps and host communities are stretched beyond capacity and they are not available in all areas where refugees are currently hosted. Some charge tuition fees that are unaffordable for many refugee families. Language barriers also act as an obstacle and the demand for language programmes exceeds the current level of provision (Human Rights Watch 08/11/2015; R3P 19/01/2016).

There is a lack of information available for refugee families regarding enrolment procedures (Human Rights Watch 08/11/2015).

Protection

Populations in Kurdish majority areas face major protection threats since the conflict has

intensified. Arrests of PKK members and people suspected of PKK ties have been widespread. 1,100 academics have been placed under investigation after calling for an end to military operations in the southeast (Economist 23/01/2016). The Turkish government is reported to have harassed healthcare professionals and human rights activists (Physicians for Human Rights 08/02/2016).

Turkish security forces have reportedly shot and injured Syrian refugees, including children, who have attempted to cross the border unofficially with the help of smugglers (Amnesty International 19/02/2016).

Vulnerable groups

Migrants: Turkish authorities detained more than 150,000 illegal migrants in 2015 (Reuters 11/01/2016). Human rights groups have accused the Turkish government of abusing and deporting hundreds of refugees in order to stem the flow of migrants to the European Union (BBC 15/01/2016).

There has also been tension between refugees and host communities (UNPF 31/01/2016)

Children

There are extremely high rates of Syrian child labour in Turkey: children comprise the majority of the 300,000 illegal Syrian workers (UNHCR 18/12/2015; Human Rights Watch 08/11/2015). They are employed for half the national minimum wage (Australian Broadcasting Corporation 15/01/2016).

Documentation

There are 300,000 illegally employed Syrian refugees. Only 6,800 have work permits due to government regulations (ECHO 10/02/2016, AFP 17/12/2015). **The influx of refugee is pushing up prices, particularly for food and rent in areas with large refugee populations (Daily Sabah 19/02/2016).**

On 7 January new regulations came into force that require Syrians arriving from a third country to Turkey by air and sea to have visas, with the aim to reduce transit migration directed toward EU. The number of Syrians allowed into Turkey from Lebanon or Jordan dropped from 41,781 on 1-8 January to 1,155 on 9-18 January (ECHO 10/02/2016). Previously, Syrians had been allowed to stay in Turkey for up to 90 days without a visa (AFP 08/01/2016). On 6 February, Turkey tightened its visa rules for Iraqi citizens, requiring them to apply before travelling the country (AFP 06/02/2016). Tougher entry requirements may deter people from seeking protection in Turkey.

Gender

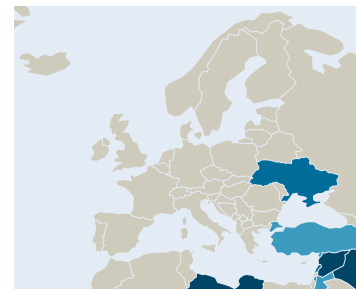
Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a major protection concern among displaced

communities. SGBV incidents are believed to be underreported due to cultural barriers and fear of stigmatisation (3RP 19/01/2016).

Based on government figures, 15% of refugee girls aged between 15 and 17 are married (R3P 19/01/2016).

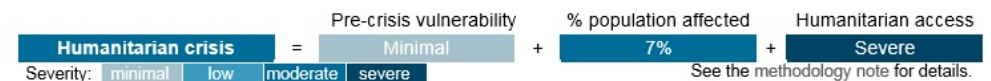
Updated: 25/02/2016

TAJIKISTAN FLOODS, LANDSLIDES, EARTHQUAKE



EUROPE

UKRAINE CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT



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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

23 February: About 30% of new HIV infections are reported in Donetsk and Luhansk, where only around 14% of the country's population live (Irin).

31 January: IDPs are returning to non-government areas. Around 80-90% of the current population are living in their homes compared to the pre-war (WFP).

20 January: More than 150,000 households are in need of animal feed and agricultural inputs, which are unavailable or unaffordable in non-government areas (FAO).

KEY FIGURES

- 290,000 people are severely food insecure (WFP 04/02/2016).
- 3.1 million people in need of assistance, of which 2.5 million are elderly, women and children (OCHA 12/02/2016; 17/02/2016)
- 1.7 million people are internally displaced (UNICEF 31/01/2016)

KEY PRIORITIES

- Humanitarian access to non-government areas.
- Shelter and NFIs assistance in non-government areas, mainly blankets, clothes, and heaters.
- Protection in non-government areas and IDP reception area.
- Delivery of aid to the areas along the contact line, where the most pressing needs are being reported

OVERVIEW

Eastern Ukraine has been in a humanitarian crisis since March 2014, when armed conflict between separatist and Ukrainian armed forces erupted. Separatists now control most of eastern Donetsk region, and a small area of southern Luhansk region. As a result, 3.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and more than 2.6 million have been displaced. During the winter months, NFI assistance is a priority. Protection and Health are also of a major concern, particularly as a large number of older people are affected. Humanitarian access has been diminishing: since September, almost all international aid organisations have been banned from non-government areas. More than 3 million people are in need of assistance along the contact line and in non-government areas.

Politics and security

Tensions between Kiev and pro-Russian separatists led to war in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in April 2014. By November, self-proclaimed republics had held their own leadership polls (BBC 2015). Over 9,100 people have been killed and nearly 21,000 injured in the conflict, with no resolution in sight (ECHO 09/02/2016; OCHA 27/01/2016). The government has halted budgetary payments to areas it considers to be out of its control (OCHA 01/05/2015). The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has extended its monitoring mission until March 2017 (Ukraine Today 19/02/2016).

Conflict developments

As of February, the conflict is escalating again: around 70 shells are being reported each day. According to OSCE, the fighting is at its worst since last September. Most fighting is concentrated around the cities of Donetsk, Gorlovka and Marinka, as well as in the countryside near Azov and Mariupol. Both sides use heavy mortars, which were supposed to have been withdrawn from the contact line dividing warring sides. Checkpoints on the line of control are also being targeted. The separatists have significantly tightened access for OSCE monitors (The Daily Beast 03/02/2016; BBC 05/02/2016; UNICEF 31/01/2016; Radio Free Europe 14/02/2016; WSJ 14/02/2016; New York Times 21/02/2016).

Civilian casualties continue to be reported, despite a ceasefire agreed in February 2015, and renewed in September and December: 80% of civilian casualties are caused by ERW and IEDs (Ukraine Today 17/09/2015; Radio Free Europe 23/12/2015; **OCHA 27/01/2016**). 16 civilian casualties, including one death, were reported in January (UNICEF 31/01/2016).

Political developments

At the end of July 2015, 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 (AFP 31/07/2015). The decision led to riots in Kiev (AFP 01/09/2015). In January 2016, Parliament postponed a vote on legislation to give more power to its regions, including Luhansk and Donetsk, due to ceasefire violations. Another condition for the vote is unhindered access to the border between Russia and Ukraine for international monitors (Trust 24/01/2016; ICG 01/02/2016). The Minister of Economy, who was supposed to implement reforms pertaining to the ceasefire, resigned on 3 February. He said high levels of corruption make his work impossible. His resignation is likely to trigger a political crisis and further aggravate the conflict (The Guardian 04/02/2016; BBC 05/02/2016).

The local elections in the east, scheduled for April, may be postponed for months due to renewed fighting (WSJ 14/02/2016).

Crimea

In March 2014, Russian forces seized control of the peninsula that has a Russian-speaking majority. They organized a referendum in which most inhabitants voted to join Russia. (BBC 13/03/2015; Forbes 20/03/2015). On 16 January, Ukraine suspended trade with Crimea. The blockade does not apply to humanitarian aid or electricity. Food and medicine prices have increased, worsening the humanitarian situation (Ukraine Today 17/01/2016; Protection Cluster 30/12/2015).

Stakeholders

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).

Separatist forces reportedly number around 35,000–40,000 men (AFP 23/03/2015). Luhansk and Donetsk militias have been conducting joint operations since September 2014 (Novorossiia 16/09/2015; TASS 16/09/2014). 40% of the service personnel are alleged to be local and the rest are Russian volunteers and contractors. Some 9,000 Russian soldiers are allegedly deployed to support separatist forces (The Jamestown Foundation 03/09/2015).

Ukraine has deployed around 76,000 soldiers to the conflict zone (The Jamestown Foundation 03/09/2015).

Displacement

More than 2.6 million Ukrainians have been displaced by the conflict, including 1.5 million IDPs, and the number is still increasing. Many who have left the country are not seeking asylum and have not been registered as refugees (IDMC 07/09/2015). Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk and Luhansk, and big Ukrainian cities. More than half of the displaced are older people. The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or volunteers (UNHCR 21/05/2015).

IDPs

As of 21 January, an estimated 1,695,300 IDPs have registered in eastern Ukraine, including 215,460 children. This is nearly 200,000 more than in October. The number of child IDPs more than doubled between October and January (UNICEF 31/01/2016). 25% of children in government-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk are displaced (OCHA 30/11/2015). Key reception areas are areas under government control in Donetsk (539,500 IDPs) and Luhansk (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). IDPs are in need of livelihood and psychological support (UNHCR 03/08/2015).

IDPs returnees

As most fighting is concentrated along the contact line, the number of people returning to non-government areas, where fighting has de-escalated, is increasing. Around 80-90% of the current population are living in their homes compared to the pre-war. However, they will leave again if they do not find a job soon (WFP 31/01/2016).

Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries

More than 1.1 million Ukrainians are seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries, including 858,400 in Russia, over 150,000 in Belarus and 71,300 in Poland. In Belarus, there are at least 5,000 severely vulnerable people, including older people without income, disabled with no access to healthcare, and pregnant women and mothers with small children. They require continuous support (UNHCR 01/12/2015;

19/01/2016; IFRC 29/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

Administrative requirements to cross the lines separating government from non-government areas are increasingly complicated. These, combined with significant logistical challenges, severely constrain both aid delivery and populations' ability to reach safety, services, and reunite with their families. Renewed fighting at the beginning of 2016 led to the temporary closure of Zaitseve crossing point and increased queues at those that remain open. Other crossing points could be closed (UNHCR 09/02/2016, OCHA 31/01/2016; OSCE 18/02/2016).

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 (UNHCR 07/09/2015; WFP 15/08/2015). As of the beginning of February, only the Novotroitske checkpoint is open for trucks (Logistics Cluster 29/01/2016; UN 03/02/2016).

As of February, UN and ICRC were allowed to operate in Luhansk; and ICRC and People in Need in Donetsk (OCHA 31/01/2016). Other foreign aid organisations, including MSF, have not been allowed to operate since 24 September in Luhansk and since end July in Donetsk (OCHA 31/10/2015; USAID 30/09/2015; MSF 23/10/2015).

Access of affected populations to assistance

Freedom of movement across the contact line remains a major concern due to long queues at checkpoints in freezing temperatures. Heated tents are not practical for use by the disabled or older people as they are a long way from the queues (UNHCR 19/01/2016; Protection Cluster 30/12/2015). The pass system cannot process large numbers of requests quickly; civilians wait for hours at checkpoints with little access to basic services, at risk as checkpoints are being targeted by shelling (UNICEF/Protection Cluster 31/11/2015; USAID 12/08/2015).

Security and physical constraints

The government has halted public transport between government and non-government areas (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 10 December, the bridges at Luhansk, and Rizhishne are destroyed (Logistics Cluster 10/12/2015). Zaitseve crossing point was temporarily closed on 3 February due to renewed fighting. Crossing points in Berezhove and Novotroitske do not have any heated tents, medical facilities, or water sources. Landmine-contaminated areas have been identified in the vicinity of the Stanytsia Luhanska

crossing-point (OCHA 05/02/2016; 31/01/2016; ECHO 09/02/2016).

Poor road conditions, with snow and ice making convoy movements very difficult, are expected to continue throughout March (Logistics Cluster 29/01/2016). Several villages in non-government areas have become inaccessible due to snowfall (Shelter Cluster 31/12/2015).

The village of Zaitseve, stranded between government and non-government areas, is cut off from aid. The Ukrainian government withdrew funding a year ago. Most residents rely on the goodwill of government forces to bring them food (Ukraine Today 21/01/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

1.5 million people are food insecure; 290,000 people face severe food insecurity: **233,230 in non-government areas of Luhansk and along the contact line; 40,700 in government areas in Luhansk and Donetsk; and 15,360 IDPs in collective centres (WFP 04/02/2016; 30/11/2015)**. 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.

Livelihoods

2.7 million people are in need of livelihood support (**OCHA 27/01/2016**). Livelihood opportunities for IDPs are very restricted because of discrimination (UNHCR 01/12/2015). 30% of households in non-government areas and 53% of IDP households in government areas do not have enough money to cover their basic needs. In non-government areas, 50% of households have sufficient funds to buy food, and 19% have enough food but depleted their savings. Purchasing food represents 80% of household expenditure. The average salary in non-government areas is three times lower than in government areas (WFP 30/11/2015; 31/01/2016). **More than 150,000 households are in need of animal feed and agricultural inputs, which are unavailable or unaffordable in non-government areas (FAO 20/01/2016)**.

88% of people living in non-government areas have adopted negative coping strategies, for instance spending of savings, reduced food intake, reduced food expenditures, etc. (OCHA 30/11/2015). The situation near the contact line is particularly difficult, as most people have no livelihood opportunities (UNHCR 09/02/2016).

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). **In 2015, agricultural production decreased by 35% in Donetsk, and by 20% in Luhansk (WFP 31/01/2016)**.

Food access

Between November and December, prices of raw food products continued to increase. Annual food inflation was 40% in 2015 (WFP 31/01/2016; 30/12/2015). **Prices in non-government areas are stable, but around 17% higher than national levels (WFP 31/01/2016)**. About 70% of the population along the contact line have some access to markets, but increasing prices and diminishing purchasing power puts these items out of reach (FAO 16/02/2016).

Health

3.1 million people are in need of health support, compared to 1.5 million reported end March 2015, due to increasing access constraints (OCHA 17/02/2016; MSNA 30/03/2015). There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies, and many people in non-government areas are cut off from care in the east. People with chronic diseases are of major concern, due to their particular vulnerability to treatment interruption.

Healthcare availability and access

There are critical shortages of medicines and medical supplies in the east, especially in conflict areas in Donetsk region. More than 50% of the population of non-government areas lacks access to healthcare due to the remoteness or unavailability of health services (OCHA 30/11/2015). 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; Save the Children 31/01/2016). Doctors do not have the medicines or training to treat survivors of sexual violence (International Medical Corps 31/09/2015). Over 43% of hospitals in non-government areas face water supply interruptions, and 13% lack waste management systems (UNICEF 19/02/2016).

Medicine price hikes are affecting treatment for chronic illnesses including diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Some 40% of people in non-government areas lack access to medicine because of high prices and closure of pharmacies (OCHA 30/11/2015). In Svitlodarsk near Debaltseve, a shortage of flu, pneumonia and rabies vaccines has been reported (OSCE 16/02/2016).

Swine flu

On 27 January, a swine flu epidemic was declared (Ukraine Today 01/02/2016). As of 18 February, more than 3.8 million cases have been reported, nearly 63% are children under 17 years old. Over 600,000 new cases have been reported in the last two weeks (TASS 04/02/2016; Ukraine Today 18/02/2016). Odessa has been most affected (Ukraine Today 01/02/2016). This incidence is 41% higher than last year (Ukraine Today 02/02/2016). The death toll stands at over 313, including five children. Over 100 people died in the last two weeks (Ukraine Today 18/02/2016). Over 120 have died because they did not receive

timely medical assistance (Ukraine Today 02/02/2016). Schools have been temporarily closed and some public gatherings were stopped across the country (BBC 23/01/2016; Express 26/01/2016). The epidemic thresholds are exceeded in 19 of 27 regions (TASS 04/02/2016).

In non-government areas in Donetsk, over 2,000 people have been infected since January 2016. In Luhansk, more than 10,000 people have been infected and dozens of zones have been quarantined. Hospitals are struggling to deal with the outbreak due to shortages of medicine (The Daily Beast 03/02/2016; Express 26/01/2016).

HIV/AIDS

The number of HIV infections is increasing in the east. About 30% of new infections countrywide are reported in Donetsk and Luhansk, where only around 14% of the country's population live. Condoms are in short supply and expensive. The shortfall in government funding for ARV treatment is of concern (Irin 23/02/2016).

WASH

More than 2.9 million people need WASH assistance, which represents more than a 100% increase compared to August 2015 (OCHA 25/08/2015; 17/02/2016). Access to safe water in non-government areas is of particular concern. The lack of piped water is a particular concern in winter, when it is required as a source of heat (OSCE 18/09/2015). The cost of hygiene items in non-government areas is very high (Save the Children 31/01/2016).

Water

2.9 million people are at risk of service disruption due to damages and breakdowns in water supply, central heating systems, electricity supply, and sanitation systems (UNICEF 26/01/2016). 18% of IDPs have no access to running water (OCHA 30/11/2015). ERW and mines restrict residents in some areas from accessing wells or receiving water supply by trucks (OSCE 18/09/2015). Efficient management of water supply systems divided by the contact line is increasingly difficult. **Sverdlovskiy district in Luhansk requires water trucking because the main water pipeline is damaged (OCHA 27/01/2015)**. Water is still being trucked into areas west and northwest of Donetsk city and in locations between Popasna and Alchevsk in Luhansk (OCHA 31/01/2016).

The government cut the water supply to the sole water utility in non-government areas of Luhansk region by 60%, for unpaid charges. The utility supplies water to 950,000 people (UNICEF 14/12/2015).

Water resources are at particular risk of contamination incidents due to industrial and agricultural activities in Luhansk and Donetsk. Up to 50% of water sources do not comply with national standards for piped water (UNICEF 19/02/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

900,000 people are estimated to be in need of emergency shelter and NFIs, compared to 1.5 million at end September 2015 (OCHA 31/09/2015; 17/02/2016). **Key needs are coal, firewood, and warm clothes (OCHA 27/01/2016)**. 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). Shelter and particularly NFI needs increase in winter due to freezing temperatures.

Shelter

25% of IDPs are sheltered in overcrowded accommodations (OCHA 30/11/2015). The majority of IDPs are staying with host families or volunteers and are often excluded from humanitarian assistance. The absorption capacity within host communities is exhausted in high reception areas and in Odessa (UNHCR 21/05/2015). IDPs in short-term transit collective centres are facing eviction for overstay or being unable to pay utility bills. This can lead to involuntary return (UNHCR 01/12/2015).

Education

9% of school-aged children living along the contact line and in areas of high IDP concentration are not attending school (OCHA 31/10/2015). Children living along the contact line attend school infrequently due to poor transport (UNHCR 09/02/2016).

Almost 800 schools have been damaged or destroyed in non-government areas. Many schools lack heating. Lack of funding is hindering renovation efforts. Schools are also unsafe because fighters have left behind heavy artillery and unused munitions. (HRW 11/02/2016; OCHA 31/01/2016).

Qualified teachers are lacking in non-government areas. Some schools and classes have been merged (HRW 11/02/2016). School certificates issued in Luhansk and Donetsk regions are not recognised by Ukraine (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Protection

3.1 million people are in need of protection (OCHA 17/02/2016). Human rights violations, including killings, torture and ill-treatment, illegal detention and forced labour continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (UN 09/12/2015). In non-government areas, drunkenness of combatants in public spaces and gatherings is resulting in sexual harassment (International Medical Corps 30/09/2015).

Mines and ERW

Landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents continue to be reported in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, especially near conflict areas. **204 people were killed by mines in**

2015, more than half of them between September and December (OCHA 17/02/2016; 27/01/2016). 30,000 hectares along the frontline in Novoazovskiyi and Artemivskiyi districts in Donetsk region are reportedly contaminated (OCHA 31/10/2015). There has been an increase in landmine and UXO casualties along the contact line, as civilians seek firewood for fuel in the absence of reliable gas or electricity (OCHA 11/12/2015).

Children

Nearly 95,000 children have been abandoned (Ukraine Today 18/10/2015). 200,000 children affected by the conflict need psychological support. More than 215,000 children have been displaced from the conflict-affected areas (UNICEF 19/02/2016).

Vulnerable groups

In order to receive social payments, people in non-government areas must move to government areas and register as IDPs. This is especially difficult for old or disabled people (Protection Cluster 31/01/2016; UNHCR 23/01/2016).

Older people: The situation for older people in Donetsk and Luhansk is worsening, and particularly alarming in remote rural areas. Access to pension income and therefore to food and medicine is almost non-existent for many who are not mobile (IRIN 29/09/2015).

Disabled people: The conflict has deprived more than 300,000 people with disabilities of almost all their legal rights (OHCHR 20/08/2015).

Minorities: The situation of minority communities in Crimea, including Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians, is of concern. People who decline Russian citizenship experience difficulties accessing education, employment, and social benefits. Anti-Roma sentiment has also apparently increased (Euronews 21/09/2015; Human Rights Watch 27/01/2016). 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; Amnesty 17/03/2015; Human Rights Watch 27/01/2016).

IDPs: In December 2015, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a law extending the definition of IDP to foreigners and stateless people who previously resided in non-government areas, including Crimea. It also simplifies IDP registration, and strengthens guarantees in regard to voluntary return and integration of IDPs (UNHCR 19/01/2016). People who fled their homes in government-controlled areas are not entitled to register as IDPs (NRC 30/11/2015). In order to receive social payments, people in non-government areas must move to government areas and register as IDPs. This is especially difficult for old or disabled people (Protection Cluster 31/01/2016; UNHCR 23/01/2016).

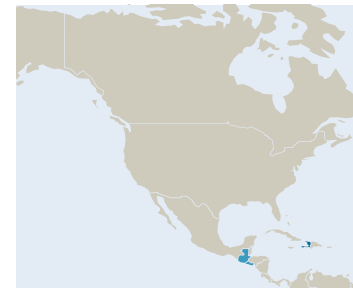
Single female-headed IDP households are particularly vulnerable to engaging in survival

sex to support their families. Shelters lack equipment for GBV survivors (Protection Cluster 31/01/2016).

Documentation

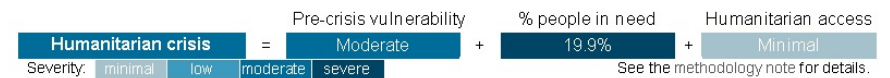
There are significant barriers to obtaining or replacing official documentation, including for newborns in non-government areas, as it is difficult to reach government areas where documentation is provided (UNHCR/Protection Cluster 07/09/2015).

Updated: 29/02/2016



NORTH AMERICA

HAITI FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

28 February: Heavy rain in the Sud-est left one person dead, four missing and destroyed 9,600 houses. In the city of Cap-Haïtien on the northern coast, 8,100 houses were flooded and 1,530 residences were submerged in the community of Limonade (AFP 29/02/2016).

25 February: The provisional President appointed a new prime minister, who will form a government mandated to lead the country to elections (AFP 27/02/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 3.6 million Haitians are facing food insecurity, including 1.5 million people in severe food insecurity and 200,000 in extreme food insecure situations (OCHA 11/02/2016).
- More than 36,000 cholera cases were reported in 2015 (OCHA 11/02/2016).
- Approximately 18,000 children are likely already affected by a form of malnutrition (UNICEF 26/01/2016).
- 60,000 IDPs in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 14/01/2016).
- Almost 130,000 Haitians and people of Haitian descent have arrived from Dominican Republic in 2015 (GARR 15/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security: Four municipalities are in an emergency situation (IPC Phase 4) and other 2 municipalities are in crisis (IPC Phase 3) (OCHA 11/02/2016).
- Shelter and NFIs: some 3.5 million Haitians, equal to a third of the total population, live in precarious neighbourhoods and informal settlements in urban areas. They suffer from socio-economic deprivation, elevated risk of disaster impact, and forced eviction (OCHA/UNCT, 11/03/2015).
- WASH: Significant water shortages are reported in the drought affected departments of West, Central, South and Southeast (OCHA 11/02/2016). In 2015 more than 36,000 cases and 322 deaths were reported. Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, and Artibonite departments (OCHA 11/02/2016).

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. A cholera outbreak has persisted since October 2010. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

Politics and security

Political instability

Parliamentary elections, delayed since 2011, took place on 9 August 2015. However, 26 of 1,508 polling stations were closed due to violence, and voter turnout was only 18% (AFP 21/08/2015; OAS, 10/08/2015; Reuters, 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 (Conseil Electoral Provisoire, or CEP) announced a revote in 25 of 119 constituencies (Alter Press 11/08/2015; 12/08/2015). 16 candidates were disqualified over suspected involvement in election violence.

The revote took place, alongside the presidential election, on 25 October (local media, 26/10/2015; AFP, 27/10/2015). Some violence was reported beforehand, most notably in the Cité Soleil district of Port-au-Prince, where 10–15 people were killed (AP 19/10/2015). 224 people were arrested on charges of violence and suspicion of voter fraud (ICG 02/11/2015). Protests and violence events continued over alleged election fraud, mainly in Port-au-Prince (local news 07/11/2015, 09/11/2015, 17/11/2015; AFP 11/11/2015, 18/11/2015; international media 21/11/2015).

On 24 November the final results of the first round of presidential elections were published. Jovenel Moïse, the candidate supported by the current president, gathered the highest number of votes (AFP 24/11/2015). To counter protests, President Michel Martelly ordered a commission to evaluate the first round of presidential elections, and the second round was postponed (Center for Economic and Policy Research 17/12/2015; AlterPresse 18/12/2015; 17/12/2015).

On 5 January, the commission reported numerous irregularities (AlterPresse 05/01/2016). Protests continued (AFP 20/01/2016; 19/01/2016). On 27 January, President Martelly announced the replacement of all CEP members (ICG 03/02/2016). On 29 January, the Organization of American States (OAS) announced the deployment of a special election mission in Haiti. Protesters voiced opposition to the OAS mission, which they believe may help Martelly remain in power (AFP 30/01/2016; Reuters 31/01/2016). On 5 February, a man was killed during clashes in Port-au-Prince between protesters and former soldiers and youths seeking to restore the army, which was disbanded in 1995 (AFP 07/02/2016).

Transitional government

On 6 February, Haitian politicians from both the government and the opposition agreed to a transitional government. The agreement sets new presidential elections for 24 April, with a new President by 14 May (AFP 07/02/2016; 08/02/2016; Al Jazeera 05/02/2016). President Martelly stepped down on 7 February and OAS announced that its mission was accomplished (OAS 06/02/2016). On 14 February, Legislators elected Jocelene Privet, a former senator, to the position of interim President. His mandate is limited to 120 days (AFP 15/02/2016). Demonstrations continued in Port-au-Prince,

questioning the legitimacy of the interim president (13/02/2016). On 25 February, the provisional President appointed a new prime minister, who will form a government mandated to lead the country to elections. The opposition and the previous government rejected the new prime minister, who was a member of Martelly's party (AFP 27/02/2016; local media 01/03/2016).

Natural disasters

Drought

Around one million Haitians have been affected by drought since the beginning of 2015. The most affected departments are Sud-Est, Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, Centre, and Nord-Est (OCHA 03/07/2015). 80% of Haiti has been affected by El Niño conditions, with lower than average rainfall (FEWSNET 07/08/2015). Extremely warm and dry conditions are expected to continue through May 2016 (FAO 14/12/2015). Drought has resulted in a 50% decrease on the harvest of an average year, which covers 60% of agricultural production (FAO 26/01/2016).

Floods

On 28 February, heavy rain in the Sud-est left one person dead, four missing, and destroyed 9,600 houses. In the city of Cap-Haïtien on the northern coast, 8,100 houses were flooded and 1,530 residences were submerged in the community of Limonade. An emergency plan setting up shelters was not activated (AFP 29/02/2016). In the beginning of February have left at least six people dead and 200 houses destroyed in the town of Borgne, in the north of Haiti. The heavy rains and floods affected more than a thousand people in Cap-Haïtien, Nord department, where mudslides mixed with trash flooded some residential areas, and in Port-de-Paix, Nord-Ouest. Both areas are already affected by drought (IciHaiti 12/02/2016; OCHA 11/02/2016; Redhum 13/02/2016).

Displacement

IDPs

As of 30 June 2015, 60,800 IDPs remain in 45 camps following the 2010 earthquake: 47% of IDP households are in in Delmas, 17% in Croix des Bouquets, and 10% in Tabarre, 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

A regularisation process was conducted regarding foreigners with no legal status was conducted by Dominican Republic (DR) and left up to 200,000 Haitians and people of Haitian descent at risk of forced expulsion (AFP 21/06/2015; IOM 16/02/2016; VOA 05/01/2016).

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) began recording arrivals in Haiti in June 2015 and as of 12 February count more than 67,600 Haitians and people of Haitian descent who have entered from DR, including 1,011 unaccompanied minors. 41,172 people report they came to Haiti spontaneously, 11,529 claim they were deported. The number of people officially deported has increased sharply from 2,974 as of 25 September, to 14,984 at mid-February. 17% of the returned were born in DR. These numbers constitute only some of the people who have arrived from the Dominican Republic since June 2015, after IOM started registering the arrivals. According to DR, almost 130,000 people have returned to Haiti (GARR 15/01/2016; OCHA 14/01/2016; IOM 22/01/2016). In 2016, 171,000 people of Haitian descent are expected to be returned to Haiti (UNICEF 26/01/2016).

Humanitarian access

The number of humanitarian actors has continued to decrease, from 512 in 2010 to 146 by March 2015. Government capacity has not always improved, creating critical sectoral gaps (UN 28/03/2015; OCHA/UN 31/12/2014).

Security and physical constraints

Between the end of 2015 and 8 January a UN worker and two UN police officers were killed in two separate attacks in Port-au-Prince and Cap Haïtien (Latin America Herald Tribune 08/01/2016; News24 31/12/2015).

Sociopolitical unrest and frequent strikes and road blocks continue to delay deliveries and distributions, particularly for nutrition activities (WFP 31/12/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

3.6 million Haitians are facing food insecurity, including 1.5 million people in severe food insecurity and 200,000 in extreme food insecure situations. Four municipalities are in an Emergency situation (IPC Phase 4) and another two are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (OCHA 11/02/2016). The most affected departments are Plateau Central, Nippes, Sud-Est, Sud, Grand'Anse, Ouest, Nord-Ouest, and Nord-Est (FEWSNET 31/01/2016). Assistance needs are expected to start declining following the end of the lean season

in June 2016 (FEWSNET 24/01/2016). Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA) estimates that, by July 2016, food insecurity could affect about 5 million people, half of the Haitian population, if no assistance is provided (OCHA 11/02/2016).

The chances of recovery are considered limited. 57% of the households affected by the drought in the last six months have accumulated debt, 89% have lost their 2015 spring harvest and only 37% have planted for the 2016 winter season. 43% of those who have planted forecast production losses (WFP and government 17/02/2016).

Livelihoods

Extended dry spells have reduced jobs in the agricultural sector, which is estimated to provide 50% of all employment in Haiti (Reuters 26/08/2015; OCHA 27/07/2015). The drought has severely affected livestock and unusually rough seas impacted fishing in May and June (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 caused by the drought (AlterPresse 14/10/2015).

Food availability

60–80% of the main local crops and vegetables have been lost in parts of Haiti, due to drought. 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 season harvest (FEWSNET 01/09/2015).

Food access

An estimated 600,000 Haitians rely on international food aid to survive (Reuters 26/08/2015). Staple food prices remain well above their seasonal highs. Agricultural labour incomes remained below average during the lean season, reducing purchasing power and food access for very poor households and creating atypically high food assistance needs following two years of poor agricultural production (FEWSNET 01/01/2016). In mid-2015, basic food prices were 30–40% higher than in 2014, due to the poor spring harvest (OCHA, 27/07/2015).

Health

Five million Haitians (50% of the 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

In 2015 more than 36,000 cases and 322 deaths were reported. Most cases are from Ouest, Centre, and Artibonite departments (OCHA 11/02/2016). The heavy October rains caused a resurgence of cholera cases in several communes, notably in the departments of Artibonite, Ouest, Sud-Est, Sud, and Nord. Consuming untreated water and poor hygiene practices caused the transmission of 73% of national cholera cases (OCHA 31/10/2015; local media 15/11/2015). Current estimates indicate that 25,000 people will contract the disease in 2016 (OCHA 11/02/2016).

754,738 cholera cases, including 9,068 deaths were reported between the start of the epidemic in October 2010 and 12 November 2015 (PAHO 23/12/2015).

Zika

As 25 February, Haiti has reported 329 suspected and five confirmed cases of Zika virus (PAHO and WHO 25/02/2016).

Nutrition

In January 2016, preliminary results of a nutrition survey reveal that 20 communes most affected by drought have an alarming rate of GAM, at 8.4%. Six communes are on alert with greater than 10% GAM, out of which two communes are above the emergency threshold with 15% GAM between 16% and 27.7% and SAM between 8% and 10%. The total estimated number of children in those 20 communes is 211,000 and approximately 18,000 children are likely already affected by a form of malnutrition (OCHA 11/02/2016; UNICEF 26/01/2016).

WASH

Significant water shortages are reported in the drought-affected departments of Ouest, Central, Sud and Sud-Est (OCHA 11/02/2016). 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).

69% of the population lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank 30/09/2014). 60% of schools have no toilets (HRW 08/10/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

60,000 IDPs are vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance, living in camps, since 2010 (OCHA 14/01/2016). 45,000 live in tents and makeshift shelters with little or no access to water and sanitation (Reuters 12/01/2016). Camp conditions are deteriorating as humanitarian actors withdraw due to lack of funding. The majority of Haiti's 45 IDP sites are in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, including 12 in Delmas and four in Croix des Bouquets. There are 11 sites in Léogâne. 40% of IDP sites are tents and makeshift shelters, while 47% are transitional shelters (IOM 30/06/2015).

Some deportees and returnees from DR are thought to be settling with relatives or in places of origin, but many are staying in spontaneous camps in the south of the country. The majority are in Ouanaminthe (Nord-Est) and Belladère (Centre) communes (GAR, 20/08/2015; IOM 11/08/2015; Alter Press 26/06/2015). There are 4,109 people in Anse-à-Pitres, living in six spontaneous sites and in urgent need of food, WASH, NFIs and shelter assistance (OCHA 30/09/2015; Church World Service 06/11/2015).

Education

An estimated 400,000 children do not attend school, 10% of school-aged children in Haiti (AFP 07/09/2015). Primary school enrollment is roughly 75%. 50% of the adult population is illiterate (USAID 05/01/2016).

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

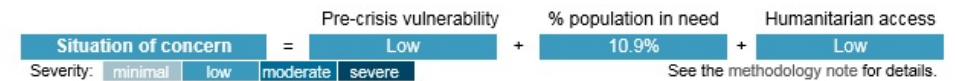
Around a third of people relocated outside camps after the 2010 earthquake do not

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).

67% of returnees from DR do not possess any type of documentation and are at risk of statelessness as the authorities of Haiti have refused to accept non-national deportees on its territory (AlterPresse 19/08/2015; IOM 22/01/2016).

Updated 01/03/2016

EL SALVADOR DROUGHT



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

25 February: Sonsonate department faces water shortages (PAHO 25/02/2016).

KEY CONCERNS

-156,000 people are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes (FEWSNET, 08/2015).

Politics and security

A negotiated truce between El Salvador's largest gangs, Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS 13) and Barrio 18, came to an end in 2014. Competition between the two gangs has reached unprecedented levels of violence (08/02/2016). 6,657 people were killed in 2015, which creates a homicide rate of 104 per 100,000 residents (ECHO 15/02/2016; STRATFOR 09/02/2016). With 736 people killed, January became the deadliest month since the end of the civil war in 1992. This is a 219% growth in homicides compared to January 2015, and a 328% increase compared to 2014 (ECHO 15/02/2016). Gangs also access the political level via bribes and extortions, and often clash with police and military personnel (Reuters 25/01/2016; Evan Ellis 16/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

El Salvador is among the countries most severely affected by a prolonged dry spell, associated with the El Niño phenomenon (Diario El Mundo 31/10/2015). It caused

significant crop losses during the May–September *primera* season (FAO 30/10/2015). An estimated 700,000 people affected by the drought are in need of food assistance (OCHA 12/2015).

El Niño conditions are expected to last until June 2016 in the eastern, ‘dry corridor’ regions (IFRC, 25/11/2015).

Humanitarian access

Insecurity, in particular the presence of MS13 and Barrio 18 (El Salvador’s largest criminal groups), hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance (WFP 30/06/2015). In San Salvador, health workers have to negotiate access to neighbourhoods with large gang presence (Washington Post 08/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 156,000 people (39,000 households), mainly in eastern and western regions, are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes due to the prolonged dry spell (Redhum 16/11/2015; WFP 30/09/2015; FEWSNET 31/08/2015). The number of people in Crisis in these regions is expected to increase during the first quarter of 2016 (FEWSNET 11/2015). Farmers in the Dry Corridor, located in the eastern part of the country, lost almost 100% of the maize planted in the *primera* (April-August) season (WFP 31/12/2015).

With the exception of the southern fishing region and San Salvador and La Libertad departments, which are less dependent on crop production, El Salvador’s departments are facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security outcomes (FEWSNET 31/08/2015).

Food availability

88,000 hectares of maize crops were damaged during the *primera* season; affected areas have lost more than 60% of their crop (FAO, 30/10/2015). Total grain losses were 30% higher in 2015 than in 2014 (OCHA 12/2015). The availability of seeds will be significantly reduced in the *postrera* (August-January) season, due to the *primera* season losses (FAO 14/09/2015).

Livelihoods

Approximately 100,000 agricultural and livestock producers have been affected by the drought. 24 communities in the San Miguel department have been particularly affected (IFRC, 25/11/2015).

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 (OCHA 12/2015). Coffee production is estimated to have dropped 35-40% from 2014 to 2015, 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

As of 23 February, 30 dengue cases have been confirmed, and over 1,750 suspected cases have been detected (PAHO 24/02/2016).

Zika

On 11 January the government issued a national alert regarding the mosquito-borne Zika virus. As of mid-February around 8,600 suspected cases of the virus have been reported (OCHA 23/02/2016). The highest number of Zika cases are being reported in the northern and central departments of Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, Cabanas, and San Vicente (Pacific Disaster Center 11/02/2016). There is an increasing number of cases of the auto-immune disease Guillian-Barré among those affected by Zika virus: 46 cases of Guillian-Barré and two deaths have already been reported in January and early February (WHO 21/01/2016; VoA 23/01/2016; BBC 01/02/2016). The average number of Guillian-Barré cases per year is 169 (WHO 05/02/2016). Guillian-Barré is a rare syndrome that attacks the peripheral nervous system. A causal link with Zika is yet to be confirmed.

WASH

The effects of El Niño are forecast to continue until June 2016, reducing access to clean water (IFRC 25/11/2015).

In Sonsonate department, the southwest, water shortages have been reported in high elevation communities. People collect rainwater to increase water access and women have to travel more than 40km to wash clothes (PAHO 25/02/2016).

Education

Schooling is regularly disrupted as children are forced to miss classes due to threats from criminal gangs that operate along the school route (The Guardian 27/01/2016).

Protection

There are reports that a high number of women and children are fleeing their homes and migrating through Mexico to the United States due to the rise in gang violence. They remain vulnerable to violence during their migration (OCHA 12/2015; UNHCR 28/10/2015).

Children

Gangs increasingly target the young, with children as young as 12 years old enlisted in their ranks. Boys serve as foot soldiers, while young girls sometimes are used as sex slaves (Wall Street Journal 24/02/2016).

Gender

'Femicide' – the act of killing women solely because they are women – has become widespread. Between January and October 2015, 475 women were murdered, as opposed to 294 in the same period in 2014 (Latin Correspondent 25/02/2016).

Updated: 29/02/2016

GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 01/03/2016. Last update: 29/02/2016

KEY FIGURES

- 175,000 families lost between 50% and 100% of maize and beans harvest in the Dry Corridor (FAO 26/01/2016).
- 720,000 people are severely food insecure (ECHO 18/02/2015).
- Severe acute malnutrition is between 3.3% and 5.7% (OCHA 07/12/2015).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Food security, mainly in the western and central part of the country
- Nutrition assistance

OVERVIEW

Prolonged drought has led to a food security crisis in Guatemala: 720,000 people are severely food insecure, mainly in the western and central parts of the country, and external food assistance will be needed until August 2016. Eastern and western Guatemala are most affected by the substantial maize and bean crop losses. Chronic malnutrition is reportedly increasing due to consecutive years of extended dry spells. The activity of drug trafficking groups may hamper humanitarian access.

Politics and security

Guatemala was on the brink of a political crisis in August 2015 when street demonstrations pushed the cabinet ministers and the president to resign due to allegations of corruption (VOA 25/08/2015; BBC 16/09/2015). Jimmy Morales was elected as the new president at polls in October, but the political instability continues (BBC 26/10/2015; OCHA 14/01/2016).

Guatemala has one of the highest violent crime rates in the world, caused by widespread drug-trafficking, gang-related violence and a heavily armed population. Some communities have resorted to vigilantism due to the lack of criminal law enforcement. Gang-related violence is one of the principal reasons why people leave the country. In 2015, violence has intensified in Escuintla, Santa Rosa, Jutiapa, Chiquimila, Zacapa, Izabal and Peten departments. Kidnapping gangs, often connected to drug traffickers, are a concern (OSAC 14/05/2014; Human Rights Watch 31/01/2016; Humanitarian Team in Guatemala 31/12/2015).

Natural disasters

Drought

The El Niño phenomenon is causing severe drought in Central America's "dry corridor", which runs through Guatemala. Guatemala is reportedly most affected by the regional drought, followed by Honduras and El Salvador (OCHA 14/01/2016). As of February, 1.3 million people have been affected in Guatemala (ECHO 18/02/2016). The dry spell is expected to continue through March 2016, drastically reducing harvests as staple crops are destroyed (FEWSNET 30/01/2016).

Guatemala declared a state of emergency on 1 October due to drought and food insecurity (Oxfam 01/10/2015). There were more consecutive days without rain in 2015 than in 2014 and smaller amount of cumulative rainfall (FEWSNET 08/2015).

Humanitarian access

Security constraints caused by gang-related violence and drug trafficking must be taken into account.

Food security and livelihoods

720,000 people are severely food insecure, as drought has led to a third consecutive year of decreased harvest (ECHO 18/02/2016). Households in Crisis are in Huehuetenango, Quiché, Chimaltenango, Totonicapán, Sacatepéquez, and Quetzaltenango departments. Households in the east are currently facing Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET 01/2016). External food assistance will be needed until the next harvest in August 2016, by when an estimated 1–2.5 million people will be in Crisis (FEWSNET 24/01/2015; 30/01/2016).

Livelihoods

Cereal production in 2015 is estimated at 1.8 million metric tons, a 5% decrease compared to 2014, that was already a poorer year (FAO 30/12/2015). Around 175,000 families have reported between 50% and 100% losses for maize and beans in the Dry Corridor (FAO 26/01/2016). 70% of the families in the country have lost their harvest (Red Cross 04/11/2015). Coffee rust is negatively impacting labour opportunities, particularly on smaller farms (FEWSNET 30/01/2016).

Food availability

National grain production fell by 4.5% in 2015 compared to 2014 (Redhum 04/01/2016). People in the eastern areas that are now moderately food insecure will run out of food reserves in February. By April 2016, 65% of families will have exhausted their reserves and the remaining 35% will have only limited food reserves (Red Cross 05/02/2016; FEWSNET 30/12/2015). Hundreds of farmers are in need of fertilizers in Chiquimula to save their maize and beans harvest (Redhum 02/02/2016).

Households in the mountains in the west are threatened by severe food insecurity: drought led to losses of the total 2015 staple production and they have scarce job opportunities and low incomes. They purchase food with money earned in limited agricultural and non-agricultural labour opportunities (FEWSNET 30/12/2015; 30/01/2016).

Food access

Maize prices rose by 16.8% between November and December 2015 due to decreased maize supply from the drought-affected northern and southern regions. The price of beans increased by 3.5% in the same period (FAO 10/01/2016).

Nutrition

46.5% of children under five are chronically malnourished. The government is considering declaring a state of emergency (Redhum 19/01/2016; FAO 26/01/2016). 15,177 cases of severe malnutrition were reported in 2015. This is 12% fewer than in 2014 (Government 29/12/2015). 100,000 people are in need of nutrition support (OCHA 14/01/2016).

Severe acute malnutrition in children under five is between 3.3% and 5.7% countrywide (Redhum 10/11/2015; OCHA 07/12/2015). In some communities in the dry corridor, GAM reaches 13% (OCHA 07/09/2015).

Health

1.5 million people are in need of health services (OCHA 14/01/2016). Some 4 million people in rural areas do not have access to primary healthcare and hundreds of thousands of children have not received essential vaccination (OCHA 30/12/2015). Mosquito-transmitted diseases are a major preoccupation: dengue fever and chikungunya cases are reported across the country.

Zika virus has been spreading across 13 countries in Latin America. As of 29 February, 105 cases (68 in 2015, 37 in 2016) have been reported in Guatemala (WHO 29/02/2016). Zika is transmitted by mosquito bite, and symptoms are relatively mild (ECHO 06/01/2016).

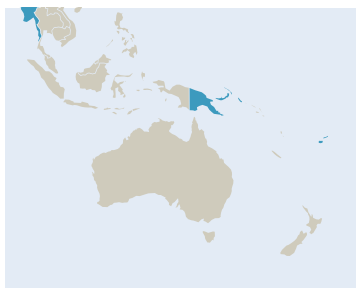
15,900 cases of dengue fever, including nine deaths, were reported in 2015. This is an increase on 12,533 cases recorded in 2014 (Redhum 09/11/2015; 10/12/2015).

27,600 cases of chikungunya were recorded in 2015, a 20% increase in cases compared to 2014 (Redhum 10/12/2015).

Reviewed: 01/03/2016

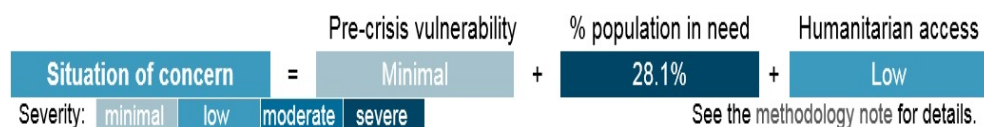
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DROUGHT, EPIDEMIC

HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



OCEANIA

FIJI DROUGHT, CYCLONE



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

29 February: Over 1,000 schools have reopened, but approximately 100 remain in use as evacuation centres.

28 February: Increases in diarrhoea and skin conditions are reported in some of the areas worst-affected by the cyclone (OCHA).

KEY FIGURES

- 42 people dead; over 120 injured (WHO 26/02/2016).
- 350,000 people estimated to be living in very destructive zone of TC Winston's path (OCHA 22/02/2016).
- 67,000 remain affected by ongoing El Niño-related drought (OCHA 08/01/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

- Access to remote affected areas to assess impact and organise response.

- Restoration of interrupted power, water and communications in affected areas.
- Supply of food, water and other essential items to displaced populations in evacuation centres.

OVERVIEW

Fiji's population of almost 900,000 are spread across over 320 islands and atolls. Although preparedness has improved in recent years, low-lying areas remain particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, including tropical cyclones and storm/tidal surges, as evidenced by the heavy impact of Tropical Cyclone Winston in February 2016. Fiji has also been battling an ongoing, El Niño-related drought since mid-2015, which has forced the government to truck water and food supplies to over 67,000 people in western, eastern and northern divisions. Many of the drought affected population have also been hit hard by the cyclone, compounding their humanitarian needs.

Politics and security

Multiple military coups, in 1987, 2000, and 2006, have interrupted Fijian politics since the country gained independence in 1987. Stability has improved since democratic elections were held on 17 September 2014, which brought Frank Bainimarama's Fiji First party to power with a parliamentary majority (DFAT 2016).

Natural disasters

Tropical Cyclone

Fiji faces an elevated risk of tropical cyclones this season, in part due to the consequences of the strong 2015-2016 El Niño event (OCHA 08/01/2016; WMO 22/02/2016). Those risks manifested in February 2016 when tropical cyclone Winston (TC Winston) – the strongest cyclone on record in the Pacific – made landfall, killing 42 people and destroying houses and infrastructure in its path (AFP 23/02/2016; OCHA 29/02/2016).

The Fijian Government has declared a 30-day state of natural disaster (OCHA 21/02/2016). **On 21 February, the government appealed for international assistance. The response is led by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) (UNICEF 29/02/2016).**

All the geographical divisions of Fiji have been affected to different extents (IFCR 29/02/2016). Damage is estimated at USD 460 million (Radio NZ 25/01/2016). Around 40% of the population is estimated to live within 50km of the centre of the cyclone (UNICEF 26/02/2016). Immediate needs are in shelter, health and WASH (IFCR

29/02/2016). The government has listed 12 priority response areas (UNICEF 26/02/2016). Satellite imagery has confirmed worst affected areas include parts of the two main islands: northeast Viti Levu and the south coast of Vanua Levu (Savusavu, Nasonisoni and Nabouwalu). Worst affected areas also include smaller islands: Northern Lau Group, Taveuni, Koro Island, Ovalau, and Naigani.

As of 26 February, the casualty toll was (ECHO 26/02/2016):

- Central: 9 dead, 24 injured.
- West: 11 dead, 24 injured.
- East: 20 dead, 68 injured.
- North: 2 dead, 15 injured.

Drought

67,000 people affected by drought in Fiji's western, northern and eastern divisions are reliant on water trucking and food deliveries (OCHA 08/01/2016). Hot and dry conditions have had an impact on crops and agriculture throughout 2015, and a drought warning has been in force since October (OCHA 29/10/2015).

Displacement

Approximately 60,000 people are still sheltering in evacuation centres, with their homes destroyed or severely damaged (OCHA 29/02/2016; Pacific Islands News Association 26/02/2016). The displaced are spread across 875 evacuation centres (OCHA 26/02/2016; ECHO 26/02/2016). As of 26 February, the regional distribution was:

- Central: 16,135 evacuees in 160 centres
- West: 34,778 evacuees in 361 centres.
- East: 6,999 evacuees in 233 centres.
- North: 4,549 evacuees in 101 centres (ECHO 26/02/2016).

Many more displaced are staying with relatives or in non-official displacement sites (UNICEF 26/02/2016).

Humanitarian access

Damage to telecommunications networks, roads, bridges, and air and port facilities continues to impede assessments and emergency relief efforts, particularly to remote and outer islands (UNICEF 29/02/2016).

Intermittent communications continue to constrain operations. There are reporting delays from assessment teams currently deployed to outer islands due to distance and weak/non-functioning communications (UNICEF 26/02/2016).

Road access is a challenge, but conditions are improving (OCHA 29/02/2016). Main primary roads to Viti Levu have now been re-opened. The coastal roads that circumnavigate the island are open, although caution warnings remain in place (WFP/Logistics Cluster 29/02/2016). Most interior roads in the north of Viti Levu remain closed, or open to 4WD vehicles only (WFP/Logistics Cluster 29/02/2016). Lack of access to interior areas are problematic, as damages were worst inland (OCHA 29/02/2016). On Vanua Levu, most roads are open, with one interior road still closed and warnings in place on three secondary roads (Logistics Cluster 29/02/2016).

All airports are open although some operational restrictions due to damage are reported (Logistics Cluster 26/02/2016). Nadi international airport was temporarily closed, but has since reopened (AFP 23/02/2016). Tarmac space at Nausori Airport, Fiji's second largest, is becoming congested (OCHA 29/02/2016). Warehouse capacity is limited, and unsolicited donations are expected to increase. Greater clarity is needed on regulation of relief goods and services (OCHA 29/02/2016).

Multiple affected remote islands are only accessible by boat (ABC 23/02/2016). 40,000 affected people are on smaller islands, where access remains extremely constrained (OCHA 29/02/2016). Bad weather was preventing boat transportation of relief to some Western Division islands (OCHA 28/02/2016). It could take months to restore basic water, power and sewerage to the worst affected areas, particularly outer islands (Government 25/02/2016; UNICEF 29/02/2016).

Food security and livelihoods

Reports of widespread crop damage in rural areas affected by TC Winston are concerning and are likely to compound ongoing drought-related vulnerabilities (OCHA 22/02/2016).

Food availability

Around 80% of sugarcane crops have been damaged (Radio NZ 25/02/2016). In October, 25% of the sugar cane harvest was estimated to have been lost due to drought (OCHA 22/10/2015).

100% of crops are estimated to be destroyed in the worst-affected areas (OCHA 25/02/2016)

Food access

Food access is worsening daily. Fresh produce is in limited supply. Prices have increased significantly (OCHA 29/02/2016). Food and milk shortages, are reported in Rakiraki (OCHA 29/02/2016). Food distributions are underway but are yet to meet all needs (OCHA 25/02/2016).

Livelihoods

In Ba, a major manufacturing hub, factories are closed due to power and water outages after TC Winston (ABC 23/02/2016).

Declining tourist numbers are expected to have a significant impact on livelihoods in Fiji (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Health

As of 25 February, 42 people were confirmed dead, 45 people hospitalised, and 122 injured (WHO 26/02/2016).

Damage to health facilities varies from complete destruction to damage and supply problems (OCHA 27/02/2016). Lautoka and Ba hospitals, Western Division, sustained important damage. Nausori and Wainbokasi hospitals have relocated patients. Communication with many healthcare facilities in Eastern Division is yet to be established. Rakiraki hospital in Western Division cannot be reached (OCHA 29/02/2016). Almost 100 cold chain storage facilities are in affected areas so vaccines may be spoiled (OCHA 28/02/2016).

WHO has warned that disruption of water and sanitation infrastructure, compromised hygiene and overcrowding could lead to outbreaks, particularly of diarrhoeal disease (WHO 26/02/2016). An increase in skin conditions has been reported in Vanua Balavu (OCHA 28/02/2016). Diarrhoea increases have been observed in Koro and Tailevu (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Nutrition

Malnourished children are particularly vulnerable due to limited access to food and nutrition supplements. There are worries that government distributed powdered milk could harm infants, especially if mixed with unsafe water (OCHA 28/02/2016).

WASH

It is estimated that up to 250,000 people are in need of WASH assistance (UNICEF 26/02/2016; OCHA 28/02/2016).

Most of the 67,000 people reliant on water trucking since mid-2015 live in the areas worst affected by TC Winston (OCHA 29/02/2016). As of December, some 17 million litres had been distributed to Western, Eastern and Northern Divisions (OCHA 07/12/2016).

Displaced families in evacuation centres lack basic hygiene materials (UNICEF 26/02/2016). WASH needs are particularly acute among women and girls, who lack sanitary products (OCHA 29/02/2016). Open defecation reports are increasing due to

a lack of sanitation facilities (OCHA 29/02/2016).

Up to 300 schools may require WASH assistance (UNICEF 26/02/2016). 187 school toilet blocks have been damaged (UNICEF 29/02/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

Damage to houses and community structures is widespread. Assessments are ongoing. Satellite imagery indicates the following shelter damage:

- Lautoka, Ba Province, Western Division: 900 affected structures, including 226 severely damaged or destroyed (UNOSAT 25/02/2016).
- Ba, Ba Province, Western Division: 241 affected structures, including 144 houses highly damaged or destroyed (EC 24/02/2016).
- Vitogo village, Ba Province, Western Division: 30 affected structures, including 14 severely damaged or destroyed (UNOSAT 24/02/2016).
- Tavua, Ba Province, Western Division: 547 affected structures, including 219 houses highly damaged or destroyed (EC 24/02/2016).
- Lawaki, Central Division: 505 affected structures, including 298 houses highly damaged or destroyed (EC 25/02/2016).
- Volivoli, Ra Province, 402 affected structures, including 257 houses highly damaged or destroyed (EC 24/02/2016).
- Koro Island (Nabuna, Vatulele, Nathamaki), Lomaiviti Province: 226 affected structures, including 191 houses highly damaged or destroyed (PDC 24/02/2016).
- Lomaloma, Lau Province: 25% of buildings are badly damaged (OCHA 29/02/2016).
- Levu Kana: 30% of buildings are badly damaged (OCHA 29/02/2016).

A strategy for transitioning displaced people in evacuation centres into more durable accommodation remains a critical need. Thousands of houses are expected to require demolition (OCHA 29/02/2016).

Education

As of 29 February, assessments showed that 240 schools were damaged, including 60 destroyed. Up to 103 schools were in use as evacuation centres (UNICEF 29/02/2016). 28% of destroyed schools are in Eastern Division (OCHA 29/02/2016). 90,000 school age children live in the high impact zone (OCHA 28/02/2016).

Schools were closed for one week following the cyclone. (STC 22/02/2016). On 29 February, some 1,117 schools reopened, representing 66% of all schools and early child education facilities in Fiji (OCHA 29/02/2016). 85% of primary and secondary schools reopened, despite significant damage to facilities (UNICEF 29/02/2016). There is a need for temporary learning spaces to avoid further interruptions to schooling

(UNICEF 26/02/2016).

Protection

A strategy is needed to ensure the protection of displaced persons in crowded evacuation centres, as well as after they close (OCHA 29/02/2016). There are heightened protection concerns for vulnerable groups, including women, children and disabled.

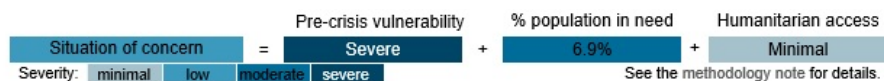
Children: UNICEF estimates that up to 120,000 children may be badly affected (UNICEF 26/02/2016). Children could carry emotional scars following the destructive storm and may require psychosocial support (STC 25/02/2016).

Women: Most women are engaged in the informal agricultural sector, which has been heavily impacted by drought and the cyclone. The negative impact on livelihoods heightens women's vulnerability (UN Women 29/02/2016).

Disabled: Reports indicate that persons with disabilities were unable to reach evacuation centres due to lack of transportation (OCHA 29/02/2016).

Updated 29/02/2016

PAPUA NEW GUINEA DROUGHT, FLOODS



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

22 February: Drought continues to affect various parts of Western and Gulf provinces and the highland areas.

KEY FIGURES

- 700,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance (OCHA 22/02/2016).

KEY PRIORITIES

Food and WASH are priority concerns. The staple food in the Highlands, sweet potato, was severely damaged by frost in August. Water shortages have caused health facilities and schools to close or keep shorter hours.

OVERVIEW

Prolonged drought has affected 2.7 million people across the country; 700,000 people are living in the most severely affected areas. Food production has been affected by both drought and August frost in the Highlands, and water shortages continue to have an impact on WASH and education.

Politics and security

Inter-communal violence displaces thousands of people every year. 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 actual 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). About half of the detainees have been granted refugee status by PNG authorities, but a lack of a clear resettlement strategy is reported (Radio New Zealand 15/02/2016).

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). Many drought-affected areas can only be reached by foot or air (UN 22/02/2016, UNRC 07/01/2016). **With many of the communities living in remote areas, logistics remain a key challenge in delivering assistance (OCHA 22/02/2016).**

Natural disasters

Drought

Several months of drought, and August frost in the Highlands region, has affected 2.7 million people across the country: **700,000 people are living in the most severely affected areas (OCHA 22/02/2016)**. Deaths related to diseases and starvation have been reported, but no official number is available (IRIN 28/01/2016; IOM 01/11/2015). **The 2015–16 El Niño has reached its peak towards the end of 2015 and continues its gradual decline. The impact and after-effect on people and their livelihood remains critical (UN 22/02/2016)**.

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 (OCHA 07/01/2016).

Floods

An estimated 27,000 people have been affected and at least six people killed in flash floods and landslides after heavy rain in Chimbu and Western Highlands mid-February. 200 houses have been destroyed, and bridges have been damaged (Radio New Zealand 15/02/2016; OCHA 15/02/2016).

Rainfall since November has alleviated some of the drought, but drought-affected areas are not able to absorb heavy rainfall.

Food security and livelihoods

An estimated 700,000 people are in urgent need of food assistance or agricultural inputs (OCHA 22/02/2016). 266,000 of these live in very high altitude areas: 182,000 in the Highlands, 46,000 in Western Province, and about 28,000 in remote islands (UNRC 07/01/2016). 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. Affected families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including limiting the number of meals (CARE 15/10/2015).

Food availability

Frost has destroyed crops in the most affected areas, and food is reported as a priority need (OCHA 08/01/2016; AFP 24/08/2015). 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). Livestock numbers have fallen as animal feed is depleted (The Guardian 02/12/2015).

In Eastern Highlands province, food production has fallen by an estimated 50% (Radio

New Zealand 20/11/2015). November and December rains caused the limited food available to rot, and has destroyed crops (OCHA 11/01/2016). In the Highlands, frost has destroyed wild plants that are usually eaten in periods of food shortages, leaving the population with limited coping mechanisms (Government 27/10/2015).

Food access

Market access is extremely limited in rural areas in the Highlands, and the rural population is therefore the most vulnerable to the impact of the drought (WFP 07/09/2015). Food prices have reportedly tripled in areas where the population has access to markets (FAO 09/02/2016). Some markets have closed (IFRC 30/10/2015).

Livelihoods

Livelihoods have been affected by damage to coffee plantations, one of the main cash crops in the Highlands (IOM 04/09/2015). Fisheries and livestock are also affected. Damage to food gardens means families cannot rely on selling their surplus to purchase food or essential NFIs (CARE 15/10/2015). Areas dependent on watercourses to transport cash crops to markets are impeded by reduced water levels (FAO 30/10/2015).

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). The only two hospitals in Simbu province have reportedly closed (Inter Press Service 13/11/2015).

Inadequate hygiene practices are resulting from limited water availability, and an increase in diarrhoea, dysentery, typhoid, and skin disease cases has 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).

Dengue

170 dengue cases have been reported in Western province since November. The outbreak is at risk of intensifying due to recent rains in the province (WHO 26/01/2016; UNRC 07/01/2016).

Tuberculosis

An outbreak of drug-resistant tuberculosis has been reported on Daru Island, where 160 cases have been recorded in a population of 15,000. Health facilities are unable to effectively treat the patients, many of whom have moved further into the bush because of the drought and lack access to health facilities (RNZ 13/01/2016; ABC 11/01/2016).

WASH

With water sources drying up, the population has resorted to using less reliable water sources, including potentially contaminated rivers (Australian National University 15/01/2016; ECHO 14/09/2015; ABC 18/08/2015). Sources traditionally used for washing and bathing are now also being used for drinking water (Australian National University 15/01/2016; IFRC 15/09/2015). Distances to collect water have increased, and the time spent collecting water has doubled in many affected areas (OCHA 07/01/2016; CARE 15/10/2015; ECHO 14/09/2015). Lack of water storage is reported as priority concern (IOM 25/01/2016).

Open defecation is widely practised in the affected areas, and may lead to contamination of water sources (Government 15/09/2015).

Education

Several schools in Jiwaka province have been closed due to flooding mid-February (Radio New Zealand 16/02/2016).

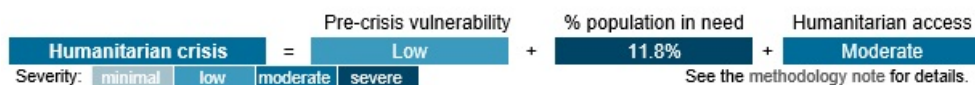
Attendance rates among both teachers and students have dropped as a result of the drought (CARE 15/10/2015). Water shortages have caused several schools in the affected provinces to close or keep shorter hours, so that children can help their families fetch water (Caritas 25/11/2015; CARE 15/10/2015; ECHO 14/09/2015).

Reviewed: 25/02/2016



SOUTH AMERICA

COLOMBIA CONFLICT, DROUGHT, DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

24–29 February: Clashes between armed groups in the Alto Baudó municipality in Chocó have displaced up to 900 people; a further 900 people are confined to their homes (Colombia Reports 29/02/2016; Semana 29/02/2016).

KEY FIGURES

- 5.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA 19/11/2015).
- 6.3 million IDPs. 193,000 are expected to be displaced by the end of 2015 (OCHA 31/10/2015).
- 2.5 million people are in need of health assistance (OCHA 30/09/2015).

OVERVIEW

5.8 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 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. Approximately 1.3 million people are affected by natural disasters every year (floods, heat waves, and droughts).

Politics and security

Colombia's armed conflict has spanned five decades, pitting the central government, right-wing paramilitaries, and left-wing guerilla groups such as the Armed Revolutionary Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) against one another. Paramilitary groups underwent a partially successful process of disarmament and demobilisation between 2003–2006, however many post-demobilised armed groups remain active.

The latest FARC-EP–Government peace negotiations began in November 2012 in Havana, Cuba (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). Agreement has been reached on the key points of the agenda, including reparations and justice for the victims and the establishment of a special tribunal (AL Jazeera 16/12/2015; AFP 14/12/2015). The biggest point of disagreement remains the issue of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) of FARC. If the

peace agreement is signed the government expects to demobilise between 20,000 and 40,000 members of FARC (Colombia Reports 11/01/2016; 21/12/2015). The government has pledged that the Colombian public will be asked to give a vote of approval or rejection to any peace deal through a plebiscite in the spring of 2016 (El Espectador 09/02/2016). Both parties have announced they have invited the UN to monitor an eventual bilateral ceasefire, the disarmament process, and the end of the conflict (AFP 20/01/2016; BBC 19/01/2016).

The intensity of the armed conflict has decreased substantially since the peace negotiations began. The FARC-EP's unilateral ceasefire began on 20 July. Although this ceasefire has been violated on at least four occasions, military activity between the two parties has almost completely ceased (Colombia Reports 22/09/2015). The head of FARC has ordered a halt to recruitment and the purchasing weapons (El Espectador 10/10/2015; BBC 11/11/2015).

The ELN has been involved in exploratory talks about beginning peace talks with the government since June 2014, but formal discussion has yet to begin (El Espectador 01/02/2016; BBC 01/12/2015).

Venezuela–Colombia relations

On 19 August, Venezuela closed its border to Colombia due to security concerns. More than 1,600 Colombians were deported and another 160,000 returned voluntarily (AFP, 22/08/2015). On 29 September, the Venezuelan government agreed to let the deportees return and legalise their status (Colombia Reports 24/09/2015; AFP 22/09/2015; Voice of America 29/09/2015). The border remains partially closed and commercial and transit activities have not returned to normal (El Espectador OCHA 31/01/2016).

Stakeholders

FARC-EP: The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army (FARC-EP, or FARC) 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. In January 2015, it stated that it intended to join peace talks and would consider disarmament (AFP 07/01/2015). Preliminary discussions between the ELN and the government continue. 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 finances the armed groups.

BACRIM and post-demobilised armed groups: Criminal gangs (*bandas criminales*, or BACRIM) under the names Urabeños, Black Eagles, and Erpac, among others, are generally made up of former paramilitary fighters. They are involved in drug trafficking and extortion throughout Colombia, Venezuela and Panama. These groups are particularly active in Antioquia department, and the Pacific and Caribbean regions (BBC 29/08/2013).

Conflict developments

Since May 2015, the ELN has intensified its operations in the departments of Arauca, Norte de Santander, Chocó, Antioquia, and Boyacá. (OCHA 31/10/2015). After the ELN conducted a series of small scale attacks on state infrastructure in February 2016, President Santos ordered security forces to intensify military operations against the ELN, and reaffirmed his unwillingness to formalise talks unless the ELN demonstrate an intention for peace (BBC 09/02/2016).

In the northwest, conflict over control of drug-trafficking routes continues between the Urabeños, FARC, and ELN (Colombia Reports 22/10/2015). **Clashes between the ELN and the Urabeños in the Alto Baudó municipality in Chocó displaced between 400 and 900 people between 24 and 29 February. A further 900 people are confined to their homes (Colombia Reports 29/02/2016; Semana 01/03/2016).**

As the peace process progresses and FARC begins to withdraw from certain areas, there is a risk of changing dynamics. Other armed groups have already moved into areas previously held by FARC. This will cause further humanitarian consequences (Colombia Reports 29/02/2016; OCHA 30/11/2015). For example, since negotiations began between FARC and the government, the Urabeños, has reportedly almost doubled its territory, settling in areas previously controlled by leftist armed groups. **The ELN is also reported to have increased its presence in areas along the Pacific coast previously held by FARC (Colombia Reports 29/02/2016; 14/12/2015).**

Natural disasters

The El Niño phenomenon is considered the strongest in 18 years and is now expected to last through June, causing both drought and flooding. It is expected to get worse in the coming months (AFP 14/01/2016).

Drought and wildfires

On 1 October, Colombia declared a state of emergency due to drought, which is expected to affect the country until June 2016 (AFP 14/01/2016). The most drought-affected departments include La Guajira, Bolivar, and Magdalena in the north, Valle del Cauca on the Pacific coast, Boyacá, Santander and Cundinamarca in the centre, and Tolima and

Quindío in the west (UN 04/12/2015; El Espectador 11/02/2016; 02/12/2015).

On 28 December the government declared a red alert for low water levels in the country's two major rivers: the Rio Magdalena and Rio Cauca supply water to hundreds of towns and cities across 23 departments (TeLSUR 30/12/2015; Reuters 30/12/2015). Red alerts also remain in place across the country due to increased risk of forest fires. More than 100,000 hectares of agricultural land have been destroyed in wildfires, including in Boyacá, Santander and Cundinamarca. More than 4,000 reported across the country in total in 2015 (Latin Correspondent 31/12/2015).

There are currently water shortages in 124 municipalities across Colombia (Government 06/01/2016). A fifth of Colombia's municipalities are already under water rationing measures. It is likely these will be extended (Redhum 08/01/2016).

Two Wayuu children in La Guajira department have died from malnutrition in the past week. The department has been severely affected by drought for three years but in recent months the situation has further deteriorated. Over 100,000 livestock have died and over 226,000 hectares of land devastated (El Espectador 22/02/2016; Al Jazeera 03/02/2016; Redhum 03/02/2016).

Displacement

IDPs

An estimated 166,000 people were displaced by conflict or natural disaster in 2015: almost half are children (OCHA 31/01/2016). Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities represent more than half of the total displaced population (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Communities in regions affected by armed conflict are frequently temporarily or permanently displaced, due to clashes between armed groups and security forces, or fear of potential clashes. This particularly affects indigenous groups in Antioquia, Chocó, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Norte de Santander departments (OCHA 31/01/2016; 5/11/2015). 60% of all IDPs are in Antioquia, Valle del Cauca, Cauca, Narino and Chocó (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Since 10 January, over 500 people remain displaced from villages in El Bagre, in the department of Antioquia, due to the clashes between the FARC and post-demobilised armed groups. Almost half the displaced are children. They are staying with friends and relatives, or in schools, and are in need of health, WASH, and education assistance. A further 150 people are unable to move from their homes due to armed groups restricting mobility in the area (OCHA 04/02/2016; 15/01/2016). Since 13 January a further 150 people remain displaced from the municipality of Puerto Libertador in the department of Córdoba due to clashes between government forces and post-demobilised armed groups. Most are staying with relatives. They are in need of education, WASH, food, and health assistance, particularly psychosocial support (OCHA 09/02/2016).

On 24 February over 100 people, including 73 children, were attacked and forcibly evicted from land in Uraba, Antioquia by a local armed group (Colombia Reports 24/02/2016). **In late February an unknown number of people were also displaced from their homes in Nariño in Cauca department, due to fighting between the FARC and the ELN (NRC 25/02/2016).**

Colombian refugees in neighbouring countries

360,000 Colombian refugees 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;

Ecuador: 121,320 refugees and 11,580 asylum seekers (UNHCR 30/06/2015).

Humanitarian access

In 2015, over two million people were affected by access and mobility constraints. Events related to armed violence caused 66% of incidences of restricted movement. Most events occurred in the departments of Caqueta, Nariño, Valle del Cauca, and Cauca (OCHA 31/01/2016).

Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities are disproportionately affected by limited movement and access to assistance. In Chocó department over 3,000 people in the municipalities of Riosucio and Carmen del Darién, and over 10,000 residents in the Bajo Atrato area, are experiencing restricted movement due to the presence of armed groups (Colombia Reports 22/10/2015). People are unable to pursue agricultural livelihood activities, as travelling presents a constant risk (OCHA 31/10/2015).

Food security and livelihoods

1.2 million people are food insecure, due to low food production, poverty, and internal displacement (OCHA 20/01/2015). 557,000 require food assistance. Indigenous communities in Nariño, in the southwest, are among the most affected (OCHA 20/01/2015).

Severe drought as a result of El Niño is affecting Colombia's coffee output, threatening the livelihoods of farmers in Nariño department (Colombia Reports 05/11/2015).

Indigenous groups in La Guajira are particularly vulnerable to the Venezuela border closure, as many live and work on both sides. Although they are being permitted to cross, further restrictions may impact their food security and livelihood situation (El Espectador 13/01/2016; IFRC 18/12/2015). Fuel shortages are reported in the border departments, as

almost all fuel in the region is imported from Venezuela (Colombia Reports 24/09/2015).

Nutrition

Malnutrition is of concern amongst the indigenous Wayuu communities in the department of La Guajira: it is three times the rate of the national average. Between 2011 and 2015 the mortality rate among children under five associated with malnutrition increased by 50% (Colombia Reports 16/02/2016 Redhum 11/02/2016).

Health

2.5 million people need health assistance (OCHA 30/09/2015).

Since last October at least 43,000 suspected cases of mosquito-borne Zika virus have been registered (Colombia Reports 28/02/2016). The virus could affect as many as 600,000 people according to Colombia's health ministry. Most cases are in the Caribbean region. **Around 7,600 cases are among pregnant women**, which is concerning because of a potential link between Zika virus and microcephaly, a condition that causes severe birth defects. A causal link is also suspected between Zika and Guillain Barré syndrome (a rare nerve disorder): Colombia reports an average of 242 cases of Guillain Barré syndrome a year, however over 80 cases were reported in the first five weeks of 2016 and three people have died from the syndrome (WHO 12/02/2016).

WASH

1.75 million people need WASH assistance (OCHA 30/09/2015).

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 Colombia's 1,123 municipalities are facing severe water shortages due to drought: La Guajira, Bolívar, Valle del Cauca, Caldas, Cundinamarca, Cauca, Magdalena, Boyacá, Cesar, Huila, and Tolima are among the most affected. Water is being stored in unsafe facilities, causing an increase in the likelihood of the spread of mosquito-borne diseases (OCHA 30/09/2015).

Around 300 people are reported to have left their villages in Bolívar department in search of water because of severe shortages in the area (El Espectador 22/02/2016).

Shelter and NFIs

1.48 million people need shelter (OCHA 30/09/2015). 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 International 23/01/2015).

Protection

3.8 million people need protection (OCHA 30/09/2015). Torture and ill-treatment in various forms are common in Colombia, and measures for protection and compensation are either limited or ineffective (Red Cross 04/06/2015).

Mines and explosive remnants of war

In 2015, 217 people were victims of ERW: around 30% were civilians (OCHA 31/01/2016; 27/10/2015). There have been frequent reports of landmine explosions involving both civilians and security personnel in the departments of Cauca and Caquetá (BBC 17/06/2015; Government 03/06/2015). Landmines have been planted in at least half (550) of Colombia's municipalities (La Prensa 18/01/2015). The Colombian government and FARC-EP have agreed to remove landmines and explosives, aiming to complete demining by 2025 (Reuters 09/03/2015).

Children

There are approximately 2,000 underage fighters in FARC (Reuters 15/04/2015).

Vulnerable groups

Afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples are highly vulnerable groups, as they are minorities and generally live in areas more likely to be cut off by conflict (NRC 09/2014; Al Jazeera 03/02/2016).

There was a significant increase in the number of attacks against human rights activists in 2015. The vast majority of attacks are carried out by post-demobilised armed groups (OCHA 30/11/2015; NPR 24/02/2016). In Antioquia alone, there were 178 documented attacks against human rights workers in 2015 (CCEEU 09/12/2015).

Updated: 01/03/2016

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 in need of assistance due to 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

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