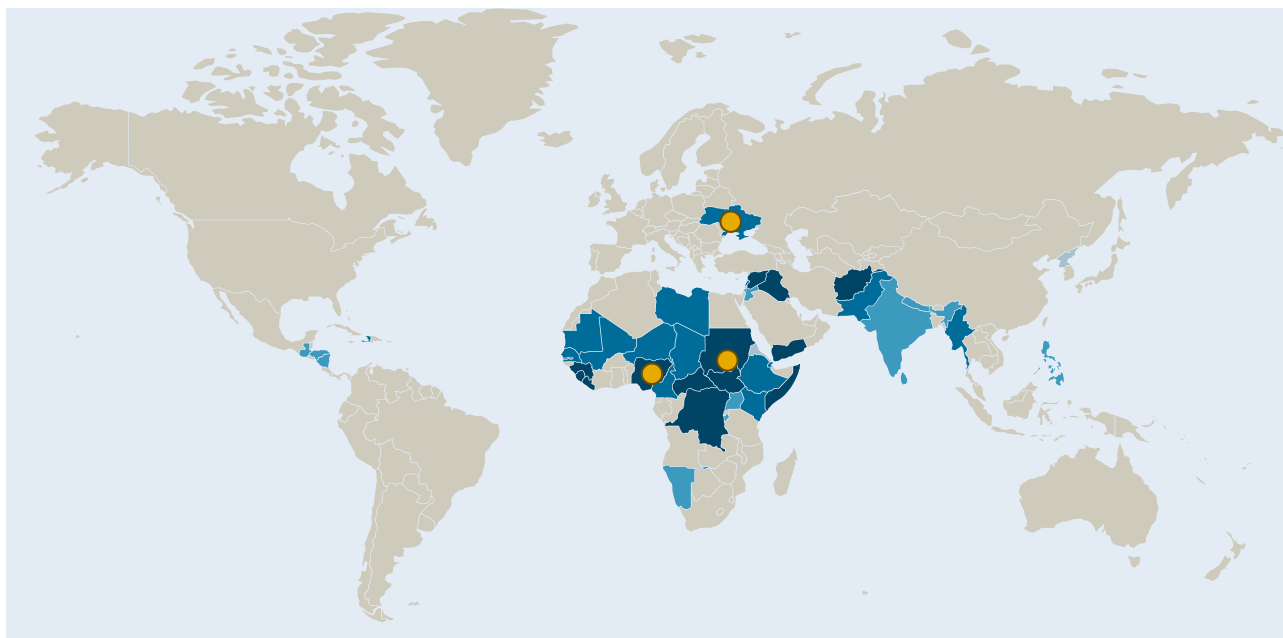




# GLOBAL EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

January 2015



## Snapshot 7–13 January

**Nigeria:** Violence has escalated significantly in the northeast. Boko Haram killed more than 2,100 people in the first 11 days of the year. Most were killed in an attack on the town of Baga and surrounding settlements in Borno state, on Lake Chad. Up to 20,000 people were displaced. Other attacks took place in Maiduguri, Damaturu, and Potiskum.

**Sudan:** Government and opposition forces fought in Tawila locality, North Darfur and in Northern Jebel Marra, Central Darfur. 15 villages were burned and another 30 abandoned in Tawila, with up to 37,000 estimated displaced. In Fanga, northern Jebel Marra, 21 villages were burned and some 50,000 estimated displaced.

**Ukraine:** Savings are dwindling and winter needs remain unmet, as the latest figures indicate more than half of the 633,000 registered IDPs were displaced in the past four months. More than 4,800 people have been killed in the conflict, and it is reported that hostilities are intensifying.

Updated: 13/01/2015. Next update: 20/01/2015

## Severe humanitarian crisis

Afghanistan	oPt
CAR	Sierra Leone
DRC	Somalia
Guinea	South Sudan
Iraq	● Sudan
Liberia	Syria
● Nigeria	Yemen

## Humanitarian crisis

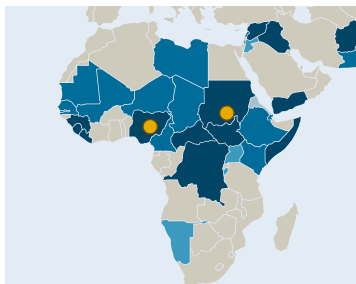
Cameroon	Libya
Chad	Mali
Djibouti	Mauritania
Ethiopia	Myanmar
Gambia	Niger
Haiti	Pakistan
Kenya	Senegal
Lebanon	● Ukraine

## Situation of concern

Burundi	Nepal
Guatemala	Nicaragua
Honduras	Philippines
India	Sri Lanka
Jordan	Uganda
Namibia	

## Watch list

DPRK	Eritrea
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# AFRICA

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**6–7 January:** Violence between two anti-Balaka militias killed six in Bambari, Ouaka. 200 people have died and at least 200 have been injured since June in Bambari (AFP, 09/01/2015).

**7 January:** LRA militant Dominic Ongwen surrendered to US forces (BBC, 07/01/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Communal violence surged across the country in 2014, with attacks reported in nearly all prefectures. 5,186 people have died since December 2013 (Government, 16/09/2014).

- As of December, 2.7 million of 4.6 million people need immediate assistance, half of them children (OCHA, 09/12/2014). There are 854,070 people of concern (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

- 1.5 million people are in Crisis and Emergency phases of food insecurity (USAID, 19/12/2014).

- 166,045 IDPs in displacement sites (OCHA, 08/12/2014) and 58,662 IDPs in Bangui (OCHA, 19/12/2014).

- 189,090 CAR refugees are registered in neighbouring countries since December 2013 (UNHCR, 19/12/2014).

### OVERVIEW

Fighting between predominantly Christian anti-balaka militias and majority Muslim ex-

Seleka fighters, and civilian mob violence, have caused mass displacement, targeted killings along communal lines, and human rights abuses since December 2013. Health, protection, food, and WASH are priority needs, as violence, looting, and displacement have led to a massive deterioration in the humanitarian situation across the country.

### Political Context

After proposing the division of the country during peace talks in July 2014, ex-Seleka proclaimed a free, independent, and secular state in north-eastern CAR in August, and rejected the transitional Government formed during the same month (IRIN 23/09/2014; Government, 24/07/2014).

National elections will not be organised before late 2015, which risks worsening the crisis (Missionary International Service News Agency, 01/09/2014).

### Security Context

More than 5,000 people have been killed since December 2013 (BBC, 07/01/2015) and more than 1,223 security incidents were recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

The Government is prohibited from rearming by a UN arms embargo.

### Stakeholders

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

**Anti-balaka:** Mostly made up of fighters from a Christian or animist background, the anti-balaka formed to counter Seleka.

**LRA:** Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) increased in 2013, as the political crisis left a power vacuum. Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou remain the most affected prefectures (OCHA, 10/11/2014). **LRA militant, Dominic Ongwen surrendered to US forces in Janury 2015 (BBC, 07/01/2015).**

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

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

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

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

#### Conflict Developments

The first half of 2014 saw an increase in both ex-Seleka and anti-balaka activism, especially in Ouham, Ouham-Pende, Dekoa, Kemo, Nana-Mambere, and Nana-Grebizi (AFP, 01/08/2014).

Fighting and insecurity intensified in Ouaka in May 2014 (AFP, 02/10/2014). In October, Bambari, and a number of villages were attacked in October (AFP, 26/10/2014; ACTED, 06/11/2014). Communal clashes involving Muslims and Christians left 14 people dead and more than a dozen wounded in Bambari on 5 December (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

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

Unprecedented attacks against UN personnel in October killed two peacekeepers (UN, 28/11/2014).

**As of January 2015, fighting is concentrated around eight locations countrywide, including: Nola (Sangha-Mbaere Province), Mbres (Nana-Grebizi Province), Bambari (Ouaka Province), Yaloke (Ombella Mpoko Province), Bangui (Ombela M'Poko Province)), Berberati (Mambere-Kadei Province), Carnot (Mambere-Kadei Province), and Batangafo (Ouham Province) (OCHA, 07/01/2015).**

#### Recent Incidents

**Bangui: The situation remains tense around ex-Seleka military camp BEAL, where ex-Seleka are threatening to detonate ammunition if the transitional Government does not meet their financial demands and set up a reintegration programme (UNICEF, 08/01/2015).** Shooting and looting on 16 November in Bangui led to international forces' intervention (OCHA, 17/11/2014). Fighting between international forces and armed groups was reported on 31 October in northern Bangui (AFP, 31/10/2014).

**Haut-Mbomou:** Violence between Muslim and Christian communities in Zémio between 5-19 November, leaving at least three people dead and 14 injured, marked the first major inter-community incident in the region since the crisis began in 2012. 50 houses were burned down in Zémio, Barth, and Bahou; grenades and automatic weapons were used (UN, 24/11/2014).

**Mambéré-Kadéï:** A clash between anti-balaka and MINUSCA forces in Berberati resulted in the death of one civilian and one peacekeeper in December (UN, 23/12/2014).

**Nana-Mambéré:** On 19 November, clashes between anti-balaka and MINUSCA forces in the border town of Cantonner killed six people and injured ten (USAID, 05/12/2014).

**Nana-Grebizi: On 19 December, an armed group attacked the village of Combo Bombo resulting in 11 casualties and displacement into the bush (OCHA, 07/01/2015).** On 16 December, fighting between ex-Seleka and anti-balaka in Mbrés resulted in 28 deaths and dozens injured (OCHA 19/12/2014; AFP 18/12/2014).

**Ouaka: Violence between rival militia between 6 and 7 January killed six in Bambari where 100 have died and at least 200 have been injured since June 2014 (AFP, 09/01/2015).** Clashes between anti-balaka and ex-Seleka in Bambari on 20 December resulted in 20 deaths (AFP, 22/12/2014). Other clashes on 20 December caused the death of three ex-Seleka and four civilians, and injured four (UN, 23/12/2014).

**Sangha-Mbaéré:** Attacks by armed Fulani herders in Gamboula and Nola towns on 21 December killed 18 (AFP, 23/12/2014).

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

As of December, 2.7 million of 4.6 million people need immediate assistance, half of them children (OCHA, 09/12/2014; 22/12/2014). There are 854,070 people of concern, including IDPs and CAR refugees in neighbouring countries (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

#### Access

Violent attacks, threats against aid workers, and roadblocks hinder the supply of humanitarian assistance outside Bangui, where humanitarian needs are significant (OCHA, 07/11/2014).

#### Security Constraints

**Bangui:** Violence and obstruction by armed groups all impact humanitarian access (OCHA, 23/10/2014). Between 18 November and 1 December, IOM had to suspend assistance to areas in Bangui controlled by ex-Seleka due to insecurity (IOM, 01/12/2014). **On 28 December, a WFP vehicle and materials were stolen from the compound (OCHA, 07/01/2015).** WFP reported looting of food supplies at a storage facility in Ndim, Ouham Pendé, in November (USAID, 05/12/2014).

Road and air access to Bangui was disrupted for several days in October, and anti-balaka presence in the fourth district since end October has prevented Votongbo 2 IDP site from receiving humanitarian aid (UNICEF, 07/11/2014; IOM, 17/11/2014).

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

**Bamingui-Bangoran:** Humanitarian actors suspended activities due to security incidents in September (Danish Refugee Council, 23/09/2014).

#### Trapped Communities

At 23 December, more than 36,000 people, mostly but not exclusively Muslim, are trapped in seven enclaves across CAR (UNHCR, 23/12/2014). As of 10 December, priority areas included: Bangui's PK5 neighbourhood, Ombella Mpoko prefecture's Yaloke town, Mambéré Kadei prefecture's Berberati and Carnot towns, Lobaye prefecture's Boda and Boganangone towns, and Nana-Mambéré's Bouar town (USAID, 19/12/2014). They require urgent humanitarian assistance, particularly protection, health, and nutrition (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

A Fulani group has been trapped for several months in Yaloke. Since they arrived in the enclave in April 2014 from several towns including Bouaca, Boboua, Bolemba and Boda in Lobaye prefecture, 42 people have died (UNHCR, 23/12/2014).

### Security Incidents Affecting Aid Workers

A member of a medical NGO and his patient were assaulted and stabbed by armed men on their way to Boda hospital in Lobaye in December (ALIMA, 13/12/2014). 18 humanitarian workers have been killed and six wounded in 124 incidents in 2014 (OCHA, 07/11/2014; OCHA, 04/12/2014; USAID, 19/12/2014). On 7–8 November two MSF trucks and their crew were detained by an armed group on the road from Paoua to Bangui (MSF, 11/11/2014).

#### Logistical Constraints

The absence of bridges prevents access to remote communities (Catholic Relief Services, 24/11/2014).

### Disasters

#### Floods

Around 1,060 people (240 households) were affected by floods in Béma in Haut Mbomou between 3 and 10 November (ACTED, 24/11/2014). Heavy rainfall in Bangassou, Mbomou, on 27 October damaged or destroyed 123 houses; humanitarian assistance had not reached populations at 11 November.

### Displacement

It was estimated in March 2014 that 80–85% of Bangui's minority Muslim population had fled or been evacuated.

#### IDPs

**As of 4 January, there are 438,538 IDPs in CAR, including 51,058 in 34 sites in Bangui, 125,078 people in 74 sites in the Bimbo area, 177,528 in 108 sites countrywide (including Bimbo and Bangui) , 225,359 people living with host families and 35,650 people residing in the forest (OCHA, 07/01/2015).**

**Bangui: Relative improvements in the security conditions of some neighbourhoods outside Bangui has brought the number of IDPs in Bangui down to 51,058 in 33 sites (IOM, 01/12/2014; OCHA, 19/12/2014; OCHA, 07/01/2015).** The largest camps in Bangui

are Aéroport Mpoko (20,900 IDPs in October), Séminaire St. Marc (8,000), and Mission Carmel (6,775) (CCCM, 29/10/2014). In November, populations in Mpoko camp were in urgent need of food and shelter (UN, 20/11/2014). Mpoko site is planned to close by February 2015 (USAID, 05/12/2014).

7,500 people were displaced between 7 and 16 October (UN, 28/11/2014). Much of the newly displaced population originates from Bangui's 3rd and 5th districts, with additional displacement in and around Bimbo, Ombella Mpoko (IOM, 21/10/2014). **Priority needs include shelter and NFIs, WASH, and health (IOM, 05/01/2015).**

**Kemo:** Around 2,175 (435 families) have been displaced to Sibut due to armed group violence in Kemo prefecture since August (ACF, 28/11/2014).

**Nana-Mambere:** The 19 November attack in Cantonier displaced 2,000 people to Gamboula and 850 to Dilapoko. Food and NFI support are priority needs (Aide Médicale Internationale, 02/12/2014).

**Ouaka:** 18,530 people have been displaced in the prefecture following renewed violence since September along the Ndassima, Grimari and Bakala routes (WHO, 31/10/2014). Food, shelter, education and WASH assistance are priorities (ACTED, 28/11/2014).

**Ouham:** As of 18 December, 400 residents (80 households) had returned to Markounda and 270 residents returned to Gbangoro-Kotta village (OCHA, 18/12/2014). **In Batangafo, 25,000 IDPs lack health services, water, education, and protection (UNICEF, 08/01/2015).**

**Eastern CAR:** At least 3,000 displaced by the surge in violence in Zémio on 5 November need NFIs (OCHA, 04/12/2014). 26,520 people remain displaced by LRA activity (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

**Sangha-Mbaéré: In Nola, 600 Muslims sought refuge in areas close to the MINUSCA base and hundreds of women and children fled into the bush in late December (UNICEF, 08/01/2015).**

#### Refugees in CAR

**7,531 refugees and asylum seekers are living in CAR (UNHCR, 07/11/2014; 19/12/2014),** including 1,700 South Sudanese refugees at 31 March (UNHCR). 4,241 Congolese refugees are in Haut-Mbomou (OCHA, 10/11/2014). **On 22 December, 80 refugees of Congolese origin sought refuge in the Bishopric site in Berberati due to inter-ethnic violence (OCHA, 07/01/2015).** Insecurity has affected Sudanese refugees in camps in Ouham and Ouaka.

### CAR Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are 424,070 CAR refugees in neighbouring countries, 189,090 of whom have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR 19/12/2014). 241,231 are registered in Cameroon, 93,120 in Chad, 68,165 in DRC, and 21,554 in Congo (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

Although the Chad–CAR border remains officially closed since 12 May, refugees continue

to arrive at a number of border points and are considered vulnerable (UNHCR, 07/2014).

#### Evacuees

At 8 December, there had been 132,414 evacuees from CAR, including third-country nationals and returning migrants (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

#### Food Security

As of 19 December, about 1.5 million people (33% of the total population) are in need of food assistance (USAID, 19/12/2014). 210,000 are in Bangui and 1.32 million in rural areas (IPC, 31/10/2014); displaced populations are particularly vulnerable. 26% of households have inadequate food consumption, compared to 15% in 2013. The percentage of households resorting to negative coping mechanisms has risen from 27 to 30% (FAO, 17/11/2014).

The most affected regions are Ouham and most of Nana-Grebizi and Kemo prefectures, Ngaoundaye, Bocaranga, and Berberati sub-prefectures in the west, Boda and Bimbo sub-prefectures in the south, and Obo sub-prefecture in the east (FAO, 17/11/2014). Diminished quantity and diversity of food intake is raising serious nutrition and health concerns (FAO, 17/11/2014).

A study carried out between 18 November and 2 December in Ouham-Pendé, Nana-Mambéré and Mambéré-Kadéï prefectures found that food insecurity is high and transhumance has been negatively affected resulting in cattle theft, division of families, and poor agricultural sales (FAO, 08/12/2014).

#### Outlook

A second – and in some areas a third – consecutive poor harvest, along with below-average incomes and disrupted livelihoods, have led to a nationwide forecast of Crisis food insecurity during the February–August lean season (FEWSNET, 16/11/2014; 18/12/2014). Nearly one million are expected to be in need of emergency food assistance (USAID, 21/11/2014).

#### Agriculture and Markets

Food crop production in 2014 is expected to be 58% below average, as a result of insecurity, erratic rainfall and pest attacks (OCHA, 18/12/2014). Food stocks in rural areas are 40–50% below average due to recurring raids. Fish supply has fallen by 40% (OCHA, 18/12/2014) and cattle-breeding has fallen by 77% compared to pre-crisis levels, and insecurity and poor road conditions have disrupted market linkages and led to significant increases in food prices: prices from March to August increased 30–70% (FAO, 29/10/2014). **Cash crop production is down 80% compared to five years ago (Reuters, 08/01/2015).**

#### Health and Nutrition

As of December 2014, two million people need access to health services (OCHA, 19/11/2014; OCHA 22/12/2014). Many health centres have been out of essential drugs for

months due to access constraints (IFRC, 05/12/2014). Access to medicine in Yaloke, Ombella-Mpoko, is particularly difficult (OCHA, 04/12/2014). 45% of health facilities outside Bangui were unable to provide basic health services at May (WHO, 30/09/2014). Lack of access to health services in IDP sites is of serious concern (WHO, 31/10/2014).

#### Cholera

*14 cholera cases have been confirmed in two refugee camps along the CAR–Cameroon border (UNICEF, 03/12/2014).*

#### Measles

*Six measles cases were reported in Yongoro-Mbolaye in Nana Mambéré, including two deaths, and two additional suspected cases were detected at the 'S' IDP site in Bambari (UNICEF, 03/12/2014).*

#### Mental Health

550,000 children, about 45% of the children affected by the conflict, need psychosocial support (OCHA, 23/09/2014). 60% of parents whose children were admitted to Bangui's paediatric hospital for SAM presented symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

#### Nutrition

28,000 children in remote villages suffer from SAM and 75,500 from MAM, among 840,000 malnourished children overall (OCHA, 04/12/2014; 19/11/2014; 18/12/2014). **Based on a national survey, the country has a SAM prevalence of 6.5% (UNICEF, 08/01/2015). 195,788 people are in need of nutritional assistance (OCHA, 22/12/2014).**

According to the preliminary results of the SMART survey in Bangui, there has been a reduction in GAM, from 8% in 2012 to around 5% currently, likely due to the concentration of humanitarian activities in Bangui (WFP, 23/09/2014).

#### WASH

2.3 million people do not have access to improved safe water or improved sanitation (OCHA, 23/09/2014; 22/12/2014). Western areas of CAR as well as Mbomou are most affected (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

The water supply has been cut off in some neighbourhoods in Bangui for several months, leaving many local residents and displaced people without safe drinking water (ICRC, 17/11/2014).

#### Shelter and NFIs

Nearly 442,000 people are in need of emergency shelter, while 703,975 need NFIs and 125,000 need reconstruction support (OCHA, 19/11/2014). Shortages of mosquito nets and jerrycans are significantly hindering the humanitarian response (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

#### Education

Over 1.4 million children are in need of education (OCHA, 22/12/2014) and 2,500 teachers in need of psychological training (OCHA, 04/12/2014). As of 25 June, 80% of children were reportedly out of school (WFP, 25/06/2014). Over a third of school students registered in 2012/2013, 278,000 children, had reportedly dropped out in 2013/2014.

The start of the 2014/2015 school year, scheduled for 3 November, has been delayed due to insecurity (Finn Church Aid, 03/11/2014). 109 attacks against schools were registered between February and November 2014 (UNICEF, 22/12/2014).

#### Protection

2.5 million people are in need of protection, particularly in Vakaga, Bamingui-Bangoran, Ouham, Ouaka, and Lobaye prefectures (OCHA, 19/11/2014; 31/10/2014; **18/12/2014**). Nearly 13,000 are in need of protection following the surge of violence in Zémio in Haut Mbomou on 5 November (OCHA, 20/11/2014).

Crimes against humanity and war crimes have been, and continued to be, reportedly committed in CAR. Ex-Seleka are listed for child recruitment, killing, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and attacks on schools and/or hospitals. Anti-balaka are listed for child recruitment, and killing and maiming (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, 04/11/2014).

Protection issues remain a major concern, including family and unaccompanied child protection (UNICEF, 30/11/2014). 432 children were killed or maimed by violence in 2014 (OCHA, 04/12/2014). The number of children recruited into armed groups has risen to 6,000–10,000, from 2,500 at the beginning of the crisis (The Guardian, 18/12/2014).

*Updated: 12/01/2015*

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

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**9 January:** 10,000 CAR refugees from Ouaka have arrived in Equateur province since 16 December (AFP, 09/01/2015).

**9 January:** More than 2,000 people have fled violence between the FARDC and the National Liberation Army (FNL) in South Kivu (local media, 09/01/2015).

**4 January:** Only 420 of an estimated 1,500-2,000 FDLR had surrendered (AFP, 04/01/2015; 07/01/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Internal conflict in the eastern provinces.

- 4.1 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance (FAO, 11/12/2014).

- 2.6 million IDPs (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Katanga is of particular concern, with 582,700 people displaced across the province (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

- Over 2 million children under 5 are suffering from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014).

### OVERVIEW

Needs are highest in the conflict-affected regions of North Kivu, South Kivu, Katanga, and Orientale, where there is large-scale, repeated displacement. IDPs, host populations, and those unable to flee are all vulnerable as insecurity poses multiple protection risks and prevents access to basic services, although needs vary according to geographic area and conflict dynamics.

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

#### Political Context

#### Regional Context

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

#### National Political Context

In September, over 2,000 people took to the streets of Kinshasa to protest a bid by President Kabila to modify the constitution to be able to stay in power in 2016, beyond his two-term limit (AFP, 27/09/2014).

#### Security Context

Numerous armed groups are active in the east of the country, causing general insecurity across the region.

The UN Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) has a mandate until 31 March 2015, as does its intervention brigade of 3,000 soldiers (RFI, 20/10/2014). The EU mission providing assistance to security sector reform (EUSEC) was extended until 30 June 2015 (EU, 25/09/2014).

#### Counter-insurgency and Insecurity in the East

There are at least 40 armed groups operating in the east (ECHO, 22/10/2014). A new wave

of violence intensified in eastern provinces in October, after a period of counterinsurgency operations by DRC armed forces (FARDC) and MONUSCO. In November, the former leader of M23 threatened that the armed group might resume activities if the Government does not respect its commitment regarding amnesty and release of prisoners (AFP, 07/11/2014).

On 30 May, a voluntary disarmament process for the Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) started under the auspices of MONUSCO, the African Union and the Southern African Development Community, and military operations against them were suspended July–December. **At 4 January, however, only 420 of an estimated 1,500–2,000 FDLR had surrendered (AFP, 04/01/2015; dailymail, 07/01/2015). The DRC president, Joseph Kabila, committed the Congolese army to help peacekeepers fight Rwandan rebels in the eastern part of the country since the 2 January, 2015 deadline to surrender passed (Reuters, 07/01/2015).**

#### North Kivu

Following strategic gains by FARDC-MONUSCO in July 2014, North Kivu is experiencing a resurgence of violence since October in Beni, Walikale, and Lubero territories, from Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (ADF-NALU), Nduma Defence of Congo (NDC), FDLR, and Nyatura (OCHA, 15/10/2014; 16/10/2014; AFO, 30/07/2014). The insecurity has resulted in widespread displacement, and rape, kidnapping, and looting have all been reported (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

**Beni territory:** A wave of machete attacks since early October has killed more than 260 civilians, leading to joint FARDC–MONUSCO operations to track ADF fighters; one began on 13 December and another on 1 January (AFP, 05/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 02/01/2015). Attacks in Sulungwe on 27 December killed four, while five were killed in Mabuo on 15 December (OCHA, 31/12/2014; AFP, 15/12/2014). At least 52 people were killed near Oicha 7–8 December and 19 more were killed a week later in the same area (UNHCR, 19/12/2014). A curfew was imposed in Beni on 25 November. About one hundred civilians were killed in ADF attacks in Nzuma, Tipiyomba, and Vemba on 20 November (UN, 02/12/2014). Civil unrest and violence from the local population towards MONUSCO assets and official buildings were also recorded (AFP, 02/11/2014).

**Eringeti:** Three people were killed in an ADF machete attack on 2 December (AFP, 02/12/2014).

**Masisi:** Threats and abuse by Raiya Mutomboki and Nyatura led to displacement from Bulinda, Kazinga, and Ngululu towards the end of December (OCHA, 31/12/2014).

**Walikale: On 31 December, FARDC began decreasing its presence in Walikale territory, raising concerns for the security of civilians (Radio Okapi, 06/01/2015).** Clashes between two factions of Raiya Mutomboki over 13–17 December killed nine people and displaced people from four villages to the Waloa-Uroba area (Radio Okapi, 17/12/2014). FDLR violence over 3–5 November caused 13 civilian deaths and cases of SGBV (Radio Okapi, 10/11/2014).

#### South Kivu

Security remains volatile in South Kivu as several armed groups continue to operate and trigger displacement within the province. Four attacks by armed groups were reported over 2–3 January in Sange, engaging FARDC (Radio Okapi, 03/01/2015). An attack by unidentified armed men in Mukungwe, Walungu territory, killed eight and injured three on 22 December (Radio Okapi, 22/12/2014). FARDC operations removed Raiya Mutomboki from seven villages of Shabunda in mid-November (Radio Okapi, 26/11/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Mahoro:** Fighting between self-defence groups and Mayi-Mayi Mahoro group in Uvira triggered population displacement in November (Radio Okapi, 06/11/2014).

#### Katanga

At end October, 15,873 incidents had been reported in Katanga (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Interethnic conflict between Luba and pygmies and Mayi-Mayi attacks continue to affect Tanganyika district. FARDC is also active in Katanga.

Pygmies attacked Mazozo village in Manono territory on 29 November, leading to dozens killed and kidnapped. Luba are reported to be preparing for retaliation in Kabeke village (OCHA, 10/12/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga:** FARDC offensives were making gains against Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga of Musumari as of 5 November (Radio Okapi, 05/11/2014). An attack in Katendeji in Pweto was reported on 4 December, causing displacement (Radio Okapi, 04/12/2014).

**Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba:** Repeated attacks against villages by Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba, originating from South Kivu, have been reported in northeast Kalemie despite the presence of FARDC along Lake Tanganyika since August (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

#### Orientale

The Front of Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI), the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Mayi-Mayi Simba are allegedly responsible for an increase in reported attacks and incidents noted in October (OCHA, 15/10/2014; Radio Okapi, 17/10/2014). Mayi-Mayi Morgan carried out kidnappings in October.

In mid-December, suspected ADF violence spread from North Kivu to Orientale: seven people were killed and their villages burned on 17 December. Leaflets were disseminated threatening new attacks. Attacks in Ndalya, straddling Orientale and North Kivu, on 26 December, killed 19 and injured a further eight; another 11 were killed and five injured in Ndume (OCHA, 31/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 27/12/2014).

In December, two people were killed during a protest in Dangu over the death of a taxi driver who had hit a MONUSCO vehicle in Dangu, Orientale on 3 December (Radio Okapi, 03/12/2014).

**LRA:** The LRA is increasing activities against the civilian population in Haut and Bas Uele, according to a MONUSCO statement on 8 October (AFP, 08/10/2014). In the third quarter of 2014, 27 attacks, 15 deaths, and 55 abductions were reported: only one death was reported in the second quarter, although the latest figures indicate a significant decrease in



abductions and attacks (OCHA, 10/11/2014). Three suspected LRA attacks were reported 29–31 December in Dungu, injuring two (Radio Okapi, 02/01/2015).

**FRPI:** FRPI resumed violent activities in Irumu territory at the beginning of October (OCHA, 11/11/2014). At 11 November, the leader of FRPI Cobra Matata and a hundred insurgents were said to have surrendered (Radio Okapi, 11/11/2014). 64 members of the FRPI surrendered in Bunia between 27 November and 3 December and were transferred to Rwampara camp (OCHA, 03/12/2014). Cattle raids have continued in Irumu, however, with looting reported end November (Radio Okapi, 08/12/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

Around 4.1 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance (FAO, 11/12/2014). In Katanga, Manono, Pweto, Mitwaba and Malemba-Nkulu experience most pressing humanitarian needs in all sectors (OCHA, 13/11/2014).

### Access

The mountainous and volcanic terrain, and lack of tarred roads limit access across DRC, and access worsens during the rainy season. In the east, insecurity is a major constraint. 188 incidents involved aid workers in 2014: six aid workers were killed (OCHA, 15/12/2014).

**Katanga:** Growing insecurity is hindering the delivery of assistance to up to 500,000 displaced and access to healthcare (OCHA, 06/2014; MSF, 09/01/2014).

**North Kivu:** The worsening state of the Kalembe–Pinga route and collapse of the Muhongozi bridge on the Kitchanga–Mweso route on 11 December is threatening humanitarian aid access to 82,000 IDPs in Walikale and Masisi (OCHA, 16/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 24/12/2014). Humanitarian access is constrained in South Lubero due to damaged roads in Kaseghe and Alimbongo (OCHA, 09/12/2014). Humanitarian access along the Mbau–Kamango route as well as to the Mutwanga health zone is also hampered by insecurity (OCHA, 03/12/2014).

**Orientale:** 13 INGOs have withdrawn from Haut Uele and Bas Uele since mid-2013 due to lack of funding, leaving thousands of people without assistance, with the most recent withdrawal in September. Several humanitarian organisations have suspended activities in South Irumu as FRPI has resumed activities (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

**South Kivu:** Access to some 42,000 people in Fizi territory has been hampered by insecurity since June. Since the beginning of the year, a dozen security incidents against humanitarian workers has been reported in Fizi territory (OCHA, 11/09/2014). FARDC–Raiya Mutomboki clashes have been hindering access to 120,000 people in Penekusu area, south Shabunda, since mid-August (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

### Disasters

#### Floods

Over 10,000 people were affected by floods in November in Basoko, Tshopo territory,

including 8,000 left without shelter (FAO, 20/11/2014). WASH and food security are concerning (OCHA, 11/11/2014). 1,500 people remained without shelter in Kalehe, South Kivu, as of 21 November, following October floods and landslides (Radio Okapi, 21/11/2014).

### Displacement

#### IDPs

At end October, there were 2.611 million IDPs in DRC, including 770,000 displaced in 2014 and 95% induced by insecurity and armed conflict (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). 80% of IDPs are hosted by families and communities, who are already facing chronic food insecurity and limited access to services and livelihood opportunities (FAO, 20/11/2014).

#### North Kivu

212,054 out of 863,431 IDPs in the province are in 60 sites near Goma (UNHCR, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 09/12/2014). There are now 242,920 IDPs in Masisi, 210,217 in Walikale, 158,340 in Lubero, and 128,535 in Beni (including 24,655 newly displaced since September) (OCHA, 09/12/2014). Authorities in North Kivu have moved to close down 60 camps for displaced people for security reasons, forcing 2,300 IDPs to leave Kiwanja camp (AFP, 03/12/2014). Shelter and basic social services are urgent priorities for 90% of them now living in public places or host families around Kiwanja and Rutschuru (OCHA, 09/12/2014).

**Beni:** The population of Sulungwe fled to Mbau following attacks on 27 December. New IDPs also arrived in Eringeti, Mayimoya and Oicha in Beni territory from Ndalya in Orientale, from 26 December (OCHA, 31/12/2014). Around 88,000 people have been displaced to Beni territory since 17 December attacks in Orientale. Priority needs are for shelter, NFIs, WASH, and health support (UNHCR, 19/12/2014). Nearly 89,000 (17,700 families) displaced along the Mbau–Oicha–Eringeti route between 14–21 November following attacks in Beni need multi-sectoral assistance; 2,100 people were also displaced to Makumo (OCHA, 03/12/2014; 09/12/2014). 90,000 IDPs from fighting in the second half of 2013 still need multi-sectoral assistance (UNICEF, 30/09/2014).

**Lubero:** Around 750 displaced families in Lepya-Mbughavinywa in South Lubero and 1,386 in Fatua need NFIs, food, and health support (OCHA, 24/12/2014). 50,000 IDPs in South Lubero were in need of health and food assistance on 22 October; the arrival of IDPs from Bunyatenge and Walikale and seasonal rains increased vulnerabilities (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

**Masisi:** More than 500 families from Bulinda, Kazinga, and Ngululu were displaced to Rubaya, Burora, and Kihuma in Masisi territory following threats and abuses by Rayia Mutomboki and Nyatura (OCHA, 31/12/2014). Around 1,000 people fled Bivumu to Luke, Katoyi and Katobotobo villages following clashes between FARDC and Nyatura in Bivumu (OCHA, 16/12/2014).

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



**Walikale:** 1,650 families returned to Pinga centre between 25 October and 16 December, while a further 1,700 families were displaced to Pinga during the same period from Kisimba, Masisi, and Ihana (OCHA, 24/12/2014). Around 5,400 people (1,081 families) have been displaced along the Bafianda–Okondo route since July; priority needs are for shelter, NFI, food, and health (NRC, 09/12/2014).

### South Kivu

618,300 IDPs are in South Kivu. The rate of displacement is increasing, with 31,500 reported in the second quarter of the year, and 68,200 in the third. 38% of IDPs are located in Kalehe (OCHA, 14/11/2014). **On 5 January, 400 people fled Masiga for Kyamafunu due to fighting between the FNL and the FARDC (local media, 06/01/2015). An additional 2,000 fled violence in Magunda and are living in Kakuku and Kihuha without shelter, surviving on food provided by the host-community (local media, 09/01/2015).**

17,000 inhabitants from Lulingu were displaced twice during the last two weeks of November following clashes between two factions of Raiya Mutomboki. 4,500 inhabitants of Lolo were also displaced to the bush end November. FARDC's assault regaining control of Lulingu and Tchonka on 29 November displaced 18,000 people to the bush (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

More than 1,500 IDPs in Buma, Talama and Kazimiya who fled fighting between FARDC and Mayi Mayi Yakutumba in Kibamba and Kihingizi in November are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, particularly shelter (Radio Okapi, 13/12/2014).

### Katanga

Katanga currently hosts 582,700 IDPs compared to 50,000 end of 2011, mostly displaced by conflict and intercommunal violence between Luba and Pygmies (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 80% of IDPs are living with host families. 71,500 new IDPs were recorded in the third quarter of 2014, including 26,000 in Manono, 16,200 in Nyunzu, 14,500 in Pweto and 6,800 in Kabalo (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

2,000 people from South Kivu were displaced to Lamba Katanga and Mayanga over 17–25 November due to FARDC–Mayi-Mayi Yakutumba clashes; they are living in precarious conditions and insecurity prevents them from returning to their villages (OCHA, 26/12/2014).

Pweto territory hosts 178,000 IDPs (OCHA, 20/11/2014). 31,240 people returned in the third quarter of 2014, encouraged by FARDC presence, upcoming harvest season, and the start of school year, including 20,600 in Pweto and 8,200 in Mitwaba (OCHA, 14/11/2014). Around 10,500 displaced populations along the Kishale–Kampagwe route, Manono, need NFIs, WASH, and food support, while 6,500 in Kisele, Mitwaba, need NFIs and health assistance (OCHA, 10/12/2014). 2,500 IDPs in Mwashhi camp need food, shelter and health assistance, and are waiting for Mayi-Mayi Bakata Katanga to be neutralised before they return (Jeune Afrique, 24/11/2014).

### Orientale

467,500 IDPs are hosted in Orientale province (OCHA, 14/11/2014). Around 300,000 people are displaced inside Ituri, including 60,000 IDPs from North Kivu (OCHA, 23/12/2014). 200,000 IDPs and host community members are affected by conflict in South Irumu (OCHA, 03/12/2014).

On 14-19 December, ADF activity led to displacement from nine villages along the Komanda-Luna route to Bwanasura and Luna. Priority needs are for shelter, NFI and food support (OCHA, 23/12/2014).

12,600 people (2,529 families) have been displaced to Tchabi, Ituri, due to insecurity in North Kivu (OCHA, 03/12/2014). Most of the new IDPs in Ituri are living with host families or in public buildings. WASH is the most pressing need (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

### Maniema

Maniema has 185,300 IDPs, including 20,000 newly displaced recorded in the third quarter of 2014. 30% of IDPs are located in Pangi, 26% in Punia, and 20% in Kasongo (OCHA, 14/11/2014). 9,500 IDPs are in dire need of food assistance in Kama (WFP, 27/10/2014).

### Refugees in DRC

DRC hosts 120,567 refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). DRC provincial authorities insist that assistance should only be delivered within camps, making it difficult to support refugees in host communities.

**From CAR:** As of 30 October, there were 68,165 CAR refugees in DRC, including 22,210 displaced since December 2013. **10,000 CAR refugees have arrived in Equateur since 16 December, fleeing violence in Ouaka prefecture (AFP, 09/01/2015).** 364 CAR refugees were relocated from Batalimo transit centre to Boyabu camp over 29 November–5 December (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

**From Rwanda:** DRC is hosting 38,783 Rwandan refugees (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Around 600 FDLR and relatives were transferred from South Kivu to a transit camp in Kisangani in November (Radio Okapi, 03/12/2014).

**From Angola:** 10,000 of 38,000 Angolan refugees registered in DRC have been repatriated between September and November (Radio Okapi, 26/11/2014).

### Returnees

At end October, there had been 163,935 returnees in DRC since January 2012 (UNHCR, 30/10/2014).

**Returnees from Congo:** A free movement of people agreement was signed by DRC and Congo on 3 June but has yet to be ratified.

**Returnees from CAR:** Around 100 refugees returned to DRC through Ango territory in Orientale end December, due to intercommunal violence in Zemio (Radio Okapi, 24/12/2014).

### DRC Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

There are around 442,600 DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, mainly in Uganda (184,500) (UNHCR, 31/10/2014).

### Food Security

7.3 million people were food insecure at 14 October (WFP, 14/10/2014), and 6.7 million in Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity in September (ECHO, 09/2014). 22,500 displaced people in Kalonge were in need of food assistance in October (WFP, 27/10/2014).

### Agricultural Outlook

Lack of seeds from insufficient rains in Ruzizi, South Kivu, since November, is likely to negatively impact the next lean season (Radio Okapi, 17/12/2014).

500 hectares of maize, banana, rice, bean, and cowpea crops were destroyed by a locust infestation in Buta, Orientale, in December (Radio Okapi, 27/12/2014). Flooding in November caused crop losses up to 80% in Basoko territory, Orientale province. Prices for basic food products have risen (Radio Okapi, 18/11/2014).

### Health and Nutrition

Systematic looting of health structures has been reported in various areas of North Kivu (OCHA, 01/10/2014). Lack of funding forced several health zones in south Masisi territory to interrupt activities, severely limiting healthcare access for 20,000 IDPs (OCHA, 04/11/2014).

1,900 women were unable to receive maternal tetanus vaccination in Tanganyika district in Katanga due to clashes between Luba and Pygmies in Muzozo in November (OCHA, 17/12/2014). Access to medicine and tuberculosis vaccines is reportedly limited in Katanga (Radio Okapi, 03/12/2014).

### Cholera

At end November, 20,779 cases of cholera and 344 deaths had been recorded in 2014 (OCHA, 15/12/2014), including 18,740 cases and 260 fatalities in Katanga and North and South Kivu (ACTED, 25/11/2014).

In Katanga, over 7,000 cases including 300 deaths have been recorded, compared to 13,726 cases and 348 deaths in 2013; humanitarian personnel are insufficient (Radio Okapi, 07/11/2014; OCHA, 30/10/2014). Health workers and medical capacities are reportedly insufficient in Haut Lomami district in Orientale, and Fizi and Nundu in South Kivu (OCHA, 22/10/2014; 31/10/2014).

### Malaria

Health centres in Fizi in South Kivu and Nyembo Punga in Katanga are reporting a lack of space and medicine to treat malaria patients. 200 cases including five deaths were reported in December in Fizi, while 17 children died from anaemia linked to malaria in two weeks in December in Nyembo Punga (Radio Okapi, 23/12/2014; 30/12/2014).

### Measles

At 7 December, 12,150 measles cases, including 108 deaths, have been reported in Katanga province in 2014 (OCHA, 17/12/2014). The caseloads in Bukama, Kabondo Dianda, Kilwa, Mufunga Sampwe, and Kalemie health zones have reached epidemic level. Insecurity has affected access to Kilwa health zone since July and hampered measles vaccination campaigns (OCHA, 12/11/2014).

At October, 11,098 measles cases, including 89 deaths, had been reported in Orientale province in 2014 and 10,400 in North Kivu (OCHA, 22/10/2014; 20/11/2014).

### Nutrition

Over two million children under five suffer from acute malnutrition (Radio Okapi, 04/11/2014). Three provinces are above the 10% emergency threshold: nearly 553,300 children suffer from acute malnutrition in Maniema (22.7% GAM; 8.6% SAM), 397,600 in Bas-Congo (11% GAM) and 722,500 in Bandundu (10% GAM) (Government, 05/2014).

50 children died from malnutrition in Changa-Changa IDP camp in Katanga over September–December (Radio Okapi, 02/01/2015). 108 cases of malnutrition were also recorded in Lubumbashi in Katanga November–December due to shortages of therapeutic food (Radio Okapi, 20/12/2014).

### WASH

38 million people in DRC (53.5% of households) do not have access to safe drinking water, including seven out of ten people in rural areas (UNICEF, 27/03/2014; Government, 18/12/2014).

As of July, access to water is below the emergency standard of 15L/person/day for most CAR refugees in Equateur and Orientale provinces and for host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

### Education

**Katanga:** 70% of the 34,000 school-age IDP children in Pweto territory is not attending school (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

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

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

### Protection

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

and executions.

15,800 protection incidents have been recorded in Katanga January–October 2014, a sevenfold increase on 2013, including 14,000 in Kalemie, Manono, Mitwaba and Pweto (UNHCR, 18/11/2014). 6,275 protection incidents were recorded between February and November 2014 in Ituri and Wamba district, Haut-Uele, Orientale, affecting mostly returnees and IDPs, and 4,900 in Maniema province between January and November (OCHA, 23/12/2014, 18/12/2014).

### Child Protection

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

### SGBV

By November, more than 2,900 cases of sexual violence – over half of which were rape – had been recorded in Katanga in 2014, compared to over 5,100 in 2013 (Radio Okapi, 31/12/2014, Protection Cluster, 05/2014). 2,012 were reported in Orientale province, and 1,123 in Bas-Congo (80% rape) (OCHA, 10/12/2014, 03/12/2014; Radio Okapi, 27/11/2014).

There were 15,350 incidents of rape and other gender-based violence in seven provinces in 2013. The actual numbers may be higher (UNHCR cited by Pulitzer Centre on 10/07/2014).

*Updated: 12/01/2015*

## GUINEA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**10 January:** 2,799 Ebola cases and 1,807 deaths have been reported in Guinea (WHO).

**12 January:** On 9 January, the “Zero Ebola in 60 days” campaign, launched on 2 January, has been put on hold due to local communities’ persistent resistance to the Ebola response (UNMEER).

**9 January:** The Prime Minister announced measures against resistance to the Ebola response, especially in Coyah prefecture, including prosecution of those who hide patients from medical teams or those who hold medical missions hostage (international media).

**3–6 January:** Strong resistance prevented suspected case transport and safe burials in Forecariah prefecture (USAID). A community transit centre was burned down in Bossou, Lola prefecture (UNMEER). Response teams have been attacked in Coyah.

### KEY CONCERNS

- 11 million people are affected by the consequences of the EVD outbreak (IFRC, 25/10/2014).

- 21,171 cumulative reported cases across the region, including 8,371 deaths (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported over 7–10 January) (WHO, 12/01/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate, underestimating the gravity of the situation on the ground.

- 970,000 people, or 9% of the population, were estimated to be severely food insecure in December 2014; EVD effects account for 230,000. The number of individuals vulnerable to food insecurity is estimated to be 3 million. The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 1.2 million in March 2015, 470,000 Ebola-driven (FAO, 17/12/2014).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the [ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page](#).

### Political Context

After rumours about President Condé’s health, Condé accused the opposition of fuelling tension in an attempt to push for a military coup (International Crisis Group, 01/10/2014). President Condé suggested the delay of presidential elections, due in 2015, because of the EVD crisis (International Crisis Group, 01/11/2014). The opposition demanded electoral reforms by 15 December, threatening countrywide protests otherwise. On 26 November, President Conde stated that protests will not be tolerated during the Ebola outbreak (International Crisis Group, 01/12/2014).

### International Response

On 15 November, France announced it will coordinate Ebola containment efforts in Guinea, at the UN’s request (AFP, 15/11/2014).

Cuba has sent 465 health workers to West Africa (international media, 20/10/2014). The UN Security Council adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to contain Ebola on 18 September (UN, 18/09/2014). The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has also been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO’s Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014). WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

### Unrest

On 6 January, trade unions launched a general strike throughout the country, mainly over salary. Limited demonstrations and road closures were reported in Conakry (UNMEER, 06/01/2015). On 8 January, an agreement was reached with the Government (UNMEER, 08/01/2015).

## Security Context

Tensions between President Condé's ethnic group, the Malinke, who make up about 35% of the population, and the Fulani ethnic group, about 40% of the population, have started to rise over the Ebola response (local media, 18/10/2014).

#### Resistance to the Ebola response

According to WHO, as of 31 December, response efforts face resistance in 25 subprefectures: in the Forest areas, in the prefectures neighbouring Conakry, and in northern and western Guinea.

**On 6 January, a community transit centre was burned down in Bossou, Lola prefecture (UNMEER, 07/01/2015). On 3 and 4 January, response teams were attacked in Coyah. Strong resistance has prevented suspected case transport and safe burials in Forecariah prefecture (USAID, 07/01/2015).** On 1 January, a safe burial team was assaulted in Kindia prefecture, resulting in one injured and the intervention of the military (UNMEER, 05/01/2015). The Red Cross has suspended its operations in Koropara for security reasons (UNMEER, 25/11/2014). On 11 November, several opposition deputies and human rights activists went on hunger strike in Womey, Nzerekore prefecture, demanding the safe return of around 6,000 people they say fled their homes over fear of the army. The army was deployed in the town after a group of EVD sensitisers was killed last September by residents, and has been accused of human rights violations (UNMEER, 12/11/2014; international media, 11/11/2014). On 12 November, the Guinean Government announced the withdrawal of the troops (UNMEER, 14/11/2014).

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

11 million people – almost the entire population of Guinea – are affected by the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (IFRC, 25/10/2014).

#### Access

Poor road infrastructure means many communities outside the capital are inaccessible (OCHA, 16/09/2014). **Fuel shortages are hampering the Ebola response (UNMEER, 09/01/2015).**

### Food Security

Based on WFP estimates, 970,000 people, or 9% of the population, was estimated to be severely food insecure in December 2014; EVD effects account for 230,000. Almost 90% of the Ebola-driven food insecure live in rural areas. 3 million people were estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity.

The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 1.2 million in March 2015, 470,000 due to Ebola. (FAO, 17/12/2014). 57% of Guinean households were already at risk of food insecurity or food insecure before the EVD outbreak (WFP, 29/10/2014).

In November and December, the situation improved in the Forest region and Conakry; households were using fewer coping strategies (WFP, 18/12/2014).

#### Agriculture and Markets

All agricultural sectors have been hit by the crisis. **Rice production is estimated to have fallen by 10%**, cocoa production by a third, **coffee production by 50%**, and **palm oil by 75%**. Corn production has declined by 25% (World Bank, 02/12/2014; **UNECA, 15/12/2014; UNDP, 19/12/2014**). Fish exports have fallen by more than 40% (World Bank, 02/12/2014).

#### Livelihoods

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

Prices for local rice declined between 3% and 10% in December; prices of palm oil also fell (WFP, 18/12/2014). In Guinea and Senegal border areas, palm oil prices increased 40% and coffee prices have increased 50% in less than four weeks. Traders also indicate a 50% drop in market activities (WFP, 15/09/2014). The closure of the Senegalese border has reportedly meant the spoiling of potato crops in Labé, in some cases exceeding 50%. Similar issues have been reported by fruit and tomato producers in Kindia, who typically export to Senegal. To cope, certain producers have increased exports to Conakry although local demand is not sufficient to completely absorb the excess supply (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

**Attendance at health facilities fell sharply from August 2013 to August 2014. Primary medical consultations dropped by 58%, hospitalisations by 54%, and vaccinations by 30%. A 10–25% decline in antenatal consultations has been reported, as well as a 7–20% drop in births attended by the health service (UNDP, 19/12/2014).**

An estimated 400,000 children were due for routine vaccinations in 2014. However, there has been almost 50% reduction in the numbers of children vaccinated due to Ebola. From 27 November to 3 December 2014, a catch-up campaign covered the 20 districts with no Ebola cases or declared Ebola-free for 42 days (UNICEF, 17/12/2014).

#### Ebola

**As of 10 January, 2,799 Ebola cases, including 1,807 deaths, have been reported in Guinea (WHO, 12/01/2015).** However, the utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable due to a lack of a comprehensive contact tracing, timely case investigation, and rapid Ebola testing (UNICEF, 06/09/2014).

EVD transmission has increased slightly since early October. Although 10 of a total of 34 districts in Guinea are yet to report a case of EVD, there has been a geographical expansion in transmission: in October, nine districts had reported an infection during the past week; as of December, 14 districts had reported an infection during the past week (WHO, 03/12/2014; 31/12/2014). **19 districts reported a confirmed or probable case in the 21 days to 4 January. Conakry is the worst affected district, followed by Dubreka which reported 75 confirmed Ebola cases, mainly due to the mobility of contacts and the population's resistance to response (WHO, 07/01/2015; local media, 06/01/2015).** Other districts experiencing persistent transmission include Coyah, Kindia, Lola, and Telimele. Faranah, Kerouane and Kissidougou are areas of particular concern for WHO,

because the populations would likely seek treatment in the north, in neighbouring Mali in particular, which risks transmission in less-affected areas.

**Containment measures:** On 9 January, the “Zero Ebola in 60 days” campaign, launched a week earlier, was put on hold due to local communities’ persistent resistance to the Ebola response (UNMEER, 09/01/2015). The Prime Minister has announced measures against resistance, especially in Coyah district, including prosecution of those who hide patients from medical teams or those who hold medical teams hostage (International media, 12/01/2015).

Guinea declared the Ebola outbreak a health emergency on 13 August. President Alpha Conde announced a series of measures including strict controls at border points, travel restrictions, and a ban on moving bodies from one town to another until the end of the epidemic. All suspected victims will automatically be hospitalised until they are cleared of infection (AFP, 14/08/2014). On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak (AFP).

**Healthcare provision:** In the Forest region, insufficient supply of thermo-flash thermometers, lack of equipment and electricity, and weak coordination among response partners are hampering response (UNMEER, 30/12/2014).

#### Regional Outbreak

**The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 21,171, including 8,371 deaths (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported 7–10 January) (WHO, 12/01/2015).** Eight cases, including six fatalities and two cured patients, have been reported in Mali (WHO, 08/01/2015).

#### HIV

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

#### Malaria

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

#### Maternal Health

Women in the three most-affected countries are no longer giving birth in health facilities (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). In addition, Ebola-infected pregnant women are often not permitted in Ebola treatment centres because of the high risk of contamination during delivery, likely resulting in a higher maternal death rate in the three most affected countries (UNFPA, international media 29/10/2014).

#### Nutrition

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

#### Education

The Government was preparing for the re-opening of schools for early January 2015 but as of 5 January, schools have not yet reopened (UNICEF, 31/12/2014).

#### Protection

**Almost 2,600 children have lost one or both parents to Ebola (UNICEF, 07/01/2015).**

*Updated: 13/01/2015*

### LIBERIA FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

#### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**9 January:** 11 dead bodies from Monrovia that were being transported to Bong County were intercepted by the county health team (UNMEER).

**7 January:** A total of 8,278 cases of Ebola have been reported in Liberia, including 3,515 deaths (WHO, 12/01/2015).

**7 January:** Though the border between Liberia's Grand Cape Mount county and Sierra Leone remains officially closed, more than 55 illegal crossing-points enable free movement of goods and people, facilitating contamination (UNICEF).

#### KEY CONCERNS

- 3.37 million people are in need of assistance (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

- The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 21,171, including 8,371 deaths (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone each reported 7–10 January) (WHO, 12/01/2015).

- About 630,000 people, or 14% of the population, were estimated to be severely food insecure in November 2014; the EVD impacts accounting for 170,000 people. These numbers are projected to increase to 750,000, and 290,000, respectively, by March 2015. 1.1 million people were estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity (FAO, 17/12/2014).

- Non-Ebola medical needs cannot be met, leading to an increase in non-Ebola related morbidity and mortality.

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the [ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis](#)

## Political Context

The opposition won most seats in the 20 December senatorial elections. Turnout was less than 30% (international media, 24/12/2014; BBC, 23/12/2014).

On 30 September, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare released an order requiring journalists wanting to visit an Ebola healthcare facility first to get written permission from the health ministry (international media, 06/10/2014). The Press Union of Liberia had raised concerns about violations of freedom of information (Reporters Sans Frontières, 08/09/2014).

## International Response

On 15 December, the Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in Liberia until 30 September 2015, in light of the consequences of the Ebola outbreak on national reforms (UNSC, 15/12/2014).

**By 8 January, 1,829 US troops were in Monrovia to contribute to the Ebola response (US Government, 08/01/2015).** Cuba has sent 465 health workers to West Africa (international media, 20/10/2014).

On 18 September, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to Ebola (UN, 18/09/2014). The outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO's Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014). WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

## Security Context

Several police stations in Monrovia have closed after officers became ill or died of Ebola (AFP, 30/09/2014; UNMEER, 12/11/2014). In the poorest parts of Monrovia and Nimba county, armed attacks and opportunistic crime have increased (DRC, 24/09/2014; UNMEER, 12/11/2014).

## Resistance to the Ebola Response

Community resistance to health workers and treatment remains high, particularly in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Kru, and Gbarpolu counties (UNMEER, 28/11/2014; UNICEF, 03/12/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

3.37 million people are in need of assistance, almost the entire population of Liberia (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

## Access

The humanitarian response remains hampered by transportation problems, including a lack

of vehicles in good condition, and poor road network due to heavy rains (UNICEF, 07/01/2015). Since November, Gleyansiasu town in Gbarpolu county is experiencing food shortages and lack of some basic medical supplies due to the bad condition of the roads (UNMEER, 14/12/2014). In Grand Bassa county, canoes have been banned from crossing the Timbo River, cutting residents off from neighbouring towns (international media, 25/11/2014).

## Displacement

According to a joint assessment conducted in November, EVD does not seem to have led to any major population movements, as many local chiefs have forbidden community members from spending the night outside the village (Joint assessment by UN, government and Food Security Cluster, 30/11/2014). However, the World Bank reported that in October–November about 14% of households indicated having moved since the Ebola outbreak, with more than half indicating that the person who moved internally went to Monrovia. Only 30% of these 14% left the county (World Bank, 19/11/2014).

## Food Security

In November 2014, about 630,000 people, or 14% of the population, were estimated to be severely food insecure; EVD impact accounting for 170,000 people. 1.1 million were estimated vulnerable to food insecurity. The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 750,000 by March 2015, 290,000 of whom due to EVD. Rural areas account for about 76% of EVD-related food insecurity (FAO, 17/12/2014).

Results of the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVam) indicate that, as of October 2014, all areas of Liberia are affected by food insecurity (WFP, 10/11/2014). In November, households are using severe coping strategies in Lofa, Grand Cape Mount, Gbaropolu and Bomi counties. In central Liberia, households were using fewer negative coping strategies in December compared to November, but still more than average (WFP, 18/12/2014). Even in counties less affected by EVD, people have withdrawn their savings, borrowed food, and reduced portion or frequency of meals (Joint assessment by UN, government and Food Security Cluster, 30/11/2014). **About two-thirds of households surveyed by the World Bank in December reported not being able to buy enough rice to meet their needs. 80% of those households indicated a lack of money as the main reason (World Bank, 12/01/2015).**

Quarantine has disrupted trade throughout the country. Inadequate food supplies are reported in Bomi, Bong, Margibi, Montserrado, and Sinoe counties (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014). In rural areas, community members had very limited access to food supplies, as the cost of transportation has risen (joint assessment by UN, Government and Food Security Cluster, 30/11/2014).

## Agriculture and Markets

Most weekly markets have reportedly reopened. **According to a FEWSNET trader survey, 60% of weekly markets in Liberia were open and functioning normally in the week of 22 December, 37% were open but functioning at reduced levels, and 4% were closed. Inadequate food availability on markets was reported by 25–50% of traders in**



Lofa, Gbapolu, Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties. In other counties less than 25% of traders reported inadequate availability (FEWSNET 07/01/2015).

**A recent survey by the World Bank reports that rice prices are 40% above the January baseline (World Bank, 12/01/2015). This increase in rice prices was also reported by UNDP in December (an average increase of 41% over seven of Liberia's 15 counties), and attributed to the interruption of trade as a consequence of Ebola (UNDP, 24/12/2014).**

Nationally, rice production in 2014 is estimated to have declined by 15%. In Lofa and Margibi, a 25% decrease in rice production has been reported because of limited maintenance of the fields (Joint assessment by UN, government and Food Security Cluster, 30/11/2014). There has been a substantial return to agriculture since early October, but the impact on the harvest is to be estimated (World Bank, 19/11/2014). FAO warns that the 2015 cereal crop could be at risk if the outbreak continues (FAO, 11/12/2014).

#### Livelihoods

Household income had dropped by 35% in Liberia as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (UNDP, 14/11/2014). The self-employed have been hardest hit. Before the crisis, over 30% of working household heads was self-employed; this has dropped to just above 10%. Only 50% of people working in the wage employment sector are still working, because of business or government office closures (World Bank, 19/11/2014). **Women are particularly vulnerable since they work disproportionately in non-farm self-employment. 60% of women who were working before the crisis are currently not working, compared to 40% of men (World Bank, 12/01/2015).**

Wage rates have dropped by 12–20% since November in all monitored areas, as demand for labour declined in the post-harvest period. The drop is steeper in western counties (-33%), possibly as a consequence of the increased EVD caseload (WFP, 18/12/2014). In counties severely affected by EVD, household incomes have decreased since food sales have been affected (Joint assessment by UN, government and Food Security Cluster, 30/11/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

Only 44% of routine health services are reported to be operational by the Ministry of Health, despite a large number of health facilities being listed as open (Government, 30/11/2014; UNMEER, 12/12/2014). Only 27% of routine health facilities reported having triage (UNMEER, 29/12/2014).

#### Ebola

**As of 7 January, 8,278 Ebola cases, including 3,515 deaths, have been reported (WHO, 12/01/2015).** The utility of case numbers has been questioned; statistics are reported to be highly unreliable due to a lack of a comprehensive contact tracing, timely case investigation, and rapid Ebola testing (CDC, 09/2014; international media,

20/11/2014).

90% of the recent reported cases have been in the western part of the country (USAID, 10/12/2014). Reported incidence seems to have stabilised over the past five weeks, after declining from mid-September until mid-October. Between 21 and 28 December, Montserrado continues to account for the most intense transmission. Grand Cape Mount is experiencing high EVD activity, with 49 cases reported between 1 and 25 December. Bong and Sinoe also reported cases. Humanitarian actors raised concerns over violent EVD outbreaks in hard-to-reach communities in the area between Bong and Gbarpolu counties during the first half of November (UNMEER, 13/11/2014).

**12 districts in Liberia did not report any confirmed cases during the five days to 2 January**, indicating that the geographical reach of the outbreak is contained to a limited number of districts (WHO, 10/12/2014; 31/12/2014; international media, 29/12/2014; **WHO, 07/01/2015**). All districts in Liberia have reported at least one case of EVD since the start of the outbreak.

**Healthcare provision:** County health teams reported inadequate training in case investigation, contact tracing and collecting and handling patient specimens. They reported limited supply of PPEs, no training in its proper use, and lack of essential drugs, as well as challenges because of poor transportation and communication networks (CDC, 19/12/2014). There are shortages of ambulances, vehicles for case investigations, and thermometers (international media, 20/11/2014). There is shortage of mouth swabs for the collection of samples from dead bodies in Grand Cape Mount (Government, 03/12/2014). **Storage capacity for medical supplies remains a main constraint, causing major delays in distribution to health facilities (UNICEF, 07/01/2015).**

**Containment measures:** On 9 January, it was reported that the county health team in Bong county intercepted 11 dead bodies that were being transported from Monrovia, indicating a need to control migration of EVD cases from other parts of the country (UNMEER, 09/01/2015).

On 29 December, 2,000 people were quarantined in Lofe town, Margibi county, after a corpse transported for burial was confirmed infected with Ebola (international media, 29/12/2014).

Lofa, Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties have been under quarantine since 8 August and Montserrado, Margibi, Grand Bassa and Grand Gedeh counties since 14 August (IFRC, 12/11/2014). On 13 November, the Liberian President lifted the state of emergency, declared on 6 August, and reduced the curfew (Government, 13/11/2014).

On 3 October, Parliament criminalised the deliberate concealment of information about people with contagious diseases such as Ebola and HIV, after a similar law was passed in Sierra Leone (UN, 04/10/2014).

Liberia closed its borders on 29 July, with the exception of major entry points and the airport (ECHO, 29/07/2014). On 23 October, the President announced strict checks on Liberia's borders with neighbouring Guinea and Sierra Leone (AFP, 23/10/2014). **However, there are more than 55 illegal crossing points between Grand Cape Mount county and**



the neighbouring districts Pujehun and Kenema in Sierra Leone, and movement of goods and people continues to facilitate contamination (UNICEF, 07/01/2015). On 1 August, West African Ebola-hit nations agreed at an emergency summit to impose a cross-border isolation zone at the epicentre of the outbreak (AFP).

#### Regional Ebola Outbreak

The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 21,171, including 8,371 deaths (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported 7–10 January) (WHO, 12/01/2015). Eight cases, including six fatalities and two cured patients, have been reported in Mali (WHO, 08/01/2015).

#### HIV

Before the Ebola outbreak, more than 70% of the 30,000 HIV patients in Liberia had access to treatment, but more than 60% of the facilities distributing antiretroviral medicines have since closed, according to the National AIDS Control Program (IRIN, 21/11/2014).

#### Maternal Health

Women in the three most-affected countries are no longer giving birth in health facilities (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). In addition, Ebola-infected pregnant women are often not permitted in Ebola treatment centres because of the high risk of contamination during delivery, likely resulting in a higher maternal death rate in the three most affected countries (UNFPA, international media 29/10/2014).

#### Measles

In response to the measles outbreak in Lofa county, periodic intensification of routine immunisation is being implemented for measles and other vaccinations for children under one year who missed their routine vaccination (UNICEF, 17/12/2014). **551,364 children in 15 counties have been targeted (UNICEF, 07/01/2015).**

#### Nutrition

Between January and June, 2,300 children suffering from acute malnutrition have been admitted to treatment centres (ACF, 27/11/2014). According to the severity of the Ebola crisis, between 1.33 and 1.49 million people will be exposed to undernourishment (ACF, 31/10/2014).

#### WASH

Half of the population have no access to toilets (UNMEER, 20/11/2014). Two million people are in need of WASH, being directly or indirectly affected by the EVD epidemic (UNMEER, 12/12/2014).

**Challenges remain regarding on-site and off-site management of liquid waste from some of the first Ebola treatment units constructed (UNICEF, 07/01/2015).**

#### Education

Liberia plans to reopen schools on 2 February but it is still unknown whether the measure would apply to the entire education system. Authorities are reportedly assessing around 500 schools across the country for reopening (Reuters, 05/01/2015). **There is concern that many schools may not be prepared to meet the deadline (international media, 06/01/2015). Registration of students is scheduled for 12 to 17 January (UNICEF, 07/01/2015).**

#### Protection

Traditional coping mechanisms and social bonds are breaking down, as people who exhibit symptoms of Ebola or are related to sick people are being rejected from communities (CARE, 30/09/2014). Families of victims, survivors and people quarantined are experiencing physical and verbal abuse and lack access to health facilities, food and water sources (UNMEER, 30/11/2014).

Liberia's Institute of Statistics estimates that over two million children are affected by the consequences of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, about 600,000 of whom are under five (UNICEF, 19/11/2014). **4,372 children have been registered as orphaned by EVD. However, it is estimated that up to 7,500 children could be orphaned by EVD (UNICEF, 07/01/2015).** Social workers have raised fears of child trafficking and exploitation, after some children, who have been placed into foster care and are receiving material support or onetime cash grants, have been claimed by strangers who failed to come forward previously (UNICEF, 31/12/2014).

*Updated: 12/01/2015*

### NIGERIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

#### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**1–11 January:** Boko Haram killed 2,146 people; ACLED estimates Boko Haram-related fatalities to be at least over 1,000 per month over 2015–2016 (ACLED, 12/01/2015).

**10 January:** A suicide attack in Potiskum, Yobe state, suspected to be by two children, left three people dead and 26 wounded (The Guardian, 12/01/2015).

**9 January:** A suicide attack carried out by a child on a market in Maiduguri, Borno state, killed at least 19 people (BBC, 10/01/2015).

**9–10 January:** BH attacked Yobe state capital Damaturu, prompting clashes with the military. According to government officials, troops repelled the insurgents (local media, 11/01/2015).

**7 January:** BH attacked Baga again and razed at least 16 surrounding settlements. Reports indicated that as many as 2,000 people had been killed (The Guardian citing Amnesty International, 10/01/2015). Local government officials said that as many as

20,000 people had been forced to flee their homes while 560 were said to be stranded on an island on Lake Chad (AFP, 09/01/2015).

**7 January:** Conflict-affected households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity until at least September. In the absence of humanitarian support, it is expected that up to three million people will face food consumption gaps by July 2015 (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).

## KEY CONCERNS

- Over 2014, 7,711 deaths due to Boko Haram-related violence were reported by media sources, representing over half of BH-related deaths in the country since May 2011 (ACLED, 11/01/2014). Over 1–11 January, Boko Haram killed 2,146 people (ACLED, 12/01/2015). ACLED estimates Boko Haram fatalities may be at least over 1000 per month over 2015-2016 (ACLED, 12/01/2015).

- 9 million people are affected by violence in the northeast, with three million acutely needing humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 10/2014).

- There are 1.5 million IDPs in the northeast (IRIN, 28/11/2014).

- 4.8 million people are food insecure (UNHCR, 17/12/2014). Conflict-affected households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity until at least September. Most of the up to 1.5 million IDPs continue to need assistance to meet their food needs (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).

- 628,000 children under five suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

- Nearly half the population does not have access to safe water (UNICEF).

- 35,909 cholera cases and 753 deaths have been reported so far in 2014 (UNICEF, 12/01/2014).

## OVERVIEW

Up to nine million people are in need of humanitarian assistance across the country, three million are in acute need in the northeast. The violence has displaced a large number of people, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. People affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of health services, protection, food, and water.

A state of emergency was declared in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states in May 2013 due to the activity of Boko Haram.

## Political Context

On 17 November, the Nigerian Government announced it will seek to extend the state of emergency for six more months, meaning the extraordinary measures will likely be in force for February polls (AFP, 17/11/2014).

## 2015 Elections

The 2015 election is expected to exacerbate violence in Nigeria (OCHA, 08/2014). President Goodluck Jonathan is standing, although, according to the opposition, his re-election would violate the unwritten rule that governance should rotate between the Muslim north and the Christian south every two terms. The candidate for the main opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) is former president and military ruler Muhammadu Buhari (AFP, 11/12/2014).

**Current law in Nigeria does not allow displaced citizens to vote outside their own precincts, and no action has been taken to amend that restriction. Most of the displaced are from northern areas, the home of Buhari. There are concerns about the feasibility of holding elections in the SoE states (US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). Governors of the SoE states have requested the deployment of extra troops (Reuters, 06/01/2015).**

## Security Context

The frequency and fatality of attacks are at their highest levels since the state of emergency (SoE) was imposed in 2013. **Over 1–11 January, Boko Haram killed 2,146 people (ACLED, 12/01/2015). ACLED estimates Boko Haram fatalities may be at least over 1000 per month over 2015-2016 (ACLED, 12/01/2015).**

**Over 2014, 7,711 deaths due to Boko Haram-related violence were reported by media sources, representing over half of BH-related deaths in the country since May 2011 (ACLED, 11/01/2014).**

## Stakeholders

### Boko Haram

The insurgent group dubbed by outsiders as Boko Haram (Western education is forbidden) was founded in Maiduguri, Borno state, and has been leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of northeastern Nigeria. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009, with the insurgents using increasingly aggressive tactics.

## Conflict Developments

BH's tactics changed in August, from attacking villages and withdrawing, to seizing control. Common targets remain rural communities, markets, schools, and highways.

**Some reports indicate that Boko Haram has taken control of 40%, or even 70%, of Borno state, though it is difficult to verify (US Institute of Peace, 09/01/2015). According to government officials, Boko Haram now controls Baga, on Lake Chad,**

**and 16 neighbouring towns.** Experts were warning in September that Borno state was on the brink of takeover. A series of kidnappings, primarily of women and girls, took place in the state in October.

BH continues to launch attacks in neighbouring states. BH fighters have reportedly taken control of three towns in Yobe's Gujba local government area (Sahara Reporters, 10/08/2014). In Adamawa, Boko Haram was advancing, but media reports indicated that the military recaptured a number of towns in October (OCHA, 08/10/2014; AFP, 08/09/2014). BH was ousted from Mubi on 14 November, although the insurgents then overran the neighbouring towns of Gombe and Hong (AFP, 13/11/2014; 14/11/2014). Attacks on Kano began again in May, after a lull of several months, and have become more frequent.

Counter-insurgency operations are ongoing, although Nigerian soldiers have at times reportedly refused to deploy because of inadequate equipment, or fled from operations (AFP, 22/08/2014). Amnesty International has reported mass extrajudicial executions by the military (Washington Post, 05/08/2014). Civilians have formed vigilante groups or self-defence militias, reportedly with the tacit backing of the Nigerian Government.

#### Recent Incidents

**Borno state:** On 9 January, a child carried out a suicide attack on a market in Maiduguri, the state capital, killing at least 19 people (BBC, 10/01/2015). On 7 January, BH took control of Baga and razed at least 16 surrounding settlements. Amnesty International cited reports indicating that as many as 2,000 people were killed (The Guardian, 10/01/2015). Local government officials said up to 20,000 people fled their homes, while 560 were thought to be stranded on an island on Lake Chad (AFP, 09/01/2015). On 3 January, BH seized a Multinational Joint Task Force military base outside Baga town, housing troops from Nigeria, Chad, and Niger. The force was originally set up to battle cross-border violence and has more recently taken on BH (international media, 04/01/2014).

On 31 December, 40 boys and young men were kidnapped from the village of Malari and residents fled (international media, 04/01/2015). On 18 December, BH kidnapped at least 185 people and killed 32 in Gumsuri 32 (international media, 18/12/2014). The towns of Kautikari and Gajiganna were raided in December, leaving 26 dead and causing displacement (international media, 30/12/2014; AFP, 11/12/2014). On 1 December, two suicide bomb attacks in Maiduguri killed at least ten people and wounded dozens (international media, 01/12/2014).

In November, several BH suicide bombings and insurgent attacks killed at least 188 people in the state and resulted in 10,000 people fleeing to Niger (AFP, 16/11/2014). On 9 November, BH seized the city of Malam Fatori; thousands fled (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

**Yobe state:** On 10 January, a child suicide attack in Potiskum left three people dead and 26 wounded (The Guardian, 12/01/2015). On 9 January, BH attacked the state capital Damaturu; according to government officials, troops were able to repel the insurgents by 10 January (AFP, 09/01/2015; local media, 11/01/2015). More than 150 people had been killed in an attack on the town in December (international media,

01/12/2014; 03/12/2014). On 3 January, the town of Babban Gida was raided (international media, 04/01/2015).

On 31 December, seven people died in a bus explosion near Potiskum (international media, 01/01/2015). Suspected BH insurgents also stormed Geidam, Bajoga, and Ashaka towns in December, forcing many people to flee (international media, 22/12/2014; AFP, 04/12/2014).

In November, two suicide attacks in Potiskum resulted in 61 dead and 130 injured (OCHA, 14/11/2014; AFP, 06/11/2014). Over January–November 2014, 409 BH-related deaths were reported by media sources (CFR, 15/12/2014).

**Adamawa state:** Over January–November 2014, 1,617 deaths due to BH-related violence were reported by media sources (CFR, 15/12/2014). On 27 November, a roadside bomb exploded in a bus station, killing 40 people, including five soldiers (Reuters, 27/11/2014).

**Gombe state:** On 1 January, several people were injured in a suicide bombing outside a church in Gombe city (international media, 01/01/2015). On 31 December, a suicide bomber was killed while trying to enter military barracks in Gombe (international media, 01/01/2015). On 22 December, 20 people died and 18 were injured in an explosion at a bus park in Gombe city (international media, 22/12/2014).

**Bauchi state:** On 22 December, seven were killed and 25 injured in an explosion at a market in Bauchi city (22/12/2014).

**Kano state:** On 10 December, suicide attacks at a market in Kano city killed at least four people. A 13-year-old girl was apprehended carrying explosives (AFP, 10/12/2014; 11/12/2014). On 28 November, at least 120 people were killed and 270 other wounded by two suicide bombers and gunmen at the Grand Mosque (AFP, 28/11/2014).

**Plateau state:** Over January–November 2014, 442 deaths due to BH-related violence were reported by media sources (CFR, 15/12/2014). Most were killed in Jos and Bachi.

#### Inter-communal Violence

The Middle Belt area is home to a number of minority groups, divided between the Islamic north and the more secular Christian/animist south. Inter-communal clashes fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions flare regularly throughout the Middle Belt (IDMC, 12/2014). Disputes are often over land and water.

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

According to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), nine million people in the northeast have been affected by the conflict, with three million people in acute need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

Populations are in urgent need of protection, food, and basic medical and WASH services as very few international actors are operating in the northeast (OCHA, 31/08/2014 and 01/07/2014).

#### Access

Updated information on the humanitarian situation in the northeast is minimal because of access constraints. Humanitarian access is impeded by insecurity, poor infrastructure, and limited openings for dialogue with both security forces and non-state actors (OCHA, 05/2014).

In Borno state, most routes to affected areas are inaccessible. The state of emergency restricts movement and assembly in parts of Borno state, and Maiduguri airport is closed to commercial flights. Only one route to Maiduguri is possible, and it is subject to insurgent attack (OCHA, 09/2014).

BH insurgents are suspected of blowing up a major bridge in Gamboru Ngala district, Borno state, disrupting transport links with Cameroon (BBC, 27/07/2014).

## Displacement

### IDPs

There are up to 1.5 million IDPs since May 2013 in the six northeast states, according to the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), a significant increase on the 646,700 IDPs reported from an inter-agency assessment in May (OCHA, 24/09/2014; IRIN, 28/11/2014). As of 24 November, about 400,000 IDPs were registered in Borno, 160,000 in Adamawa and 116,500 in Yobe states (OCHA, 26/11/2014). As of July, at least 268,200 were displaced in surrounding states, including Taraba (108,500), Bauchi (88,570), Benue (37,000), Kaduna (15,000), Gombe (13,000), and Nasarawa (6,340) (OCHA, 01/07/2014).

Most IDP households are headed by women who have been widowed during attacks. Over 90% of IDPs reside with host families in about 200 communities; others have taken shelter in public buildings such as schools (OCHA, 06/2014; UNHCR, 31/10/2014). About 400,000 IDPs are in or near Yola, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), adding pressure to the city's resources. Approximately 15,000 IDPs are in camps (IRIN, 12/12/2014). There are 18 camps in Borno, Taraba, Gombe, and Lagos states.

The burden is overstressing already scarce resources and aggravating poverty and including food insecurity (UNHCR and OCHA, 01/07/2014). IDPs in host communities are in urgent need of shelter and non-food items. Food, health, protection, and WASH are all priority needs in host communities (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

### Refugees

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

## Nigerian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

At least 150,000 refugees have fled to Cameroon, Niger, or Chad, according to UNHCR (IRIN, 28/11/2014). Temporary refugee status has been granted to those Nigerians fleeing the three states under SoE. UNHCR has advised against forced returns to northern areas.

**Niger:** Some 105,000 Nigerian refugees and returning migrants are estimated to be in Niger. 10,000 Nigerians fled to Niger following the BH attack on Damassak, Borno state, on 24 November (OCHA, 27/11/2014). During September, 25,000 Nigerians entered Niger (OCHA, 14/10/2014). Concentrated in the Diffa region, most refugees are staying with local communities, and food and water resources are limited (UNHCR, 15/06/2014).

**Cameroon:** 44,000 Nigerians have fled to northern Cameroon as of September, including 26,750 refugees registered by UNHCR (IRIN, 17/09/2014; UNHCR, 17/10/2014). About 70% of new arrivals are women and children who need immediate assistance. Aid and infrastructure projects in the Far North region have been suspended due to high insecurity (AlertNet, 08/07/2014).

**Chad:** In January, over 10,000 people fled to Chad (BBC, 10/01/2015). At 17 October, 1,500 Nigerian refugees had been registered in Chad (UNHCR, 17/10/2014).

## Food Security

4.8 million people are food insecure across 11 states in northern Nigeria (OCHA, 30/09/2014; IRIN, 28/11/2014).

**Conflict-affected households will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels of food insecurity until at least September. Most of the up to 1.5 million IDPs continue to need assistance to meet their food needs (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).**

The 2013/14 agricultural season has been severely impeded. **Vast areas of southern Yobe and Borno and northern Adamawa were undercultivated or not harvested during the main farming season of May to December. Off-season farming and fishing in the first half of 2015 are also expected to be reduced (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).**

**A number of factors market purchase difficult for households that would typically offset low production with increased market purchase: most markets in conflict areas are closed or at reduced levels following attacks, supplies of locally produced commodities are low, physical access is limited for traders from outside the region, and functioning markets continue to report high prices for staple foods. Retail millet and sorghum prices for Maiduguri in December were about 30% higher than in neighbouring Kano. (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).**

## Health and Nutrition

3,000 health facilities in the northeast are closed or have been partially destroyed (OCHA, 08/10/2014). Healthcare services have collapsed in the northern part of Borno state as health workers have fled (OCHA, 19/08/2014). In March 2014, a multi-sector assessment covering the three SoE states indicated that only 37% of health facilities are functioning, leaving residents to seek medical attention across the border. Mortality rates are increasing and vaccination programmes are severely hit. Polio vaccination campaigns are now limited to the Maiduguri metropolis.

Most IDPs in host communities have limited access to health services due to various constraints such as lack of information on services and transportation costs (OCHA,

02/10/2014).

#### Cholera

**35,909 cholera cases, including 753 deaths (2.1% case fatality rate) were reported January–November 2014. Reported numbers decreased from 792 cases in the last week of October 2014 to 35 in the last week of November 2014 (UNICEF, 12/01/2015).**

#### Nutrition

As of September 2014, 628,000 children under five suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/09/2014). A February–May SMART survey revealed poorer nutritional status among the population of the SoE states (UNICEF, 06/2014).

**In the absence of humanitarian support, it is expected that up to three million people will face food consumption gaps in Nigeria by July 2015 (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).** Severe acute malnutrition is responsible for more than a third of all child deaths in Nigeria; 350,000 children die from malnutrition every year (ECHO, 08/2014).

#### Polio

In 2014, 20 cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) were reported, and six cases of wild poliovirus type 1 have. Kano is the only state to have reported cases of WPV since April (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 24/09/2014). In 2013, 53 cases were reported, and in 2012, 102 (GPEI, UNICEF). 72% of cases in 2013 were recorded in Borno, Yobe, and Kano states.

#### WASH

WASH conditions in IDP host communities are of critical concern, with reports of inadequate latrines and lack of access to safe water. The need for hygiene promotion activities and provision of hygiene kits is critical (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

According to reports from UNICEF, nearly half the Nigerian population does not have access to safe water, and a third does not have access to sanitation services.

#### Education

10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria; 60% in the northern part of the country (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014). One in every three primary school children and one in every four secondary school children are out of school in the northeast.

In March 2014, all state-funded education facilities were closed in Borno state (UNICEF, 23/06/2014). 500 educational institutions in the northeast have been destroyed by the insurgency (OCHA, 08/10/2014). Borno state authorities announced that 176 teachers have been killed by Boko Haram in Borno state since 2011 (UNICEF cited by OCHA, 07/2014).

#### Protection

Maintaining the civilian nature of places of asylum or displacement is of concern.

There is an urgent need for emergency protection, including for unaccompanied and separated children (OCHA, 06/2014).

#### Abduction, Torture, and Forced Recruitment

In a report in September, Amnesty International said Nigeria's police and military routinely torture women, men, and children, using a wide range of methods including beatings, shootings and rape (BBC, 18/09/2014).

Kidnappings of groups of women and girls by BH continue, and more than 200 schoolgirls are still being held captive (OCHA, 01/07/2014). Young men are being forcibly recruited (ECHO, 20/09/2014). The increase in the number of abductions since mid-2013 appears to mark a change of strategy by Boko Haram. Human Rights Watch estimates that Boko Haram has abducted at least 500 women and girls since 2009, from more than a dozen towns and villages in Borno and Yobe states. Women and girls have reported abuses such as forced labour, including forced participation in military operations; forced marriage to their captors; and sexual abuse including rape. While some women and girls seem to have been taken at random, the majority appeared to have been targeted – notably students and Christians.

*Updated: 12/01/2015*

## SIERRA LEONE FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**10 January:** 10,094 Ebola cases have been reported, including 3,049 deaths (WHO).

**11 January:** Pujehun, in the southeast, was the first district to be declared Ebola-free, after 42 days with zero recorded cases (ECHO).

**9 January:** According to a recent assessment, the trauma due to the Ebola crisis has put people at risk of mental health problems (International Medical Corps).

### KEY CONCERNS

- The whole population, as 6 million people, needs assistance as a consequence of the Ebola outbreak (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

- The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 21,171, including 8,371 deaths (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported 7–10 January) (WHO, 12/01/2015). The numbers of registered cases and deaths are largely inaccurate, underestimating the gravity of the situation on the ground.

- About 450,000 people, or 7.5 % of the population, were estimated to be severely food insecure as of December 2014, the impact of EVD accounting for more than a quarter of the food insecure. By March 2015, these numbers are projected to increase to 610,000, and 280,000, respectively. 2.1 million people were estimated to be vulnerable to food



insecurity. (FAO, 17/12/2014).

- The national public health system is overstretched and struggling to deliver non-EVD care (UNMEER, 16/11/2014).

For more information on the Ebola crisis in West Africa, visit the [ACAPS Ebola Needs Analysis Project page](#).

## Political Context

On 4 November, a journalist in Freetown was arrested, under emergency measures introduced to fight against the Ebola epidemic, after a guest on his radio show criticised the President's handling of the Ebola outbreak (Reuters, 04/11/2014).

## International Response

About 800 UK soldiers are on the ground (international media, 15/12/2014). Cuba has sent 465 health workers to West Africa (international media, 20/10/2014). On 18 September, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution establishing a special mission to lead the global response to Ebola (UN, 18/09/2014).

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been declared a Grade 3 Emergency under WHO's Emergency Response Framework (ECHO, 29/07/2014). WHO declared the epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

## Unrest

**On 6 January, the hospital in Magbenteh, Makeni, reopened,** after staff ended a strike over risk payments started on 24 December (**The Guardian, 06/01/2015**; 24/12/2014). On 8 December, doctors at Freetown's main hospital went on strike in protest over inadequate equipment to fight the Ebola epidemic (AFP, 08/12/2014; UNMEER, 10/12/2014). On 24 November, burial workers in Kenema city abandoned 15 bodies at the city's main hospital, protesting at non-payment of allowances for October and November (BBC, 25/11/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

The whole population is in need of assistance due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

## Access

Delays in getting visas and security clearances for cargo and planes, as well as high customs fees, are hampering humanitarian access and supply distribution (international media, 06/10/2014).

Poor coordination between agencies and road access issues remain major challenges in rural areas, making it sometimes impossible to reach families in need of food within 24 hours of being placed under quarantine (UNMEER, 30/11/2014).

## Displacement

The fear of being infected or quarantined has triggered displacement. Half of the people who left Kenema and Kailahun districts between June and October did so because of Ebola. Some Ebola survivors have had to relocate because of strong stigmatisation after their return from hospital (DWHH, 06/10/2014).

## Food Security

About 450,000 people, or 7.5 % of the population, were estimated to be severely food insecure as of December 2014, the impact of EVD accounting for more than a quarter of the food insecure. About 76% of the Ebola-related food-insecure individuals live in rural areas. The number of food insecure is projected to increase to 610,000 by March 2015, 280,000 of whom are attributed to EVD. 2.1 million people are estimated to be vulnerable to food insecurity (FAO, 17/12/2014).

Households are continuing to rely on high levels of negative coping mechanisms in Kailahun and Kono, areas that were food secure before (WFP, 18/12/2014). Three-quarters of people surveyed in the country by WFP have begun to reduce the number of daily meals and portion sizes (IRIN, 20/10/2014).

## Agriculture and Markets

Total food production for 2014 is estimated to be 5% lower than in 2013 (WFP, 24/12/2014). Labour shortages are the main factor affecting crop production, due to movement restrictions (FAO, 17/12/2014). 2014 rice production is estimated to decline by 8%.

Up to 40% of farms have been abandoned in the most affected areas, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN, 13/10/2014). Rice production is expected to dip by 17% in Kailahun, which is usually one of the country's most productive agricultural areas but has been heavily affected by Ebola (FAO, 17/12/2014).

According to the mVAM survey from WFP, markets, rather than own production, are the main source of food (FAO, 11/12/2014; WFP 09/2014). In the northern, eastern and southern regions, prices have increased, whereas they declined in the western region (UNDP, 14/11/2014). Rural areas have been more affected by price fluctuations. In December, the price of local rice dropped by over 10% in the southern and eastern provinces (WFP, 18/12/2014). Price increases range from 13% for imported rice to over 40% for fish. Other commodities affected include cassava, groundnuts, and palm oil (FAO, 22/10/2014). In November, imported rice prices were stable or had increased by less than 10% (FEWSNET, 27/11/2014). Palm oil prices fell 8–12% compared to November in eastern and southern Provinces; they typically increase at this time of year (WFP, 18/12/2014).

**As of 22 December, 27% of weekly markets were open and functioning normally, 45% were open but operating at reduced levels, and 28% were closed according to an SMS-based trader survey (FEWSNET, 07/01/2015).** In November, the number of traders selling food in Sierra Leone had fallen. In Kailahun and Kenema, there were 69% fewer domestic rice traders than in 2012 (International Growth Centre, 13/11/2014).

Below-average stock levels on markets are reported due mostly to travel restrictions and high transportation costs (FEWSNET, 15/12/2014). Poor food availability (over 50%) was observed in Bo, Kenema, Kono, Moyamba, Port Loko, and Pujehun; the lowest percentage was in Kailahun (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).

#### Livelihoods

Household income has dropped by 29.7% in Sierra Leone as of October, due to the consequences of the Ebola outbreak (UNDP, 14/11/2014). Wages have improved, notably in the southeast. Wage rates in eastern districts still remain 8% to 20% below those reported in other areas of the country (UNMEER, 21/12/2014). **An estimated 179,000 people had stopped working outside of the agriculture sector, mostly due to efforts to limit the spread of the disease and to the general economic disruption caused by the epidemic (World Bank, 12/01/2015).**

#### Health and Nutrition

The national public health system is overstretched and struggling to deliver non-EVD care, leading to an increase in non-Ebola-related morbidity and mortality (UNMEER, 16/11/2014). Between May and October, the median number of admissions dropped by 70%. An estimated 35,000 sick in Sierra Leone may have been excluded from inpatient care from mid-May to December 2014 (international organisation, 19/12/2014).

In Kenema district, a sharp decline in facility use for routine health services was reported due to fear of contracting Ebola at a facility. Antenatal and postnatal visits decreased significantly between May and July 2014 (CDC, 02/01/2015).

#### Ebola

**As of 10 December, 10,094 Ebola cases, including 3,049 deaths, have been reported in Sierra Leone (WHO, 12/01/2015).** Reliable data collection remains a major challenge, and it is suspected that about 50% of cases are not being reported across the country (UNMEER, 02/11/2014).

All districts of Sierra Leone have reported at least one probable or confirmed case since the start of the outbreak. **In January, Pujehun, in the southeast, was the first district to be declared Ebola-free, after 42 days with zero recorded cases of the virus (ECHO, 11/01/2015).**

**248 new confirmed cases were reported between 28 December and 4 January, including 93 in Freetown.** Persistent transmission continues in Western rural area, **with 50 cases reported 28 December–4 January. The high number of walk-in cases in this district point to the fact that case finding is still falling short.** Transmission persists in Bombali and Kambia. A major issue in Port Loko, which reported **41 cases this week**, has been the relatively long wait for lab results from Bo and Kenema. Patients can wait in holding centres for weeks. Ongoing transmission in Kono has overwhelmed the district hospital, with a very high death rate among admitted cases; **32 cases were reported**

**between 28 December and 4 January.** In Tonkolili, transmission has been intense in recent weeks; burials are still taking place in secret and health worker infection is a concern, with four infections during the first week of December. In Bonthe, all cases are imported. The burial team is overwhelmed due to the challenging terrain and hard-to-reach communities (WHO, 07/01/2015; 31/12/2014; UNMEER, 04/01/2015).

**Healthcare provision:** A major challenge is to make labs accessible to all districts: more reliable sample transportation networks need to be put in place. Proper storage capacity and maintenance of blood samples also need to be established in several districts (UNMEER, 30/12/2014). 200,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) sets are needed every month (UNMEER, 30/12/2014). The Ministry of Health and Sanitation distributed anti-malaria medicine to 2.5 million people in hotspot areas in the districts of Bombali, Kambia, Koinadugu, Moyamba, Port Loko, Tonkolili, and in all the Western Area in order to better identify Ebola cases, as the symptoms are similar (UNICEF, 12/11/2014). **Another mass distribution is planned 16–19 January (Government, 12/01/2015).**

**Containment measures: On 9 January, the Western Area surge operation,** launched by the President on 17 December, to identify suspected EVD cases in Freetown and Western Area and refer patients to treatment, **was extended for two more weeks (international media, 09/01/2015; Government, 17/12/2014).** House-to-house searches began in Freetown to find hidden cases of Ebola. Sunday trading had been banned and travel between districts restricted.

On 10 December, authorities imposed a two-week lockdown on the eastern district of Kono, following reports of new Ebola cases (AFP, 10/12/2014). On 2 December, Tonkolili was added to the list of districts under quarantine, and the quarantine was extended at least until 19 January (Government, 02/12/2014, AFP, 04/01/2015). Additional screening measures at Freetown International airport have been imposed by the Government after two workers apparently caught the disease (AFP, 04/01/2015). On 25 September, Port Loko, Bombali, and Moyamba were put under quarantine. Kenema and Kailahun have been quarantined since 7 August (IFRC, 12/11/2014). In June, Sierra Leone closed its borders with Guinea and Liberia, and closed schools, cinemas, and nightclubs in border areas (OCHA, 07/2014).

The Defence Minister is leading the National Ebola Response Centre (BBC, 18/10/2014). In August, legislation was passed imposing a jail term of up to two years for anyone concealing an Ebola-infected patient, and of up to six months for anyone entering or leaving Ebola-affected areas without medical authorisation (AFP, 22/08/2014; international media, 30/08/2014).

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

#### Regional Outbreak

**The total cumulative number of reported cases across the region has reached 21,171, including 8,371 deaths (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone each reported 7–10 January) (WHO, 12/01/2015).** Eight cases, including six fatalities and two cured patients, have been reported in Mali (WHO, 08/01/2015).



## HIV

8,000 people with HIV, or 80% of people previously on antiretroviral treatment, are no longer receiving treatment due to health staff shortages (UNDP, 30/11/2014).

## Maternal Health

Women in the three most-affected countries are no longer giving birth in health facilities due to EVD (UNMEER, 03/11/2014). In addition, Ebola-infected pregnant women are often not permitted in the Ebola treatment centres because of the high risk of contamination during delivery, resulting in a probable higher maternal death rate in the three most affected countries (UNFPA, international media 29/10/2014).

## Measles

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

## Mental Health

**According to a recent assessment, trauma due to the Ebola crisis has put people at risk of mental health problems, due to reduced access to community support systems and normal coping strategies (International Medical Corps, 09/01/2015).**

## Nutrition

There is a serious risk of acute malnutrition for children under five as food security worsens.

Depending on the level of the Ebola crisis, between at least 1.55 and 1.79 million people will be exposed to undernourishment (ACF, 31/10/2014).

## WASH

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

## Education

As of 28 November, 100 teachers are currently under quarantine (UNICEF, 28/11/2014). Schools remain closed and nearly two million children are not attending school. According to the Minister of Education, schools are not likely to reopen until March 2015 (UNICEF, 16/10/2014).

## Protection

Following the launch of the Western Area surge, health authorities have raised concerns about patients being abandoned by their families at hospitals, even after testing negative for Ebola (international media, 05/01/2015). According to a survey conducted by UNICEF,

96% of Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone have experienced some sort of discrimination. More than three-quarters of respondents said they would not welcome back an Ebola survivor into their community (IRIN, 31/10/2014).

**According to the Deputy Minister of Gender and Children Affairs, gender-based violence had dramatically increased within the last year (international media, 09/01/2015).** As of 31 December, more than 14,766 children have been directly affected by the consequences of Ebola, including 9,516 children who have lost one or both parents to Ebola or their caregiver (UNICEF, 31/12/2014). With two million children not attending school, UNICEF warns of an increase in vulnerability, leading to a potential increase in child labour, and in teen pregnancy (UNICEF, 16/10/2014).

*Updated: 13/01/2015*

## SOMALIA CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**9 January:** People are in Middle Juba region and Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle are the most affected by food insecurity (FEWSNET).

**8 January:** The indefinite closure of Bosaso airport in Puntland in late December is severely constraining humanitarian operations (IP).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Widespread violence and insecurity, particularly in south-central Somalia.
- Insecurity and bureaucratic impediments continue to hinder humanitarian access.
- 1.1 million IDPs, mainly in the south-central region, with high concentrations in Mogadishu (OCHA, 06/2014).
- More than one million Somali refugees live in neighbouring countries, mostly Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen (UNHCR, 03/2014).
- 3.2 million are estimated to need lifesaving or livelihood assistance (OCHA, 05/12/2014).
- 1,100,000 people are at Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity (WFP, 11/2014). Two million people experience Stressed levels of food insecurity.
- More than 203,000 acutely malnourished children under five have been reported, mainly in south-central Somalia (OCHA, 05/2014).
- 520,000 children under five urgently require measles vaccination in outbreak areas (UNICEF, 06/2014).

## OVERVIEW

Protracted conflict, consecutive years of drought, natural hazards, and disruption of basic infrastructure have led to large-scale displacement in Somalia and across the region. Almost half the population of Somalia, around 3.2 million people, is vulnerable to external shocks and lacking access to basic goods and services, with an estimated three million people living in seven regions affected by the Somalia–African Union military offensive: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir and Lower Juba (OCHA, 05/2014). The UN warns of a looming humanitarian emergency (UN, 15/06/2014).

### Political Context

Somalia suffers from a chronic fragility of state institutions as a result of two decades of civil war. Infighting between presidents and prime ministers is a recurrent problem. On 6 December, the latest Prime Minister lost a confidence vote (AFP, AMISOM, 06/12/2014). Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, replaced him (UN, 24/12/2014). Vision 2016, the Federal Government's policy covering constitutional revision, the establishment of regional administrations, and transition to multiparty democracy, is opposed by key figures in the state (UNSC, 25/09/2014; ICG, 01/11/2014).

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

**Puntland:** On 8 January, former Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas was elected President of the self-declared semi-autonomous region. In September, there was an escalation in tensions between Puntland and Somaliland, which included the deployment of military forces to border areas (UNSC, 25/09/2014). A number of media sources were closed by the Somali Government in December, (Reporters sans Frontieres, 11/12/2014).

**Somaliland:** Protests began after the ruling Kulmiye party planned to unseat the Speaker of Somaliland. Police fired on demonstrators: one was killed and eight injured. 22 police officers were injured (PI, 15/11/2014).

### Security Context

Over 2,200 conflict incidents with humanitarian impact were reported in the first nine months of 2014, including military operations, active hostilities, and other forms of violence against civilians (OCHA, 17/10/2014). Security is said to have deteriorated since March, and the launch of the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) military offensive against Al Shabaab-held areas. The number of attacks and fatalities had decreased between 2010 and 2013.

#### Al Shabaab

Al Shabaab, a militant Islamist group linked to Al Qaeda, took over most of southern

Somalia in 2006, seeking to establish an Islamic state. Defeated by Ethiopian and Somali forces in 2007, Al Shabaab was forced out of Mogadishu in 2011 and Kismayo in 2012, and lost Barawe, Lower Shabelle, in October 2014. Following the death of Ahmed Abdi Godane in a US drone attack in September, Ahmad Umar (also known as Abu Ubaidah) has been named the new leader (AFP, 06/09/2014). Numbering 7,000–9,000 militants, Al Shabaab typically targets Somali government officials, AMISOM forces, and perceived government allies. Attacks in urban centres and along transport axes are common. Al Shabaab is reportedly fleeing south and northeast as the SNAF-AMISOM offensive advances. On 27 December, Al Shabaab intelligence chief Zakariya Ismail Ahmed Hersi surrendered to AU forces. Experts suggest that the surrender follows splits within Al Shabaab (AFP, 27/12/2014).

On 2 December, Al Shabaab carried out an attack on quarry workers in Mandera, Kenya, killing 36 (BBC, 02/12/2014). On 22 November, Al Shabaab had attacked a Nairobi-bound bus in Mandera, and killed 28 non-Muslims. A day later, the Kenyan military launched two operations on Al Shabaab camps in Somalia, reportedly killing 115 militants, and destroying the camps and equipment (BBC, The Guardian, 24/11/2014).

On 5 December, Al Shabaab carried out a twin bomb attack in Baidoa, killing 15 (AFP, UN, 05/12/2014).

**Mogadishu:** On 4 December, Al Shabaab wounded one legislator and killed another in a drive-by shooting (AFP, 05/12/2014). On 25 December, three AU soldiers and a civilian were killed after a gunfight in the AMISOM headquarters (AFP, 25/12/2014). On 4 January, a suicide car bomb killed four people (AFP, 04/01/2015).

#### SNAF-AMISOM Offensive

In November 2013, the AMISOM force was increased to 22,000 from 17,600. Its mandate has been extended until 30 November 2015 (UNSC, 25/09/2014). The first SNAF-AMISOM offensive was launched in early March 2014 to recover Al Shabaab-controlled areas of southern and central Somalia: Bakool, Gedo, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, Bay, Banadir, and Lower Juba regions (OCHA, 05/2014). The second phase of the offensive began in late August. About 1.5 million people live in areas that could be directly affected by the offensive (OCHA, 19/09/2014). In November, there was an increase in retaliatory attacks against AMISOM and government troops, with tensions high in Bay, Gedo and Hiraan (WFP, 24/11/2014).

On 25 August, reports suggested AU and Somali government troops had seized Tiyeeglow in Bakool region, giving the Somali Government full control of all major towns in Bakool (AOV, 25/08/2014). On 6 October, international media reported that Somali troops had regained control of Barawe, a port town in Lower Shabelle that had been under Al Shabaab control for more than 20 years (AFP, BBC, 06/10/2014). On 8 November, Al Shabaab had reportedly retaken control of Kidha Island, 70km off the coast of Kismayo, giving access to trade routes (Garowe, 08/11/2014; local media, 09/11/2014; All Africa, 07/11/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Access

Outside Mogadishu, insecurity on the main roads to newly recovered areas makes needs assessments, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response monitoring difficult (OCHA, 21/11/2014). In late November, OCHA reported that Al Shabaab is blocking strategic roads connecting Beletweyne, Xudur, and Elbarde. The Logistics Cluster reported in late November that roads in Bulo Burte, Baidoa, and Wajid also remain extremely unstable (WFP, 30/11/2014). Even in areas where there has been no active conflict, illegal checkpoints, banditry, and demands for bribes are common (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

**The indefinite closure of Bosaso Airport, Puntland, for renovation severely constrained humanitarian operations (PI, 08/01/2015).**

#### Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

On 3 December, a car bomb was detonated in the vicinity of a UN convoy travelling near Mogadishu International Airport (AMISOM, 03/12/2014). No UN staff, but four bystanders, were killed and nine were wounded. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility (AFP, 03/12/2014). As of September, 32 aid workers had been attacked in Somalia in 2014, with four humanitarian workers killed (USAID, 30/09/2014; OCHA, 17/11/2014). Aid workers have reportedly been targeted by armed groups for arrest and detention in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Lower and Middle Juba. On 18 May, a 400-strong UN military unit was deployed in Mogadishu with a mandate to protect aid workers (UN).

#### Displacement

##### IDPs

An estimated 1.1 million Somalis were IDPs by October 2014, 893,000 in the south-central region, 130,000 in Puntland, and 85,000 in Somaliland (UNHCR, 10/2014). 369,000 IDPs live in makeshift camps in Mogadishu. The total displaced due to the SNAF-AMISOM offensive this year is 80,000 (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

**Mogadishu:** As of August, a significant and increasing number of rural families were moving to Mogadishu, fleeing conflict or food insecurity (UNICEF, 20/08/2014). More than 42,900 IDPs were unlawfully evicted from Mogadishu in late August and early September, mainly from Daynile and Hodan, according to UNHCR (WFP, 24/11/2014). The evicted have moved to the outskirts of Mogadishu and remote areas, where they lack physical security and access to basic services (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

##### Returnees

**The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes a legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home (UNHCR 15/08/2014). Three areas have been designated to receive returnees: Luuq, Baidowa, and Kismayo. Only 3,000 refugees have registered to return, compared to the original target of 10,000. (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Somali refugees in Kenya cite insecurity and lack of earning opportunities as their main uncertainties regarding a return to Somalia (UNHCR, East African, 02/08/2014; UNHCR, 11/08/2014).**

**On 8 December, the first returnees arrived in Somalia: 94 were taken to the border town of Dholbey and are receiving food rations, NFIs, and livelihood start-up grants (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014).**

#### Refugees in Somalia

**As of December 2015, there are 2,540 refugees in Somalia (OCHA, 01/12/2014).**

#### Somali Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

956,000 Somalis are refugees in neighbouring countries, around 450,000 in Kenya, 245,000 in Ethiopia, and 230,000 in Yemen (UNHCR).

**Kenya:** In March, the Kenyan Government ordered all city-based refugees to relocate to Dadaab and Kakuma camps, and asked Kenyans to report refugees not in camps to the police. Thousands of Somalis were rounded up, some were forcibly relocated, and hundreds have been deported to Somalia (Human Rights Watch, 11/04/2014). On 18 December, Kenya passed the Security Amendment Act, which states that the number of refugees and asylum seekers permitted to stay in Kenya shall not exceed 150,000; **human rights groups fear that the new security law will result in the forced return of large numbers of refugees (IRIN, 05/01/2015).**

#### Disasters

##### Drought

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

##### Floods

Heavy rains in south-central Somalia, in upper parts of the Shabelle basin along the Somalia–Ethiopia border, have caused flooding along both the Shabelle and Juba Rivers. An estimated 50,000 people have been affected across six regions (OCHA, 24/11/2014), and from 1 September to 16 November, 30,323 have been displaced in Lower Shabelle, 6,274 in Hiraan, 2,033 in Lower Juba, and 120 in Banadir (UNHCR, 16/11/2014).

#### Food Security

Of the total population of 7.5 million, 1.1 million people face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) food insecurity, an increase of 20% since January, and an additional 2.1 million people face Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) (WFP, 24/11/2014). About 62% of those who face acute food insecurity are IDPs, 27% live in rural areas, and 11% are the urban poor (FEWSNET 30/09/2014). **People in Middle Juba region and Jowhar district in Middle Shabelle are the most affected by food insecurity. In these areas, food insecurity is attributed to river flooding delaying crop production, limited access to humanitarian aid, and high food prices due to trade restrictions (FEWSNET, 09/01/2015).**

WFP has warned that a pipeline break may mean 700,000 people no longer receive food

and nutrition assistance from January 2015 (OCHA 24/11/2014).

**Somaliland:** 7,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 472,000 people are in Phase 2; there are 84,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014).

**Puntland:** 60,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 240,000 are in Phase 2; there are 129,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014). The situation has continued to deteriorate despite improvements in water and pasture following recent *gu* rains, due to the severe impact of six consecutive seasons of drought, and high food and non-food prices (ACT Alliance, 14/10/2014).

**South-central:** 155,000 people are in Phase 3/4; 1,336 are in Phase 2, and there are 952,000 IDPs (OCHA, 03/06/2014; 31/05/2014). Areas along the Juba River from Buaale in Middle Juba to Jamame district in Lower Juba will remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) through March 2015. Flooding in October and November destroyed planted crops and infrastructure, and reduced labour demand. The situation in Hiraan is likely to improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) after the harvest in March (FEWSNET, 26/11/2014). In Tayeeglow, Lower Shabelle, food insecurity has increased due to Al Shabaab's roadblocks (OCHA, 21/11/2014).

#### Agriculture and Markets

In most of Middle Juba, parts of Gedo, parts of Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Hiraan, and central regions, *deyr* rains ended three weeks early in December, and cool, dry winds accelerated the depletion of water sources and the deterioration of pasture (FEWSNET, 24/12/2014). **In January 2015, *deyr* crops were reported to be below average (FAO, 09/01/2015).** An OCHA report in late November indicated that in parts of Lower Shabelle, drought, coupled with limited or no access to functioning boreholes, has led to the rise of prices and limited employment opportunities (OCHA, 21/11/2014).

Trade restrictions stemming from inter-clan conflicts and obstructions by Al Shabaab in rural areas of the south have impeded market flows in El Barde, Wajid, and Hudur (Bakool region); Luuq (Gedo); Bullo Burde and Jalawsi (Hiraan); and Marka and Woryoley (Lower Shabelle). This has inflated food prices and increased unemployment (USAID, 30/09/2014). Al Shabaab continues to control key supply routes, hampering commercial activities (USAID, 30/09/2014).

**Although cereal prices started to decline in January 2015, they remain high in most markets (FAO, 09/01/2015).** Cereal production has fallen 30% below the five-year average (FAO, 31/10/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

Around 3.2 million people are in need emergency health services (OCHA, 04/12/2014). Due to lack of funding to humanitarian actors on the ground, as of November, 1.5 million people in parts of south-central Somalia no longer have access to primary health services, and 300,000 children under five no longer have access to primary health services and free immunisation (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

#### Nutrition

A recent survey indicates 218,000 children under five are acutely malnourished. Of these, 43,800 are severely malnourished (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014), a 7% increase since January 2014 (OCHA, 02/10/2014). 756,000 people are in need of quality nutrition services (OCHA, 02/10/2014).

**IDPs:** Urban IDP settlements in Dhobley, Doolow, Dhusamareb, Garowe, Galkayo, Kismayo and Mogadishu have GAM rates of up to 18.9% (UNICEF, 04/12/2014). SAM among displaced communities in Mogadishu was at 5.5% in July (OCHA 24/07/2014).

#### Cholera

Cholera is the disease with the highest death rate in Somalia. 3,800 cases were recorded January–August 2014, 74% of them among children under five (OCHA, 31/11/2014), compared to 1,320 in 2013 (WHO, 31/08/2014).

#### Measles

9,190 measles cases were recorded in 2014; double the number recorded in 2013 (OCHA, 24/11/2014, UNICEF, 01/12/2014). Only one-third of children have been vaccinated. In some parts of south-central Somalia, measles immunisation coverage is as low as 15% (OCHA, 24/11/2014). Increased population movement and overcrowded IDP settlements have increased the risk of infection (UNICEF, 01/12/2014).

#### Polio

The total number of confirmed polio cases in 2014 stands at 198 (WHO, UNICEF 22/07/2014). Large, insecure areas of south-central Somalia have not conducted immunisation campaigns since 2009, leaving 600,000 children vulnerable, according to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

#### Education

Around 1.7 million children are out of school. In south-central Somalia, there is no functioning national education system (OCHA, 04/12/2014).

#### WASH

2.8 million people are in need of safe water (OCHA, 04/12/2014). The population of south-central Somalia has little to no access to safe drinking water. IDPs living in overcrowded camps have inadequate access to safe water, hygiene, and sanitation facilities (UNICEF, 31/08/2014).

There is a severe water shortage for livestock in the northeast, parts of the northwest, central and north Gedo regions (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014).

#### Protection

The major protection issues in Somalia are physical insecurity during the first SNAF-AMISOM offensive; SGBV, including cases of sexual violence during interclan conflict; child protection violations; killing of civilians (including children); separation of children;

and forced/secondary eviction. The areas most affected are Middle and Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba (UNHCR Protection Cluster, 10/2014).

#### Executions

**Reports on 7 January indicate that Al Shabaab executed four people in Bardhere, in the Gedo region, accused of spying for the United States and Ethiopia (AFP, 07/01/2015).** On 11 December, following the beheading of two women by Al Shabaab, five women were executed in a revenge attack in Bakool (AFP, 11/12/2014).

#### SGBV

The prevalence of gender-based violence in Somalia, including rape, is reported to be one of the highest in the world, with IDPs and migrants the most vulnerable (IOM, 08/08/2014). About 1,000 cases of SGBV were reported in Mogadishu in the first six months of 2014 (OCHA, 17/10/2014). On 8 September, a Human Rights Watch report stated that AU forces have been raping and sexually exploiting women and girls in their bases in Mogadishu, sometimes using humanitarian assistance to coerce them into sexual activities (HRW, 08/09/2014).

#### Children

Children are at high risk of forced recruitment, sexual exploitation and abuse in many parts of the country due to conflict. 4,314 cases of child exploitation and abuse have been reported so far this year (OCHA, 30/11/2014). In Tayeeglow, Lower Shabelle, an estimated 115 children have been abducted by Al Shabaab, 80 of whom are still held. It reportedly costs around USD 2,000 to secure the return of a child (OCHA, 21/11/2014).

#### Media Workers

Journalists continue to be targeted. In December, a bomb attack in Baidoa killed 15 people, including two journalists (IFJ, 15/12/2014). On 13 December, and Independent Expert on Human Rights in Somalia called on government authorities to ensure the safety of journalists (AMISOM, 13/12/2014).

*Updated: 12/01/2014*

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

### **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**2–3 January:** Renewed fighting between government and opposition was reported near Bentiu, killing six civilians (OCHA, 1/1/2015).

**1 January:** Small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) and indirect fire were reported in Nasir, Upper Nile after intermittent small arms fire over previous days (OCHA, 1/1/2014).

**28 December:** Continuing inter-communal violence was reported in Rumbek East county, with at least 44 fatalities. UN DSS and humanitarian agencies have suggested

restriction of movements along the Rumbek–Yirol road was restricted until further notice (OCHA, 1/1/2015).

**Late December:** A UN Security Council report suggested that all parties to the conflict in South Sudan were responsible for grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction and rape, and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014).

### **KEY CONCERNS**

- 50,000 estimated killed in violence since December 2013 (International Crisis Group)
- 3.8 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in 2014; (OCHA, 30/10/2014).
- From January to March 2015, 2.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis or Emergency Phase, including nearly half of the population of Greater Upper Nile (IPC, 09/2014).
- 1.5million IDPs since December 2013 (OCHA, 01/2015). Almost 103,000 in UNMISS bases (UNMISS, 31/12/2014). 68% of IDPs are estimated to live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 08/2014).
- Over 488,000 South Sudanese refugees moved across borders since December 2013 (UNHCR 12/2014)
- The high number of refugees in South Sudan (mainly from Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia and CAR) is cause for concern in the current context.

### **OVERVIEW**

Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity are priority states, and the priority sectors are food security and livelihoods, health, NFIs and shelter, nutrition, and WASH. Insecurity is hampering the delivery of assistance. The UN reports widespread violation of human rights and targeted violence against civilians.

Violence has spread across eastern South Sudan since December 2013. Fighting is most intense in the oil-rich northeastern states. Strife has progressively adopted the characteristics of an inter-communal conflict between the Dinka tribe allied to South Sudan President Kiir and government forces, and the Nuer loosely allied with former South Sudan Vice President Riek Machar.

### **Political Context**

#### **Sudan–South Sudan**

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

A UN report indicated the presence of 660 SPLA forces and police in Abyei in February and March, in violation of the 2011 Agreement on Temporary Security and Administrative Arrangements for Abyei. Pro-government Sudanese militias and Sudanese Armed Forces have also been reported in the area.

#### National Context

President Kiir's government forces, who are backed by Ugandan troops, are pitted against a loose alliance of military defectors loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar, along with ethnic Nuer militia forces. Large-scale killings in Bentiu and Bor in April have brought the ethnic dimension of the conflict under closer scrutiny. Both sides have been accused of trying to influence the conflict through manipulation of the media.

#### Peace Negotiations

On 20 October, SPLM and SPLM-in-Opposition signed a framework agreement in Arusha, Tanzania to address the root causes of the conflict that erupted in December 2013 (local media, 21/10/2014). On 25 August, the Implementation Matrix for the Cessation of Hostilities was signed by the South Sudanese Government and the SPLM/A-in-Opposition; it requires the immediate freezing of forces' positions (IGAD, 27/08/2014). Talks, mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional bloc, had been repeatedly suspended and delayed. On 26 February, both parties accepted, in principle, a proposal from IGAD for an interim government, pending presidential elections.

On 27 September, President Salva Kiir agreed to install a federal system of governance, following calls for a federalist structure from SPLM-in-Opposition (local media).

#### Security Context

Fighting persists despite a reduction in violence since January. Most violence is occurring in the oil-rich northeastern states of Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei.

In January, the death toll was estimated at 10,000, however, a new estimate indicates at least 50,000 may have died since December 2013, although access restrictions make numbers hard to verify (International Crisis Group, 15/11/2014). On 3 April, according to local media, representatives of the Nuer community stated that over 17,000 Nuer had been killed by pro-government forces since December. Over 5,900 people had sought treatment for gunshot wounds between mid-December 2013 and 12 March, according to humanitarian partners.

#### International Military Presence

In March, South Sudan approved the deployment of a regional force drawn from IGAD

member states. The size, mandate, command, and deployment time frame of the contingent are still under discussion.

The UN Security Council voted on 24 December to increase the number of peacekeepers in the country from 10,000 to 12,500.

#### Border tensions with Sudan

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

#### Clashes between the Government and SPLM-in-Opposition

##### Jonglei

In early November, heavy fighting in Khorfulus areas of Canal/Pigi and Fangak counties, Jonglei state, displaced about 35,000 people to Ayod county and the New Fangak areas. Humanitarian flights to the area were suspended (OCHA, 07/11/2014). Clashes were reported in Ayod county in August (UNICEF, 26/08/2014).

Heavy fighting was reported in New Fangak and Pigi/Canal counties from 29 November. Some 2,500 people fled to Pargak in Fangak area, with an unverified number displaced towards Keurnyang (OCHA, 05/12/2014). Fighting persisted in Fangak county in early December. As of 8 December, an estimated 43,200 people were displaced in Old Fangak town. Of these, an estimated 25,000 were newly displaced from the areas of New Fangak and Pigi/Canal, with reports of continued arrivals. There were unverified reports of people moving from Fangak into Ayod county (OCHA, 12/12/2014).

##### Unity

**Renewed fighting between government and opposition forces was reported 2–3 January near Bentiu, killing six civilians. The military said that government forces were expecting another round of attacks (Reuters, 04/01/2014). There were reports on 30 December that several rounds of rockets landed on Unity oil fields (OCHA, 1/1/2015).** Heavy fighting occurred between government and opposition forces in Bentiu and Rubkona between 27 and 29 October. 340 civilians took shelter with UNMISS (UN News Centre, 30/10/2014). Despite a new ceasefire, fighting resumed on 10 November (AFP, 10/11/2014).

##### Upper Nile

**On 1 January, small arms fire, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) and indirect fire were reported in Nasir after intermittent small arms fire over previous days (OCHA, 1/1/2014).** Fighting between opposition forces and the Government was reported on 10 November (AFP, 10/11/2014). Clashes were reported in Canal and Dolieb in September. Heavy shelling was reported in Renk (OCHA, 18/09/2014).



## Inter-communal Violence

Inter-clan animosity stems from competition over water resources and grazing land. Deaths from inter-communal fighting have increased since the second Sudanese civil war, as have attacks, abductions, and significant population displacement.

### Lakes

Intercommunal violence has been increasingly reported in Lakes state since September. Partners reported an increase in the number of people fleeing Awerial county, Lakes state, for the southern part of Jonglei (OCHA, 7/11/2014).

**Continuing inter-communal violence was reported 27-28 December in Rumbek East, with at least 44 fatalities. UN DSS and humanitarian agencies have suggested restriction of movements along the Rumbek–Yirol road was restricted until further notice (OCHA, 1/1/2015).**

Cattle raids have been reported in Lakes state since October. In November raids took place in Cueibet, Rumbek East, and Yirol counties (OCHA, 28/11/2014; local media, 18/11/2014). On 27 October seven people were killed in Rumbek North county in retaliation for the killing of two village chiefs in Rumbek East county (local media). On 23 and 24 October, pastoralist youth fought armed forces at Malek and Aguoc cattle camps. 59 people were reportedly killed; however, this figure has been disputed by civilians (local media, 25/10/2014).

### Central Equatoria

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

### Eastern Equatoria

24 people were killed in tribal clashes between Loroyo and Idali villages in Loroyo payam (district) Torit County (local media, 09/12/2014). Fears of renewed fighting and heightened tension, particularly in Eastern Equatoria, may result in increased number of people crossing into neighboring countries in the coming weeks. Over 500 people crossed into Uganda on 8 December alone (WFP, 11/12/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Access

As of 30 October, 3.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance; 3.5 million had been reached (OCHA, 30/10/2014). The delivery of aid is restricted by heavy fighting, logistical constraints, and administrative impediments.

#### Administrative Constraints

On 2 July, international media reported that authorities prevented four UN staff from taking

a plane, and confiscated their passports.

In March, the South Sudan Government announced it would implement routine searches of UN and relief organisation convoys, claiming it had intercepted arms and ammunition in UNMISS-contracted vehicles in Rumbek, Lakes state (UNHCR, 21/03/2014).

#### Logistical Constraints

The establishment of a humanitarian corridor between South Sudan and Sudan has been approved by both Governments and will enable the delivery of food assistance by WFP (UN, 26/08/2014).

The rainy season is over, but most roads have not yet dried up. As of 2 January, WFP reported that road access was impossible between Juba (Central Equatoria) and Bentiu (Unity); Mayom and Bentiu (Unity); Maiwut (near Pagak) and GuelGuk (Upper Nile State); GuelGuk, Mathiang, Maiwut and Pagak (Upper Nile); Yirol, Nyang, and Shambe (Jonglei); Bor and Mabiior, Ayod and Malakal (Jonglei); Bor, Gadiang and Akobo (Jonglei); Bor, Pibor (Jonglei), and Kapoeta (Western Equatoria).

#### Security Constraints

Incidents against humanitarian personnel and assets were reported in 2014. These included assault, harassment and ambush in Central Equatoria, and arrest, detention, and threats in Unity and Jonglei.

Increased insecurity in Lakes led to suspension of activities by humanitarian organisations for several weeks from October (OCHA, 20/10/2014). On 10 October, three contractors employed by UNMISS, who were working at Malakal airfield, were seized by armed men.

Two men have been released, but one is still missing (UNMISS, 17/10/2014). The day before, a WFP staff member was taken at gunpoint by eight armed men at the nearby Malakal airport (WFP, 17/10/2014).

In November, ethnic tensions in Malakal PoC site hindered delivery of basic services as well as livelihood activities (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

### Displacement

As of 31 December, over 1.44 million South Sudanese had been displaced internally and over 488,000 South Sudanese refugees had moved across borders since December 2013 (OCHA, 31/12/2014). Fluid displacement patterns and limited access to rural areas make numbers difficult to verify (UNHCR 11/07/2014).

**Between 24 November and 16 December 2014, 3,139 South Sudanese crossed into Uganda at the Nimule border crossing and registered as refugees. An average of 143 people were registering each day at the start of the period, increasing to 180 in the last ten days. In late October arrival rates averages 12 people a day. The main driver of displacement seems to be fear of insecurity, rather than actual worsening of security (UNHCR, 16/12/2014).**

#### IDPs



**As of 1 January 2015, 1.5 million people were displaced in South Sudan: 621,000 in Jonglei, 345,000 in Unity, 258,600 in Upper Nile, and 158,400 in Lakes (OCHA, 01/01/2015). An estimated 748,000 IDPs are under 18 (UNICEF, 02/01/2015).** Displacement patterns remain fluid, driven by violence, floods, and the search for emergency assistance (IOM, 03/09/2014). **As of 28 December, an estimated 2,036 people have newly arrived at the BentiuPoC site in the previous week and are awaiting verification (OCHA, 1/1/2015).**

875,000 IDPs live in flood-prone areas (OCHA, 15/08/2014). Flooding has been recorded in the displacement sites in Bentiu, Unity state; Mingkaman, Lakes States; Juba, Central Equatoria state; and Malakal, Upper Nile state (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

**103,000 IDPs are sheltering in ten Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites on UNMISS bases: 43,000 in Bentiu, 33,000 in Juba UN House, 21,000 in Malakal, and 2,600 in Bor (UNMISS 02/01/2014)**

**Flood-related displacement:** In October, thousands of people were displaced, and homes, schools, and health facilities destroyed following heavy rains in Twic East and Bor, Jonglei, and in Rumbek East, Lakes (local media, 15/10/2014; 09/10/2014; local media, 16/10/2014).

#### *Refugees in South Sudan*

**245,882 refugees are in South Sudan: 223,000 from Sudan, 14,700 from DRC, 4,900 from Ethiopia and 2,400 from CAR. Over 130,000 refugees are based in Upper Nile and around 85,000 in Unity (UNHCR, 01/11/2014).** Most of the Sudanese refugees in Upper Nile state reside in four refugee camps in Maban county (OCHA, 03/04/2014).

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

#### *Returnees*

As of 28 August, 186,000 people have returned since the beginning of the crisis: 70,000 in Jonglei, 109,000 in Unity, and 5,000 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal (OCHA, 28/08/2014). This is a downward revision from 227,000 returnees in July (OCHA, 29/07/2014).

Earlier reports indicated a total of 1.9 million returnees from Sudan since 2007.

#### *South Sudan Refugees in Other Countries*

**Over 488,000 South Sudanese have sought refuge in neighbouring countries since the onset of the conflict (UNHCR, 31/12/2014).**

Sudan: 115,000 South Sudanese nationals have arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013, with more than 2,000 registered per week in recent weeks (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).

As of late March, the Sudanese Government has refused to recognise South Sudanese nationals as refugees and instead considers them to be Sudanese citizens (UNHCR,

03/04/2014). UNHCR has declared that this constitutes an obstacle to access to humanitarian assistance.

**Ethiopia:** 194,000 South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR, 21/11/2014). The rate of arrival has seen a sharp decline as a result of the rainy season, from an average of 2,000 per day in May to 92 in the first week of October (WFP, 10/10/2014). 1,411 refugees arrived in September (UNHCR, 01/10/2014).

**Uganda: 134,000 refugees (UNHCR, 18/12/2014).**

**Kenya:** 44,100 refugees (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

#### *Food Security*

Food security improved in August and September, and the number of people in Crisis and Emergency phases (Phase 3 and 4) has dropped to 1 million from 3.9 million for October through December 2014, following normal rainfall, good conditions for crops, and humanitarian response (FEWSNET, 11/2014). 245,000 are in Phase 4 and 1.2 million in Phase 3 (IPC, 09/2014). 460,000 people are at Phase 3 or 4 in Jonglei; 365,000 in Unity; 175,000 in Upper Nile; 510,000 in Northern Bahr el Ghazal; 340,000 in Lakes; 45,000 in Warrap; 35,000 in Eastern Equatoria; 20,000 in Western Bahr el Ghazal, 90,000 in Central Equatoria (IPC, 09/2014). Households in Unity, Upper Nile, and Jonglei are expected to exhaust household food stocks by December due to 2014 production deficits of 30–50%.

Conflict is affecting major supply routes, displacing traders, and leading to a rise in food and fuel prices (FAO, 04/06/2014). The country depends on food imports, and a de facto devaluation of the national currency between 2011 and 2013, the reduction in oil exports, and the increase in imports, all have a negative impact on households' purchasing power.

#### *Impact of Seasonal Flooding and Dry Spells*

Flooding in Panyijar county (Unity), Awerial, Rumbek East, North Cueibet, Yirol East, and Yirol West counties (Lakes) and Malakal county (Upper Nile), Akobo (Jonglei), Kapoeta (Eastern Equatoria) has affected crop performance (FEWSNET, 01/10/2014; 17/10/2014).

#### *Outlook for Food Security*

From January to March 2015, 2.5 million people are projected to be in Crisis or Emergency Phase, including nearly half the population of the Greater Upper Nile region (Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile) (IPC, 09/2014). Renewed conflict and displacement in early 2015 will limit household coping capacity in conflict-affected areas. Food security is expected to worsen in February/March, with an early onset of the lean season, and needs will peak from May to July (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

#### *Health and Nutrition*

5.8 million people need health assistance, 3.4 million of whom have been reached since January. Waterborne diseases in flooded areas, as well as kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) in Jonglei, are the most pressing health concerns (WHO, 10/2014).

#### *Cholera*

6,421 cholera cases, including 167 deaths (case fatality rate 2.6%), had been reported across the country as of 2 December (UNICEF, 2/12/2014). Incidence is reported to be decreasing (WHO, 09/2014). 47 new cholera cases (two deaths) were reported for the week 31 October–3 November in Central and Eastern Equatoria states; additional clusters of cases have been reported since then. Previous reports indicated 2,395 cases and 57 deaths in Eastern Equatoria; 894 cases and 17 deaths in Upper Nile state, and 2,378 cases and 49 deaths in Juba (UNICEF, 12/08/2014). **No new cases have been reported since 23 November 2014 (WHO, 02/01/2014).**

#### *Hepatitis E*

**One new hepatitis E virus case was reported from Mingkaman IDP settlement in the first week of December 2015. The cumulative caseload in Mingkaman for 2014 is 125, including four deaths (CFR 3.23%).**

#### *Malaria*

MSF is seeing a drastic increase in malaria cases in Pamat and Aweil (Northern Bahr el Ghazal), Bentiu (Unity), Yambio (Western Equatoria state) and Gogrial (Warrap) as a result of a long and heavy rainy season and difficulties in distribution of diagnostic tests and malaria drugs to peripheral health centres (MSF, 10/2014). In August, malaria was the leading cause of hospital consultations and deaths in displacement sites and health centres (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Malaria still accounts for a high proportion of the disease burden, especially in flooded areas (OCHA, 16/10/2014).

#### *Maternal Health*

An estimated 200,000 pregnant women will need urgent care in 2014; 30,000 of them are estimated to be at risk of dying of complications (UNFPA, 15/05/2014).

#### *Nutrition*

The screening of over 600,000 children across the country in 2014 found an SAM rate of 6.7% and an MAM rate of 12.6% (UNICEF, 19/08/2014). 675,000 children are estimated to be moderately malnourished and 235,000 severely malnourished (OCHA, 29/07/2014). Twice as many will need treatment for SAM this year than in 2013 (UNICEF 15/07/2014).

GAM levels are above the emergency threshold of 15% (IPC, 27/10/2014). The highest rates GAM were recorded in Leer county (34.1%) and Panyijar (32.8%), Unity state; Akobo East, Jonglei State (31.8%) and Uror (27%), Jonglei; and Aweil South, Northern Bahr el Ghazal (26.1%) (UNICEF, 20/11/2014). According to MSF, malnutrition rates skyrocketed in parts of Upper Nile, Unity and Jonglei states after the conflict began in December.

#### *Polio*

Two vaccine-derived polio virus cases have been confirmed in Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) site (WHO, 03/11/2014).

#### *Visceral Leishmaniasis*

The kala azar (visceral leishmaniasis) rate continues to rise, and is likely to be related to conflict-related displacement. **By end November, 7,204 cases and 196 deaths had been recorded in 2014, compared to 2,253 cases and 70 deaths for all 2013 (OCHA, 22/12/2014; WHO, 30/11/2014). No new cases have been reported since end of November.** The worst-affected age group is 5–17 years, which constitutes 42.4% of the cases (WHO, 30/11/2014).

3,410 cases have been reported in Lankien, 960 in Cuil and 581 in Walgak, Jonglei state (OCHA, 30/10/2014). An outbreak in Jonglei was reported in Akobo and Nyirol counties, which are controlled by opposition forces, in early September. Kala azar is a chronic and potentially fatal parasitic disease transmitted by the bite of infected sandflies (Sudan Tribune, 07/09/2014).

#### **WASH**

Water supplies were reportedly insufficient in a quarter of displacement sites. Health partners have reported an over 5% increase in diarrhoeal diseases due to the disruption of sanitation and hygiene campaigns in the PoC sites (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

In 40% of sites, IDPs rely on unimproved or surface water sources (IOM 15/07/2014). **Water access in the Bentiu PoC site was 13.2L per person in early January 2015 (OCHA, 02/01/2015).** Latrine provision has improved from 99 to 69 persons per latrine (UNICEF, 20/11/2014).

#### **Shelter and NFIs**

Living conditions in the PoC site in Malakal are dire, with two families (eight people) living in one tent, for lack of space for additional tents (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

Bad road conditions and insecurity in Jalhak (Upper Nile) is delaying the delivery of NFI support to the area (OCHA, 26/10/2014).

#### **Education**

Children are not attending school in 70% of IDP sites (CCCM, 17/04/2014). The inability to pay teachers' wages has limited education activities in displacement areas (OCHA, 26/10/2014). Many schools remain closed in Greater Upper Nile region.

**89 schools have been occupied by armed groups or IDPs (OCHA, 01/01/2014).**

In Warrap state, 60 schools are reportedly occupied by IDPs displaced by flooding, while 271 schools in the state were destroyed (OCHA, 7/11/2014). Flooding has forced 500 children out of school in Mvolo county, Western Equatoria state (OCHA, 21/11/2014). Six schools were closed in October in Rumbek East, Lakes state, due to insecurity (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

#### **Protection**

#### *Children*

A new report by the UN Security Council(S/2014/884) suggests that all parties to the conflict since December 2013 are responsible for grave violations against children in 2014 killing and maiming, recruitment and use, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual violence (UN, 30/12/2014). 12,000 children were reportedly recruited by armed groups in 2014 (AFP cited UNICEF, 14/12/2014).

12,000 children have reportedly been recruited by armed groups in 2014 (AFP cited UNICEF, 14/12/2014).

UNICEF has identified over 5,830 unaccompanied and separated children since the conflict began in December 2013 (UNICEF, 02/09/2014).

SGBV

UNFPA estimates that 25,000 women and girls are at risk of sexual violence (UNFPA, 7/11/2014). According to the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, rape has been used as a weapon of war between government and opposition forces (International Media, 23/10/2014). Early and forced marriage, rape, and domestic violence have been reported in Maban refugee camps (Batil, Doro, Gendrassa and Kaya) (OCHA, 16/10/2014). In Melut (Upper Nile), firewood collection remains a major safety concern for women and girls, with reports of GBV in the area (OCHA, 26/10/2014). Escalated tension in Malakal has increased vulnerability of women and girls to SGBV and interrupted access to reproductive health services and psychosocial support services (UNFPA, 07/11/2014).

Updated: 06/01/2014

## SUDAN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**4–6 January:** 15 villages were burned and another 30 abandoned during fighting between government forces and armed groups in Tawila locality, North Darfur. Up to 37,000 people are estimated displaced. 180 families arrived in Zamzam camp in North Darfur on 6 January (OCHA, 08/01/2015; local media, 06/01/2015).

**1 January:** 21 villages in Fanga, Northern Jebel Marra, Central Darfur, were attacked and burned by armed groups following fighting between government and opposition forces. Up to 50,000 people could have been displaced, according to community leaders (OCHA, 08/01/2015).

**Early January:** A large but unknown number of IDPs are expected to arrive in Kadugli, El Abassiya, Rashad, Talodi, and Gadier localities from areas controlled by SPLM-N due to ongoing fighting, according to Sudan's Human Aid Commission (HAC) in South Kordofan. Up to 8 January date, 250 people had arrived in Rashad town and 60 in Al Abbasiya town (OCHA, 08/01/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Protracted insurgencies by armed groups are occurring across Darfur, and South

Kordofan, and Blue Nile states. The conflict in South Sudan has also raised tensions.

- 6.6 million people (20% of the population) need humanitarian assistance (OCHA 17/11/2014): 4.4 million in Darfur and 980,000 in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA, 11/2014).

- 2 million children under five acutely malnourished (OCHA, 08/2014).

- Renewed fighting took place between armed opposition groups, militias, and the Sudanese army in Darfur since March.

- 3,1 million IDPs. Two million in Darfur prior to the latest clashes (OCHA, 03/2014), and 431,000 displaced in 2014 (OCHA, 10/2014).

- Humanitarian access remains a significant problem due to insecurity, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), logistical constraints, and restrictions placed by the authorities.

### OVERVIEW

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

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

### Political Context

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

**Parliamentary and presidential elections are scheduled for 13 April (AFP, 31/12/2015). On 11 January, President Omar al Bashir launched his bid for re-election. It is unclear whether anyone will challenge Bashir (AFP, 11/01/2015).** Both the Sudan Revolutionary Front and the National Umma Party have announced they will not participate in the elections.

On 17 May, the head of the National Umma Party was arrested for treason after allegedly criticising the Government's abuse of civilians in Darfur. In September, 12 political activists were detained in Khartoum (local media, 28/09/2014).

*Sudan–South Sudan*

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

The Sudanese Government has accused Juba of using Sudanese militia groups. The South Sudanese army (SPLA) has accused Khartoum of supporting the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)-in-Opposition. Both the opposition and Khartoum denied this accusation.

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

#### *Sudan Revolutionary Front*

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

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

SRF has said it is ready to join the national dialogue with Khartoum and enhance its cooperation with the UN-AU Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), provided the Government lifts the state of emergency and allows unimpeded humanitarian access to war zones. To date, no settlement has yet taken place.

#### *The Darfur Peace Process*

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

#### *Blue Nile and South Kordofan States*

While the SPLM governs the independent South Sudan, the SPLM-North continues an insurgency in Sudan's Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, which have routinely opposed government rule. Talks between Khartoum and the SPLM-N have repeatedly failed, and negotiations last collapsed in April, reportedly over the SPLM-N's demand for a comprehensive peace process.

#### *Instability in the East*

Despite being home to the largest gold mine in the country and Port Sudan, where all Sudan's oil exports transit, east Sudan is one of the poorest regions. In 2006, the Eastern Sudan Peace Agreement (ESPA) was signed. But some factions within the Eastern Front, the alliance that signed the agreement, claim they wish to join the SRF because of Khartoum's alleged failure to implement the core elements of the ESPA. The government is

reportedly allowing local militias to arm, and boosting support to Arab tribes.

## **Security Context**

Extensive military operations aimed to end armed opposition in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile began at the end of 2013. On 11 April, local media reported that the Sudanese Defence Minister had stated that continued armed opposition would be crushed by a military offensive in 2014. Tribal fighting has also intensified during the last two years in Darfur and Kordofan regions, leading to thousands of deaths and injuries and forcing over 300,000 people to flee their homes.

On 30 November, President Omar al-Bashir called for a "clear programme" for the exit of the UNAMID mission in Darfur, saying that the peacekeepers have become a burden. Relations deteriorated following the Sudanese Government's refusal to allow a UNAMID investigation of mass rape in Tabit, North Darfur (AFP, 30/11/2014).

### **Armed Conflict and Violence in Darfur**

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

**In early January, 15 villages were burned and another 30 abandoned during fighting between government forces and armed groups in Tawila locality, North Darfur, with thousands displaced (OCHA, 08/01/2015; local media, 06/01/2015).**

Raids and attacks by pro-government forces were reported in Zamzam camp, Um Keddada, Liwi and Anka (North Darfur); El Salam and Kalma camp (South Darfur), and Deilig town (Central Darfur) in September and October 2014 (OCHA, 26/10/2014; local media, 13/10/2014, 29/10/2014, 23/10/2014, 14/10/2014, 5/09/2014). In Central Darfur, pro-government forces reportedly attacked displacement sites in Zalingei, Kailik, and Niertiti in April, May, and June. Over ten people were killed, according to local media.

**Jebel Marra:** In early January, government and opposition forces were reported to be fighting for control over Jebel Marra region. According to the army, Sudanese troops had driven insurgents out of the Fanga area in the Jebel Marra region on 1 January, killing at least 50 opposition fighters and destroying 50 vehicles. SLMM denied these reports (AFP, 2/1/2015). **21 villages in Fanga, Northern Jebel Marra, Central Darfur, have been attacked and burned by armed groups. Up to 50,000 people could have been displaced, according to community leaders (OCHA, 08/01/2015).**

Air raids were frequently reported in August, September, October 2014. Aerial bombing was also reported in March and May 2014.

**Inter-communal violence:** In late November, several days of fighting over land among the Misseriya left more than 133 people dead in the oil-rich West Kordofan region (AFP, 27/11/2014). According to Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), 14,000 people are estimated displaced and may require humanitarian assistance. An assessment with the UN has been planned (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Clashes between the Misseriya and the Salamat tribes in Central Darfur in June left at least 130 people dead, according to local media. Clashes between Misseriya clans in West Darfur left 196 people dead (OCHA, 22/06/2014). In East Darfur, at least 300 were killed in clashes between Maaliya and Rizeigat (local media, 20/08/2014).

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

Information on Blue Nile and South Kordofan states is difficult to obtain as government authorities severely restrict access to the fighting zone. The Sudanese Government announced that it would expand its counter-insurgency operations in Blue Nile state on 23 May. According to an SPLM-N spokesperson on 21 April, the SAF had launched an offensive in North Kordofan. Bombings had reportedly intensified in the region at the end of May. Aerial bombardments took place in South Kordofan in late September and early October (OCHA, 22/10/2014). On 23 November, the Sudanese Air Force bombed areas in El Kurmuk locality, Blue Nile state, killing one child (local media, 25/11/2014).

#### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

6.6 million people (20% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance; more than half are in Darfur and South Kordofan and Blue Nile states (OCHA 17/11/2014).

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

In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 940,000 need assistance in government-controlled areas (OCHA), and 540,000 are estimated displaced by conflict in SPLM-N territory. Limited access to non-government areas makes verification impossible.

#### **Access**

Humanitarian access for international relief organisations is a major problem. Humanitarian operations are heavily hampered by insecurity, the presence of mines and ERW, logistical constraints, and government restrictions. The number of humanitarian aid workers in Darfur declined from 6,850 in November 2013 to 5,440 in August 2014 (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

In late December 2014, the Government of Sudan declared the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and UNDP Country Director persona non grata. The deadline for the RC/HC's departure has been extended until the end of January (UN, 31/12/2014).

August 2013 regulations ban foreign humanitarian groups and UN agencies from working for human rights, and the Government has banned humanitarian access to areas controlled by opposition groups.

#### **Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers**

Several abductions of aid workers were reported in June and July in North and South

Darfur (IOM, 25/07/2014; UNICEF, 19/07/2014). On 16 October, three UNAMID peacekeepers were killed while guarding a borehole in Korma, North Darfur (UNAMID, 16/10/2014).

#### **Darfur**

East Jebel Marra region has been virtually inaccessible since 2010. Access to IDPs in Darfur is constrained by militia checkpoints and insecurity.

#### **Blue Nile and South Kordofan**

The Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission banned international staff from UN agencies and international NGOs from participating in an inter-agency multi-cluster needs assessment in Blue Nile state in November (local media, 19/10/2014). There has been no humanitarian access from Sudan to opposition-held areas in South Kordofan since October 2013.

#### **Disasters**

##### **Floods**

As of 11 September, 277,000 people were affected by heavy rains and flooding (OCHA, 14/09/2014). Earlier figures indicate 70,000 affected in Blue Nile state, 32,000 in Khartoum, 22,000 in North Darfur, 19,000 in South Kordofan, 19,000 in River Nile, 18,000 in North Kordofan, 18,000 in White Nile, 14,000 in Kassala, 13,000 in Sennar, 11,000 in Al Gezira, 8,000 in Northern, and 6,000 in West Darfur (OCHA, 24/08/2014).

##### **Winter**

**The Sudanese Weather Forecast Authority has warned populations to take precautions against cold weather. A strong, two-week-long cold wave has been forecast to begin mid-January. Displaced populations, children, and older people in North, West and South Darfur are particularly vulnerable, due to shortages of medicines and food, and weak shelters (local media, 8/01/2015).**

#### **Displacement**

##### **IDPs in Darfur**

Overall, 2.4 million IDPs reside in 46 camps and 68 settlements in Darfur (82,530 orphans, 34,099 widows, and 52,352 sick and elderly), according to a survey conducted by the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA) from December 2013 to April 2014.

**457,000 people were displaced in Darfur January–November 2014: 316,000 remain displaced and 141,000 people reportedly returned (OCHA 30/11/2014).** The first half of 2014 saw more displaced in Darfur than in any year since 2004 (OCHA 20/07/2014). On 22 June, OCHA reported that government policy, preventing the creation of new camps, is an obstacle for IOM's verification and registration of IDPs.

**North Darfur:** 107,000 IDPs; 124,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 30/11/2014). 729 villages

were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). On 21 September, it was reported that militia in Kutum locality are imposing protection fees on displaced farmers (local media, 21/09/2014).

**South Darfur:** 105,000 IDPs (OCHA 30/11/2014); 736 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

**Central Darfur:** 68,000 IDPs; 5,000 returnees in 2014 (OCHA 30/11/2014); 778 villages were destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). **Some 50,000 IDPs are thought to have fled to Wara and Niscam villages in January, according to estimates by community leaders (OCHA, 08/01/2015). Over 1,700 people fled to central Jebel Marra locality and are in need of food, water, health services, and NFIs (OCHA, 08/01/2015).**

**East Darfur:** 35,000 IDPs as of end of November (OCHA, 30/11/2014); 331 villages destroyed December 2013–April 2014 (DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014). By 16 September, community leaders reported that fighting between the Maaliya and Rizeigat tribes had led to the displacement of some 55,000 people (11,000 families) in Adila locality. Many people are taking shelter with host families. Women widowed by the conflict are reportedly vulnerable to exploitation (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

**West Darfur:** 1,300 IDPs were reported by OCHA in November 2014, in stark contrast with earlier local government figure of 373,000 (OCHA, 07/09/2014; DRA cited by local media 16/07/2014).

**Jebel Marra:** An estimated 100,000 people displaced or severely affected by conflict (OCHA, 14/08/2014).

**Blue Nile and South Kordofan:** In South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, 540,000 are estimated displaced by conflict in SPLM-N territory (OCHA, 17/11/2014). With no presence in SPLM-N controlled areas, the UN is unable to verify these figures (OCHA, 19/05/2014). **According to the HAC in South Kordofan, a large but unknown number of displaced people are expected to arrive in Kadugli, El Abassiya, Rashad, Talodi and Gadier localities from areas controlled by SPLM-N due to fighting. By 8 January, 250 people had arrived in Rashad town and 60 in Al Abbasiya town (OCHA, 08/01/2015).**

**West Kordofan:** Violence has displaced 12,720 people to Babanusa town and El Udaiyat village; 21,000 people to Debab village and Muglad town; and 11,500 people to El Salam locality. 7,400 people in Ghubaysh locality fled conflict in North Darfur (OCHA, 21/09/2014).

#### *Refugees in Sudan*

As of 8 January 2015 more than 115,000 South Sudanese nationals had arrived in Sudan since 15 December 2013, with more than 2,000 registered per week (UNHCR). An estimated 347,000 people of South Sudanese origin are in Sudan (OCHA, 30/04/2014). 6,800 displaced South Sudanese are living in the disputed area of Abyei (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

In White Nile, arrival rates increased from 500–600 people per week to around 1,000 in

September, due to a surge in violence in South Sudan (ECHO, 23/09/2014). **71% of all individuals registered in White Nile so far are children (UNHCR, 16/12/2014).** All sites in White Nile state are currently beyond capacity. Access for aid workers remains a concern (ECHO, 23/09/2014).

On 1 June, Sudan was hosting 157,000 refugees, mainly from Eritrea, with smaller numbers from Chad, Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan, according to February UNHCR figures. On 12 October, UNHCR reported 1,700 refugees from CAR in Nyala, South Darfur. These refugees will be relocated to Um Shalaya refugee camp in Central Darfur (OCHA, 15/10/2014). In late November, it was confirmed that refugees from CAR had arrived in Um Dafug in May-June this year (OCHA, 23/11/2014).

#### *Returnees*

6,000 Sudanese have returned from CAR to Um Dafug town, South Darfur. Needs include registration and verification, and health and WASH services (OCHA, 23/11/2014).

5,000 refugees were reported by SKBNCU to have returned to Blue Nile from Ethiopia and South Sudan in August. Returnees from South Sudan were fleeing violence in Maban. Returning refugees also reported looking for opportunities for cultivation and income generation (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

#### *Sudanese Refugees in Other Countries*

As of 31 May, OCHA reported that there were 352,000 Sudanese refugees in Chad, 216,000 in South Sudan, 33,000 in Ethiopia, and 5,000 in Central African Republic.

#### **Food Security**

Harvests continue to improve food availability country-wide. Harvests in North and West Darfur are above-average due to good rains and increased cultivation in some areas. The preliminary findings of the joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) estimates that 2014/15 national production will be 50% above the five-year average. Staple food prices in most markets continue to decline, increasing access to markets for poor households. From October to November, sorghum, millet and local wheat prices decreased by 8% to 30% in most markets (FEWSNET, 12/2014).

Despite improvements, the food security of displaced populations in South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Darfur, and West Kordofan have been limited by conflict which continues to constrain access to cultivation, income generating activities, and markets. Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity will persist among IDP households in areas worst-affected by conflict (FEWSNET, 12/2014).

#### *South Kordofan and Blue Nile*

As many as 125,000 people (25,000 families) have been unable to cultivate any essential crops due to fighting (in addition to those who already were severely constrained by lack of seeds, tools, family labour, and access to farmland), and will likely face deteriorating food security in 2015 (OCHA, 22/10/2014).

#### **Health and Nutrition**

The UN estimated in mid-December 2013 that 165,000 children in SPLM-N-controlled parts of South Kordofan and Blue Nile do not have access to basic health services. Health clinics in El Redis and Al Alagaya relocation sites, White Nile state have reported a shortage of drugs. In El Redis clinic, lack of lighting, refrigeration, and an ambulance, severely hinder the delivery of health (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

There are indications that the health situation in Darfur is deteriorating; many have no access to healthcare. Local reports indicate that schistosomiasis, visceral leishmaniasis, scabies, and ringworm have increased since 2012.

#### *Dengue*

WHO and the State Ministry of Health reported that between 28 August and 14 December 2014, 132 cases (three deaths) of haemorrhagic fever had been registered in North Darfur since late August: 20 cases were confirmed as dengue, including three fatalities (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

#### *Leishmaniasis*

366 cutaneous leishmaniasis cases have been confirmed in South Kordofan, with 644 suspected cases in inaccessible areas. Cutaneous leishmaniasis is endemic in Abu Kershola and El Leri areas due to the presence of sand flies (OCHA, 23/11/2014).

#### *Nutrition*

Two million children under five are acutely malnourished as of 30 September, an upward revision from 1.4 million at the beginning of August (OCHA, 15/10/2014). 500,000 are expected to suffer from SAM in 2014 (OCHA, 24/08/2014).

#### **WASH**

WASH support to schools in relocation sites in White Nile state remains critical; no water is currently available (UNHCR, 05/12/2014). In the Al Alagaya relocation site for South Sudanese refugees in White Nile state, the construction of 800 latrines has been delayed due to lack of space, despite the allocation of resources and staff (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

#### **Shelter**

43,000 houses are reported to have been destroyed by floods since July (OCHA, 24/08/2014). On 3 October, heavy rains and strong winds damaged 700 tents in Kalma IDP camp in South Darfur (local media). On 7 October, heavy rainfall damaged 200 homes (150 shelters and 50 houses) at the Hassahissa camp in Central Darfur (local media, 10/10/2014).

#### **Education**

In White Nile state, poor incentives for community teachers interrupt refugees' education. Many classrooms are occupied by refugees due to lack of alternative space (UNHCR,

14/11/2014). Overcrowding remains a concern in relocation sites in White Nile state (UNHCR, 05/12/2014). According to local media in July, insecurity in Darfur is affecting the supply of teaching staff, with thousands of teachers in Nyala, requesting transfers. In North Darfur, IDP camps in Saraf Omra locality lack educational services, and IDP children cannot afford to pay fees to attend public or private schools in the area.

#### **Protection**

A recent review of UNAMID in Darfur has revealed that the peacekeeping force intentionally sought to cover up crimes against civilians and peacekeepers (UN News Service, 29/10/2014).

#### *Mines and ERW*

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

#### *Sexual and Gender-based Violence*

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

#### *Legal Status*

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

*Updated: 12/01/2014*

## **CAMEROON FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, DISPLACEMENT**

### **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**1 January:** A bus attack by Boko Haram in the department of Logone-et-Chari, on the border with Nigeria, killed at least 11 people and injured ten (VOA, 03/01/2015)

**28 December:** Cameroon launched air strikes against Boko Haram in the Far North region, killing 41 militants and one soldier (BBC, 29/12/2014).

**18 December:** The Cameroonian army killed 116 Boko Haram fighters who attacked a



military base in the Far North province of the country (Reuters 18/12/2014)

## KEY CONCERNS

- 2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 17/12/2014).
- 134,000 refugees have arrived from CAR since January 2014 (WFP, 18/12/2014).
- Cameroon hosts approximately 43,000 Nigerian refugees (IRIN, 17/09/2014).
- The 2011–2012 drought impact continues, with 615,000 people in the north at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition (WFP).

## Overview

The spill-over from fighting between the Nigerian army and Boko Haram militants impacts on Cameroon and threatens regional security. Conflict in both Nigeria and CAR continues to displace vulnerable refugees to Cameroon (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 2.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, primarily in the Far North, North, Adamaoua, and East Regions (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

## Security Context

### Boko Haram

Boko Haram (BH) is intensifying attacks in neighbouring Cameroon, targeting new villages with increasingly sophisticated weapons amassed from the Nigerian army, and Cameroon fears more violence in the approaching dry season; attacks are spreading south. The number of security incidents has increased drastically over 2013–2014, compared to previous years (UNICEF, 08/2014).

Cameroon has deployed around 2,000 soldiers in the northern region (AFP, 20/11/2014). Fighting between the Cameroon military and suspected Boko Haram militants took place in towns and villages in the north throughout October, with at least 250 people killed. People have been fleeing border communities (VOA, 27/10/2014). Authorities in the Far North region have imposed a curfew and banned vehicle and motorcycle movement at night (IRIN, 15/08/2014).

In early December, following reports of increasing recruitment of Cameroonian youth into BH, Cameroon has announced it will recruit 20,000 more defence and security forces to fight the militants (VoA, 02/12/2014). The US has announced it will supply equipment and logistics training to the Cameroonian military to aid the campaign against Boko Haram (VoA, 12/12/2014).

**On 3 January, Boko Haram attacked a bus in the department of Logone-et-Chari, killing at least 11 people and injuring ten (VOA, 03/01/2015).**

**On 28 December, Cameroon launched its first airstrike against BH, who sent 1,000**

**troops into the country and took control of the military base in Achigachia and five villages in the Far North region (BBC, 29/12/2014). On 17 December, Cameroonian troops killed 116 BH after an attack military vehicles in Amchide, north of Maroua in the Far North region (Reuters, 18/12/2014).** On 12 December, according to Cameroonian authorities, at least 600 BH crossed into Cameroon from Lake Chad and ransacked the villages of Ngouma, Sagme, Ardebe, Dambore and Soueram and stole livestock. Security forces fought the insurgents. Simultaneously, hundreds of BH fighters attacked the towns of Bankim, Amchide and Limani in the Far North (VoA, 13/12/2014).

**On 25 November, it was reported that the Cameroonian army had killed around 100 Boko Haram members in a military operation that targeted a training camp in Bornori town in the Far North region. The camp was reportedly destroyed (World Bulletin, 25/11/2014).**

### CAR Crisis

The security situation is unstable in East region. As of early December, the humanitarian situation continued to deteriorate along the CAR–Cameroon border following armed violence between anti-balaka militia and Cameroonian forces in late November, which caused displacement. Frequent security incidents in this region led to the closure of the CAR–Cameroon border over 19–27 November (OCHA, 04/12/2014; local media, 21/11/2014).

Over 6–12 December, UNHCR visited Gbiti and Kentzou in the East region of Cameroon to encourage refugees settled in border villages to move further away from the border for their own safety (UNHCR, 12/12/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

### Access

#### Logistical Constraints

The delivery of aid is complicated by the low presence of humanitarian actors in Cameroon (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

Congestion at the port in Douala has resulted in extended delays for the arrival of food. This has impacted the effective delivery of food to WFP operations for CAR refugees (WFP, 17/09/2014).

#### Security Constraints

**With the deterioration of the security situation, access to the Far North is extremely difficult. The limited number of humanitarian actors involved in the response has made comprehensive humanitarian intervention almost impossible. There are reports of several thousands of Nigerian refugees stranded at the border (ECHO, 25/11/2014). UN agencies have only been undertaking priority activities such as assisting**

refugees and some host communities, according to WFP (IRIN, 15/08/2014).

## Disasters

### Floods

Flooding in Bibemi, Benoue department, in the North region at the end of August affected nearly 3,500 people, destroying 223 houses, and washing away farms and crops (OCHA, 09/09/2014).

### Displacement

As of September, there are 291,000 refugees in Cameroon and 20,000 IDPs and returnees (OCHA, UNHCR, and partners, 09/2014)

#### Refugees from the Central African Republic

As of 12 December, 241,469 CAR refugees are in Cameroon: **134,000 have arrived since January 2014 (WFP, 18/22/2014)**. At least another 17,670 third-country nationals and returnees have arrived (UNHCR, 07/2014 and IOM, 25/07/2014). MSF said most new arrivals are in critical need of medical attention (VOA, 13/08/2014). Bad road conditions delay the provision of assistance. Moreover, the border is open and extensive, and there are refugees who cross without being registered.

30,000 third-country nationals are expected to need assistance by the end of 2014 (UNHCR, 17/07/2014). Access is reportedly hindered by militias requesting an 'exit fee' to leave CAR.

Close to 60% of newly arrived refugees are children, of whom 20% are under five years of age. 96% of refugees are Muslim. The refugees are spread across the East (95,075), Adamawa (23,060), Douala (3,820), Yaounde (3,540), and the North (3,540) (UNHCR, 31/08/2014). 59,160 refugees have been transferred to sites. In the East: 10,750 in Lolo, 17,540 in Gado, 9,700 in Mbilé, 5,900 in Timangolo, and 760 in Ngari-Singo. In Adamawa: 11,380 in Borgop and 3,120 in Ngam (UNHCR, 19/09/2014).

In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceeds the local population, and living conditions have become very difficult for host communities. Access to water and sanitation remains below standard. In Gado, Mbilé, and Borgop, the quantity of water provided per day to refugees remains below 15 litres (UNHCR, 07/2014). Host communities and refugees compete over already inadequate resources (FAO, 11/12/2014).

Security is a concern: local authorities reported the presence of armed anti-balaka in the village of Diel, and have doubled the number of soldiers guarding the border and patrolling the village (UNHCR, 22/08/2014).

#### Refugees from Nigeria

44,000 Nigerians are estimated to have fled to northern Cameroon over the past year, including 26,700 refugees registered by UNHCR (UNHCR, 31/10/2014; IRIN, 17/09/2014). As of September, 18,475 Nigerian refugees have been registered in the Far North region,

primarily in the districts of Mayo Tsanaga (7,685), Mayo-Sava (1,966), and Logone-et-Chari (8,824). Another 1,530 refugees are in the Southwest region (UNHCR, 09/2014). The needs among the refugees are largely WASH, health, and nutrition-related. 17,000 refugees have been registered in Minawao camp (ECHO, 25/11/2014).

Due to cross-border movements by BH, Nigerian refugees are being encouraged to settle in Minawao camp, whose population rose from 6,000 to 18,000 between August and mid-November, putting a severe strain on services and exceeding the maximum capacity of 15,000 (UNHCR cited by IRIN 06/10/2014; AFP, 15/11/2014; FAO, 05/11/2014). About 70% of new arrivals are women and children who need immediate assistance in the form of food, shelter and medical care (AFP, 15/11/2014).

Insecurity means refugees are no longer opting to stay in villages close to the border, but asking to be relocated further away (UNHCR, 31/10/2014). Those living outside Minawao camp do not receive humanitarian assistance and lack of identification is a concern.

## Food Security

Cameroon is facing several food emergencies, due to dryness in the Sahel belt, and the strain of hosting almost 300,000 refugees from both Central African Republic and Nigeria (FAO, 05/11/2014).

**As of 17 December, 1,078,000 people are food insecure, mostly in the Far North, North, Adamaoua and East regions (OCHA, 17/12/2014)**. An estimated 34.4% of refugee households from CAR are food insecure, especially in the North and Far North regions, where the food situation was already precarious (FAO, 11/12/2014). 54% of households in the Far North and North regions face shortages.

In July, more than 20 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) were suffering from food insecurity (Donor, 24/09/2014).

## Agricultural Outlook

2013 aggregate cereal production was tentatively put at about 3.1 million metric tons, 5% up on the previous year's output, and 10% above the average of the past five years.

A prolonged dry spell in July had a negative impact on vegetation conditions of the main season maize crops. Average to above-average rainfall in August and September reduced moisture deficits, but another dry spell in October may have negatively impacted germination and establishment of second season crops. In northern areas, early season dryness in July may have delayed planting operations but subsequent adequate rainfall benefited sorghum and millet crops and a satisfactory output is expected (FAO, 11/12/2014).

## Health and Nutrition

Malnutrition, malaria, and respiratory infections are the most common health problems among refugees from CAR, according to an ECHO needs assessment. A number of measles cases were also reported among recently arrived child refugees.

Cameroon's Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions suffer chronic shortages of health workers. In the Far North region, the ratio is 0.47 doctors for 1,000 people (IRIN, 06/08/2014). The concentration of health staff in wealthier areas leaves around 40% of Cameroonians without access to healthcare. 45.7% of health centres do not have access to electricity and 70% do not have piped water (Inter Press Service, 19/08/2014).

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

Families often use unauthorised clinics. The Ministry of Public Health has started a campaign to ensure the creation of legally registered clinics that meet national standards with regard to staff, equipment, and hygiene. The Ministry said it would close down unregistered clinics.

#### Meningitis

A total of 1030 meningitis cases were reported in 2014, including 17 cases reported between 3 and 20 November (WHO, 30/11/2014).

#### Cholera

**As of mid-December, 3,315 cholera cases and 182 deaths have been recorded since the beginning of the year (OCHA, 17/12/2014).** Over the reporting period, new cases continued to be registered every week. Only 22 cases were reported within the same period in 2013 (UNICEF, 12/2014). Hardest hit is the locality of Mogodé, in the Far North region (IFRC, 20/10/2014). The first case was in a Nigerian refugee family in April (IRIN, 06/08/2014).

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

#### Ebola

A Cameroonian government spokesperson announced in August that all borders between Cameroon and Nigeria had been closed in order to prevent the spread of Ebola (AFP, 19/08/2014).

#### Nutrition

As of September, there have been 63,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition among children under five in 2014 (OCHA, 30/09/2014). In August, 48,780 children under five were suffering from SAM in Far North, North, Adamawa, and East regions and targeted for assistance. This includes new refugees from CAR and Nigeria (UNICEF, 08/2014).

Between March and early July, more than 1,600 refugee children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted to therapeutic feeding centres. Another 9,000 children and 2,000 mothers received supplementary feeding (UNICEF and WFP, 03/07/2014). In one village, GAM was 25% (the emergency threshold is 15%).

As of June, up to 30% of refugees from CAR under the age of five were suffering from

acute malnutrition (UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP): 7–8% of cases were infants under six months and 18% children over five years.

Mortality rates were over 20% at some locations in June, due to dehydration, hypothermia, and severe anaemia. Approximately 15% of all children with SAM required hospitalisation, and it was estimated that inpatient facilities will need to triple their capacity (OCHA, 06/2014).

#### Polio

An epidemic of wild poliovirus centred in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea is spreading in the region. Since the onset of the outbreak in October 2013, nine cases have been confirmed in Cameroon (UNICEF, 11/09/2014). On 17 March, WHO elevated the risk assessment of international spread of polio from central Africa, particularly Cameroon, to very high. Wild polio had not been reported since 2009.

#### Yellow Fever

Several cases of yellow fever were reported in an area previously considered at low risk, and therefore not covered by the preventive campaign of 2009 (WHO, 04/07/2014).

#### WASH

As of September, 2 million people were in need of WASH (IOM, 09/2014). Regions affected by the CAR refugee crisis have particularly poor access to drinking water (East: 54% and Adamawa: 70%) and basic sanitation (East: 22% and Adamawa: 64%).

#### Education

**At least 130 schools have been closed near the country's northern border with Nigeria, according to the Government. In 2014, more than 200 trained teachers did not take up their posts in the Far North Region (IRIN, 01/12/2014). Most students have left the area for safer places in the country's interior (VoA, 25/11/2014).** With some schools either destroyed or occupied by BH, the Government has said it will relocate populations to more secure areas (Voice of America, 08/09/2014).

Over 36,000 child refugees have arrived from CAR since January: approximately 50% have not attended school for extended periods of time. Only a small number of CAR refugee children reportedly attend public schools in host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014).

#### Protection

On 3 April, Cameroonian police reported that an estimated 200 young people (aged 15–19) from Kolofata area in the Far North region have been recruited by Boko Haram since February and reportedly transferred to training camps in the Nigerian bush. Early August, police sources confirmed that hundreds of children continued to be forcibly recruited (AFP, 06/08/2014).

*Updated: 06/01/2015*

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 05/01/2014. Last update: 18/11/2014

## KEY CONCERNS

- 5.5 million affected by a humanitarian crisis, including 2.2 million children (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).
- 460,000 refugees in Chad, including 93,474 CAR refugees at November, 20,000 of whom have arrived since December 2013 (UNHCR, 02/11/2014; 19/12/2014).
- 2.6 million Chadians are food insecure. 681,000 were considered to be severely food insecure during the lean season (OCHA, 15/10/2014; 30/09/2014).

## Political Context

## Central African Republic Crisis

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

Chad withdrew its troops from the African Union Peacekeeping Force in CAR in April, after accusations of violence against civilians. Chad has always denied the charges.

## International Presence

In August, France deployed a 3,000-strong counterterrorism operation across the Sahel region based in Chad. Operation Barkhane is active in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger (local media, 01/08/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

5.5 million people are affected by humanitarian crisis, including 2.2 million children and 3.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid (UNICEF, 10/11/2014; OCHA, 31/08/2014).

## Disaster: Floods

Floods in Salamat region mid-August made 1,000 people homeless and displaced 7,000 (IOM, 25/08/2014). Shelter, food, health, NFI and WASH services are needed in Am-Timan (IOM, 30/09/2014).

## Displacement

## IDPs

Nearly 90,000 IDPs are living in protracted displacement in the east, facing difficulties in accessing shelter, land, and income-generating activities (OCHA, 19/11/2013). The arrival of CAR refugees since December 2013 is further increasing competition for scarce resources (IDMC, 24/10/2014).

## Refugees

As of 2 November, Chad hosts 460,000 refugees; 365,400 are from Sudan, **93,474 from CAR (including 20,000 since December 2013)**, and 1,900 from Nigeria (UNHCR, 02/11/2014; **19/12/2014**).

Most refugees are in Wadi Fira (157,500), Ouaddai (114,350), Sila (84,650), and Logone Oriental (47,500), while 22,750 are in Dosseye camp and 26,420 in Belom camp, Moyen Chari (UNHCR, 02/11/2014). 412 CAR refugees refused to be transferred from Sido transit camp to Belom camp early December, settling on lands provided by inhabitants instead (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

## Returnees

**113,000 refugees and returnees have arrived in Chad since January 2014 (WFP, 18/12/2014)**, placing additional pressure on already scarce resources (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

## Evacuees from CAR

As of 2 October, there are 113,086 evacuees from CAR without refugee status (IOM, 06/10/2014). Returnees in southeast areas, of whom 7,000 have been identified in Salamat, are less targeted and reached by humanitarian assistance and have little means of subsistence (CICR, 19/11/2014).

Although the Chad-CAR border remains officially closed, people continue to arrive at a number of points and are in a very vulnerable condition (UNHCR, 07/2014). 92% of arrivals lack any form of identity documentation (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

90% of evacuees are in camps (OCHA, 15/10/2014). The Government has increased the maximum stay in transit centres from ten days to one year to allow the restoration of family links and better prepare relocation (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

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

Population relocation, notably from Doyaba and Sido transit sites to Maingama temporary site, is ongoing (UNHCR, 07/11/2014). At 1 December, over 5,888 returnees are still waiting to be relocated from Doyaba (IOM, 01/12/2014).

7,599 people are estimated to be in Kobitey transit site, 3,358 of whom were relocated from Doba transit site in August (IOM, 06/10/2014). Urgent humanitarian needs are reported in

all sectors; 1,200 shelters need to be built (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

There are 17,300 returnees in Sido transit site (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Sanitation and hygiene are major concerns (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

**Temporary sites:** 21,231 people are in temporary sites in Chad (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

The Maingama temporary camp, in Moyen Chari, does not have sufficient shelter and WASH capacity to host the entire population of Doyaba and Sido sites, although relocations are ongoing (OCHA, 18/09/2014; 25/10/2014). At 1 December, Maingama holds 12,169 Chadian returnees (IOM, 01/12/2014). 800 returnees and 185 CAR refugees were transported from Doyaba transit site to Maingama between 18 November – 1 December (UNHCR, 05/12/2014). 1,025 Chadian returnees (276 families) had been transferred over 3 –18 November (UNHCR, 21/11/2014), while 2,400 had been transferred at end October (UNHCR, 07/11/2014). Work is under way to increase the hosting capacity to 30,000 people (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

Danamadja temporary site, in Logone Oriental, has reached its current maximum capacity with over 11,000 inhabitants, although only 40% of the camp is completed. Humanitarian actors are in discussion with authorities to prepare a new site, a few kilometres from Goré and Danamadja, as an extension (OCHA, 16/07/2014).

30% extra shelters are needed in Gaoui sites, in Zafaye, close to N'Djamena (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 4,252 returnees are hosted there as 15 October (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

**Host communities:** Over 25,000 people who entered Chad since the CAR crisis are living in small villages and remote communities throughout the south (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 18,150 returnees live in host communities (OCHA, 30/09/2014). 22 villages host around 15,000 CAR evacuees in Mandoul and Logone Oriental. The assistance provided outside transit sites and temporary camps is very limited and humanitarian needs are significant, particularly in WASH (OCHA, 30/09/2014). There are 3,700 vulnerable returnees in Baibokoum and Mbitoye, Logone Orientale, in urgent need of shelter. In Moyen-Chari region, 1,091 returnees living in Kouno and surrounding villages have urgent shelter, food, health, WASH and livelihood needs (IOM, 22/08/2014). In Am Timan, shelter and NFIs are needed, as many individuals are currently living in makeshift shelters (IOM, 22/09/2014).

#### *Chadians in Neighbouring Countries*

1,500 third-country nationals, the majority of Chadian nationality, fled from CAR to northern Congo. They live in isolated and difficult conditions, and many have been in border towns for up to two months, receiving no assistance and relying on host communities (UNHCR, 07/2014). 150 of them have been repatriated to Chad by IOM at the request of the Chadian government in late August (IOM, 01/09/2014).

As of 1 September, another 1,350 Chadians who fled the violence in CAR via Cameroon were transported to Chad and accommodated in Djako new site (IOM, 01/09/2014).

#### **Food Security**

2.6 million Chadians are food insecure (18% of the total population), including half in the

Sahel strip, a 9% increase on January (OCHA, 15/10/2014, 30/09/2014).

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

Deficit pockets have been identified after the September harvest in Wadi Fira, Guera, east Batha, Kanem, and Bahr El Ghazel in the Sahel strip, and early exhaustion of food stocks is likely to put poor households in these areas in Stress (IPC Phase 2) from February (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014).

**Refugees:** Funding difficulties and cuts to transport budgets have forced WFP and UNHCR to severely cut food rations for refugees since 1 July (international media, 12/09/2014; WFP, 14/08/2014). Some 300,000 refugees, primarily from Darfur and CAR, are reported to be among the worst affected.

The additional cost of refugees and returnees in Logone Oriental, Moyen Chari, Mandoul, and Salamat, in border areas with CAR, is putting pressure on household demand, consumption, and spending (WFP, 07/2014). Staple food prices increased throughout the country in July. In northern Chad, insecurity has influenced negatively the price of cattle and put additional pressure on farmer livelihoods (FEWSNET, 10/10/2014).

#### *Regional Outlook: Sahel*

24.7 million people are suffering from food insecurity in the Sahel as of 30 September, compared to 11.3 in 2013 (OCHA, 07/10/2014; 03/02/2014). As of 29 October, some 6.5 million people have moved from being moderately food insecure to facing an acute food and livelihood crisis, an increase of four million since January, due in large part to ongoing conflict and instability in CAR, northern Mali and northeast Nigeria (IRIN, 29/10/2014).

#### **Health and Nutrition**

2.5 million people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014). 30 of the 102 health districts are considered non-functional by the Ministry of Health due to lack of resources. Access to quality healthcare is a particular concern for over 330,000 people in Kanem region due to particularly high malnutrition rates and food deficit in the lean season from May to October (OCHA, 19/09/2014).

Vaccination coverage is weak despite efforts to scale up routine immunization. Only 34% of children under 1 have been vaccinated in Eastern Chad returnee sites (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

#### *Cholera*

150 cholera cases have been reported in 2014 at 22 November, including two deaths, compared to two cases in 2013 (UNICEF, 10/12/2014). At early October, 35 cases were reported in Mayo-Kebbi (Map Action, 30/10/2014).

#### *Malaria*

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

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

#### Nutrition

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

#### WASH

1.3 million people are in need of WASH assistance: only 50% of the population have access to safe water and 12% to adequate sanitation at the national level (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

In the camps for people coming from CAR, new arrivals are impacting on the quantity and quality of available water (UNHCR, 31/06/2014). Access to WASH facilities for host communities has also been affected by the presence of evacuees (UNHCR, 31/07/2014).

#### Education

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

#### Protection

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

UNICEF has reported over 600 unaccompanied minors and separated children and 44 children associated with armed groups among the CAR returnee population since December 2013 (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Family reunification is a major protection challenge (OCHA, 25/10/2014). Only 59% of identified unaccompanied and separated children have been reunited with their families as of mid-November (UNICEF, 10/11/2014).

#### Legal Status

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

Reviewed: 05/01/2015

## DJIBOUTI DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**30 December:** Food security for pastoralists in rural areas of Obock is expected to improve to Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) (FEWSNET).

### KEY CONCERNS

- The estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the country is around 300,000 people, including more than 24,000 refugees (ECHO, 01/08/2014; OCHA, 30/11/2014)/

### Security Context

On 24 May, Al Shaabab carried out an attack in Djibouti's capital. Two suicide bombers attacked a restaurant, killing one and injuring 11 international soldiers. Al Shabaab claimed they carried out the attack in retaliation for Djibouti hosting a US military base in the country (The Guardian, BBC, 25/05/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

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

### Access

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

### Displacement

#### Migrants

IOM estimates that over 100,000 migrants transit the country every year. Almost 90% are Ethiopian, while the rest are usually Somali. Migrants arrive in dire conditions, and a large number need medical assistance, which is putting a strain on local health facilities in Dikhil, Tadjourah, and Obock (IOM, 21/11/2014). Migrants/refugees continue to report lack of access to food and water during their transit through Obock, while they wait to cross to Yemen. During transit, migrants/refugees are also exposed to theft by criminal gangs, and detention by authorities (Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat, 31/05/2014). In 2014, 241 migrants have been reported dead or missing, compared to 15 in 2013 (IOM, UNHCR, 21/11/2014).

#### Refugees in Djibouti

24,430 refugees, the majority of Somali origin (20,190), are registered in Djibouti (OCHA, 30/11/2014, ECHO, 01/08/2014). There are also 4,220 asylum-seekers, mostly from



Ethiopia (3,230). They reside in two camps: Holl Holl and Ali Addeh (UNHCR).

### Food Security

107,000 people are food insecure in Djibouti (OCHA, 30/11/2014). Competition for natural resources is increasing in rural areas, particularly along the migration corridor that runs across the country. **The food security situation for pastoralists in rural areas in Obock, after benefiting from rains, will most likely improve to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until March. In most rural parts of the country, the food security situation has stabilised thanks to *karan* rains (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).**

### Health and Nutrition

In 2014, OCHA reported that 300,000 people are in need of healthcare services. Communicable diseases, such as diarrhoeal diseases, have a high morbidity rate.

### Nutrition

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

### Protection

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

*Updated: 08/01/2014*

## ETHIOPIA FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**29 December:** Measles incidence has more than doubled from 2013 to 2014 (OCHA).

**27 December:** Water and pasture shortages are expected in East Tigray, North Oromia, Afar, Hareri, and Dire Dawa before June, and the start of the next rainy season (OCHA).

**18 December:** Access to Gambella is expected to improve as maintenance of the road between Gambella and Nyinyan has begun (UNHCR).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Armed insurgencies continue to affect Ogaden region, with inter-communal tensions contributing to frequent violence.

- There are 643,955 refugees, mainly from Somalia and South Sudan (UNCHR). Over 250,000 South Sudanese refugees are in Gambella region; 90% are women and children, 68% children under 18 (OCHA).

- 3.2 million people in Ethiopia will require emergency food assistance in 2014. 2.7 million people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4. The most affected regions are Oromia, Somali, Amhara, Tigray and Afar (15/12/2014, FAO).

- 1.2 million people are in need of improved access to safe water and water sources (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

- A majority of the refugee camps have reached, or are reaching, full capacity. Main concerns include the building of a new refugee camp, malnutrition among refugees, as well as critical shortfalls in humanitarian aid.

### Political Context

Ethiopia is considered comparatively stable, but deep clan tensions and intra-communal violence persist. Two decades of deadly conflict in the southeastern region of Ogaden have had a severe impact on the Ethiopian Somali population, especially after years of a relatively successful government counter-insurgency campaign. The Government has yet to address the root causes of the violence.

However, weak political opposition, and the Government's determination to accelerate economic growth all make continued stability likely.

Protests against projects to expand the boundaries of Addis Ababa into lands currently hosting the Oromo community, which has reportedly been marginalised by successive Governments, began on 25 April. In May, dozens of people were reported killed in violence across the region, according to local sources.

Elections are scheduled for May 2015 (Amnesty International, 22/09/2014). Four opposition party members were arrested in July for alleged connections with terrorist organisations (Crisis Watch, 01/08/2014). In September, Amnesty International has reported violations of civil and political rights.

### Security Context

#### Participation in Regional Military Operations

Ethiopia has historically been a key player in peacekeeping and counter-terrorism operations in East Africa. Peace talks on the South Sudan conflict, under the mediation of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, are taking place in Addis Ababa. In 2014, Addis also hosted peace talks over conflict in Sudan.

In January 2014, according to official reports, the Government pledged that Ethiopian troops, currently part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) would remain in Somalia until durable peace and security is achieved. The Somali militant group Al Shabaab has repeatedly threatened Ethiopia since Ethiopian troops arrived in Somalia. On 13 October 2013, a bomb blast killed two people in Addis Ababa. There was no immediate

claim of responsibility.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Access

The start of the rainy season has posed access problems to refugee camps and the Burubiey border crossing point for months; Burubiey has been closed (UNICEF 15/07/2014). Humanitarian interventions in Leitchuor and Nip Nip were severely affected, but general food distribution has now commenced in Nip Nip (WFP, 10–16/10/2014). By 2 October, only 50km of the road from Gambella to Leitchuor was accessible, and the rest was completely under water. This has prevented any possibility of pumping out the water or opening new bypass roads (IOM, 02/10/2014). **Maintenance of the road between Gambella and Nyinyan began on 18 December (UNHCR, 18/12/2014).** Helicopter drops proved difficult due to poor weather conditions, therefore agencies opted to move assistance by boat (WFP, 15/10/2014).

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

### Disasters

#### Floods

As of 22 October, there are signs of the ground within the camp drying after flooding in August and September. Flood water from Baro River has continued to recede. Heavy rains flooded 95% of Leitchuor and most of Nip Nip IDP camps throughout August and September (UNICEF, 15/08/2014). Flooding affected the border crossings at Matar and Pagak. 171,733 refugees were evacuated from Gambella and 2,439 from Benishangul-Gumuz (IOM, 21/09/2014). The rain destroyed homes, temporary structures, latrines and sanitation facilities (UNHCR, 03/09/2014).

The majority of displaced refugees remain where they self-relocated, in different parts of Nyinyang and along Nip Nip–Jakawo corridor and Gambella–Matar highway (UNHCR, 10/11/2014).

Heavy rains in September also caused flooding in areas of Afar, SNNP, and Somali regions. End October, 50,700 were displaced and required assistance (OCHA, 27/10/2014). More than 100,000 people were affected in Somali region, particularly in Adadle, Argele, Berano, Dollo Ado, Dolo Bay, East and West Imy, Ferfer, Korahe, Kelafo and Mustahil *woredas*. 28,000 people were affected in Afar region, in Amibara and Dulecha *woredas*, with 14,000 losing their homes. More than 35,000 individuals in Dasenech and Benatsemay *woredas* of South Omo in SNNP region were affected, with properties damaged and livelihoods lost (OCHA, 10/11/2014).

### Displacement

#### IDPs

As of September, Ethiopia had 426,700 IDPs (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

#### Refugees in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is now the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa (UNHCR, 19/08/2014). As of 15 October, Ethiopia hosts up to 643,955 refugees; mainly Somalis, South Sudanese, Eritreans, and Sudanese (WFP, 16/10/2014). South Sudanese account for the biggest refugee population in the country (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

#### South Sudanese Refugees

As of 1 November, 196,596 South Sudanese have sought asylum in Ethiopia since December 2013 (UNHCR, 01/11/2014). The majority of arrivals come from Upper Nile state and are predominantly from Gajaak, Gajiok, and Luo-Nuer tribes (UNHCR, 03/07/2014). They are arriving through Pagak (50%), Akobo (21%), Burubiey (24%), Matar, Raad, Pugnido, and Wanke entry points (UNHCR, 25/07/2014). 90% are women and children, and almost 68% are under 18 years old, and arrive in critical nutritional conditions (WFP, UNICEF, 15/08/2014). Most new arrivals cite insecurity and poor food security as their main reason for flight (UNICEF, 15/08/2014). UNHCR projects that 300,000 new refugees from South Sudan will have arrived by the end of the year (UNHCR, 22/10/2014). 46,362 South Sudanese refugees were in Ethiopia before 2013.

According to UNHCR, as of 25 September, 157,570 individuals need to be relocated to other camps due to flooding (WFP, 06/10/2014). Leitchuor, Nip Nip, and Matar way station were dismantled due to the continued risk of flooding and are now being rehabilitated. The relocation of 15,000 refugees from Matar to Pugnido camp was planned for October (UNHCR, 10/11/2014). **As of 18 December, 7,196 refugees have been transferred (UNHCR, 18/12/2014).**

Okugo can only absorb 29,000 refugees in addition to the current population of 6,000 (IOM). A new proposal has been made by UNHCR for two new campsites, able to accommodate 120,000 refugees, in the vicinity of Okugo (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

#### Eritrean Refugees

As of 30 November, Ethiopia hosts 107,000 Eritrean refugees (OCHA, 30/11/2014). There was a spike in daily arrivals in September, with more than 200 Eritreans crossing the border each day. About 5,000 refugees, mainly from Asmara, arrived in Ethiopia during October, and an additional 3,588 in November (OCHA, 24/11/2014). New arrivals are transferred to Hitsat camp, which is now hosting 27,561 people (OCHA, 24/11/2014). The recent spike has led to a shortage of health services, shelter, and core relief items. UNHCR highlighted that the large number of unaccompanied minors was cause for grave protection concern (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

#### Ethiopian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 1 July, there are 30,343 Ethiopian refugees in Kenya (10/07/2014, UNHCR).

An estimated 6,820 Ethiopians made their way to Yemen in May, slightly fewer than the 6,865 who arrived in April, and a 31% increase on the number who arrived in May 2013. New arrivals came predominantly for economic reasons and fear of persecution. New

arrivals in Yemen have reported cases of arbitrary detention and torture as a result of perceived affiliation to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), and repression premised on political affiliation in light of the general elections scheduled for 2015 (RMMS, 31/05/2014).

### Food Security

According to UNICEF, 3.2 million people in Ethiopia will require emergency food assistance in 2014 (UNICEF, 30/10/2014). In June, an estimated 2.7 million people were in Phase 3 and Phase 4 food insecurity (WFP, 06/2014). This is a 12% increase compared to the first half of 2013. The most affected regions are Oromia (897,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance), Somali (690,970), Amhara (548,000), Tigray (321,400), and Afar (152,600).

As the *meher* harvests have started, parts of Tigray, Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR, and western areas have improved to Minimal Food Security (IPC Phase 1) (FEWSNET, 10/12/2014). However, below-average production of maize and sorghum is expected in areas of eastern Amhara and southern Tigray, central and eastern Oromia, and areas along the Rift Valley in SNNPR, causing these areas to either remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or move into Crisis (IPC Phase 3) between December and March, as households exhaust their food stocks (FEWSNET, 10/12/2014). Critical water shortages are persisting despite ongoing *karan* rains in parts of the Somali region.

Previous flooding in September along the Shabelle River has destroyed and limited access to grazing areas in South Omo Zones in Afar, and Nationalities in SNNPR. This has led to deteriorated livestock conditions, and diminished household access to food and income by (FEWSNET, 24/11/2014).

### Agriculture and Markets

**A good *meher* harvest is expected in most parts of the country this year. Pocket of east Tigray, north Oromia, Afar, Hareri, and Dire Dawa, which have experienced unseasonal rains, below-average rains, pests, and disease will have reduced harvests. Water and pasture shortages are also likely in these areas before the next rainy season, in June (OCHA, 27/12/2014).**

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

### Health and Nutrition

A survey carried out among South Sudanese refugees residing in Ethiopia indicate a serious public health emergency (OCHA 15/08/2014). Malaria remains the main public health concern in all the refugee camps, followed by respiratory tract infections and diarrhoeal diseases (**IFRC 30/12/2014**). Monitoring in Gambella region has shown “critical gaps” in medical personnel and supplies, as well as funds for public health clusters (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

#### Hepatitis E

Between late May and late August 354 cases of hepatitis E and jaundice were detected among the refugee population (MSF, 04/09/2014). Ten new cases were reported in the last week of September (UNHCR, 01/10/2014). As of November, the overall trend in cases was decreasing in all camps (UNHCR, 07/11/2014).

#### Malaria

Cases of malaria have significantly increased in refugee camps due to flooding and poor use of treated bed nets (OCHA, 01/10/2014). In July, the death rate from malaria in Kule 1 camp was reported as 5.9/1,000/week, in Leitchuor 5.6/1,000/week and in Tierkidi 5/1,000/week (UNHCR 03/07/2014).

#### Measles

**Measles incidence has more than doubled from 2013 to 2014. 15,500 suspected measles cases were reported in 2014 (OCHA, 29/12/2014).** The Government and humanitarian actors on the ground responded to more than 200 measles outbreaks (OCHA, 11/08/2014).

#### Nutrition

264,298 children required treatment for severe acute malnutrition so far this year (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

As of 1 November, Results of a SMART survey in Leitchuor, Kule, and Tierkidi show GAM rates of 25.8%, 28%, and 30.3%, and SAM rates of 5.7%, 7.8%, and 10%, respectively (UNHCR, 01/11/2014). Crude mortality rates in Kule 1 were 1.47/10,000/day and Leitchuor 1.03/10,000/day. Under-five mortality rates at Kule 1 were 5/10,000/day and Leitchuor 2.73/10,000/day (WFP, 15/08/2014; UNICEF, 15/07/2014). The overall trend shows a deterioration in the nutritional situation in refugee camps.

#### Polio

On 17 March, according to OCHA, a new case of polio was confirmed in Somali region, bringing the caseload in Ethiopia to ten since the outbreak started in May 2013. All cases were reported in *woredas* that share borders with Somalia, where the regional polio outbreak started.

#### WASH

According to UNICEF, 1.2 million people are in need of improved access to safe water and water sources (UNICEF, 31/10/2014). Critical water shortages exist in Afdera, Berhale, Bidu, Dubti, Elidar, Erebt and Kori *woredas* (OCHA, 01/09/2014). In the Somali region, seven out of nine zones are reportedly suffering from water shortages, causing people and livestock to migrate in search of water and pasture (OCHA, 06/10/2014). Seasonal rains have recently improved water availability in Oromia, and water trucking has commenced in Borena, Bale, East Hararge and West Hararge *woredas* (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

The ratio of latrines per person in Leitchuor is 76:1, in Pagak 1:76, and in Burbiey 1:103,

considerably higher than the UNHCR standard of 1:50 (UNHCR, 01/11/2014).

## Protection

In December, women have been more susceptible to attacks and assaults outside Leitchuor refugee camp as lack of firewood and cooking gas forces them to travel further in search of wood (UNHCR, 11/12/2014).

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

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

*Updated: 07/01/2014*

## GAMBIA FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**30 December:** An attempted coup was reported as gunfire was heard outside the presidential palace in capital Banjul while President Yahya Jammeh was out of the country (UN, 01/01/2015). Gambian security forces set up checkpoints and door-to-door searches in search of coup participants.

### KEY CONCERNS

- Almost 290,000 people are in need of healthcare (OCHA, 31/08/2014).
- 202,500 people are food insecure and in need of food assistance. 49,000 children are acutely malnourished (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

## Political and Security Context

**On 30 December, an attempted coup was reported as gunfire was heard outside the presidential palace in the capital Banjul while President Yahya Jammeh was out of the country (UN, 01/01/2015). Gambian security forces went door-to-door in the capital in search of coup participants and set up checkpoints on roads out of the capital (AFP, 1/01/2015). Authorities in Gambia reportedly ordered the closure of a popular radio station (AFP, 4/1/2015).**

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

289,200 people are in need of humanitarian assistance, given increasing commodity prices, resurgence of epidemics, and limited access to basic social services (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

## Displacement

### *Refugees in the Gambia*

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

## Food Security

202,500 people are food insecure (OCHA, 31/08/2014). Agencies are warning about the increase in food and fuel prices, which may constitute a high food security risk to rural and urban households (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

Growing conditions for cereal crops and pastures have been poor in several parts of the country, mostly in central and western regions, due to irregular rains at the beginning of the cropping season in May/June, which delayed planting, and subsequent erratic precipitation in July and August. Aggregate cereal production in 2014 will drop by 75% compared to 2013, to about 57,000 metric tons. Production of groundnut, the main cash crop, is anticipated to decline by over 80%. Access to food will further be restrained by high prices of cereals and the depreciation of the national currency, which has increased domestic prices of imported food commodities (FAO, 05/11/2014). The Ebola epidemic in neighbouring countries is further aggravating food insecurity, as the crisis has affected tourism, a significant source of income (Reuters, 01/10/2014).

### *Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview*

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

## Health and Nutrition

Around 290,000 people are in need of healthcare, over 15% of the population. The supply of essential drugs is low, as is laboratory capacity. Staff and equipment are not sufficient to meet the most urgent needs (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

There have been sporadic outbreaks of meningitis in all regions, but particularly in the east of the country; in the Upper, Lower, and Central River regions (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

### *Nutrition*

Around 49,000 children are reported to be acutely malnourished, of whom 7,800 children suffer SAM (OCHA 31/08/2014). This represents 3,000 more SAM cases than in July 2013 (OCHA 25/07/2014). The nutrition situation is particularly dire in Central and Upper River

regions, with GAM rates above the 10% serious threshold (OCHA, 31/0809/2014).

## WASH

287,000 people are in need of WASH assistance. Inadequate access to safe drinking water, basic sanitation, and poor hygiene practices continue to be an issue. 20% of deaths among under-fives are WASH-related (OCHA, 31/08/2014).

*Updated: 07/01/2015*

## KENYA FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**2 January:** Kenya's High Court suspended sections of the new security law, until a legal challenge is heard (BBC).

**31 December:** October to December rainfall was below average. The driest areas are reportedly in the northeast pastoral zones: Isiolo, Garissa and Wajir (FEWSNET).

**18 December:** Despite the deployment of additional security forces, tensions in Baringo and Turkana remain high (Kenya Daily Nation).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Violence is ongoing in the capital Nairobi, as well as the northeastern and coastal areas; two-thirds of attacks have been attributed to the Somali Islamist Al Shabaab movement.

- Inter-communal tensions are running high: 491 people were killed and 47,000 displaced by tribal conflict in 2013. Tana River, Mandera, Marsabit, and Moyale counties are the most affected.

- There are over 586,095 refugees in Kenya, including at least 426,500 Somalis and 87,129 South Sudanese (UNHCR 01/12/2104, 07/08/2014).

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

### Political Context

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

On 5 December, charges against President Uhuru Kenyatta him, including crimes against humanity, stemming from 2007–08 post-election violence when more than 1,000 people

died, were dropped (BBC, 07/10/2014, 05/12/2014).

Following the attacks in Mandera in late November, a new security bill has been introduced to limit the rights of people who are arrested and accused, add harsh criminal penalties, and restrict freedoms of expression and assembly. **The law also stipulates that the number of refugees and asylum seekers permitted to stay in Kenya shall not exceed 150,000 (IRIN, 05/01/2014). On 2 January, Kenya's High Court suspended eight sections of the law, until a legal challenge mounted by the opposition and rights groups is heard (BBC, 02/01/2015).** The measures have been widely criticised by human rights group (Human Rights Watch, Kenya Daily Nation, 14/12/2014).

On 16 December, the Government de-registered 510 NGOs, accusing them of using their charitable status as a front for raising funds for terrorism. Many of the NGOs appear to be aid agencies, Christian organisations, orphanages, or organisations working in development and health (The Guardian, 16/12/2014).

### Security Context

The frequency and scale of militant attacks in Kenya have increased dramatically since 2011, when Kenyan troops began operating in Somalia, as has the nature of the violence, with 40% of events targeting civilians. Al Shabaab has built a cross-border presence and clandestine support network among the Muslim population in the northeast, in Nairobi, and on the coast. The increasing radicalisation of the ethnic Somali Muslim population is allegedly fuelled by systematic ethnic profiling and discrimination. Muslims make up 11% of Kenya's 40 million population.

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

### Al Shabaab-related Violence

On 22 November, Al Shabaab gunmen pulled passengers from a Nairobi-bound bus in Mandera, and killed 28 non-Muslims – including 24 teachers – in retaliation for Kenyan police raids of suspected radical mosques in Mombasa earlier in the month (OCHA, 28/11/2014). In response, the Kenyan military launched operations in Somalia, reportedly killing 115 Al Shabaab militants (BBC, The Guardian, 24/11/2014). The attack is yet to be independently confirmed; Al Shabaab denied that any attack took place (Al Jazeera, 24/11/2014).

500 non-locals and professionals fled to a military landing strip, hoping to be evacuated (Red Cross, 03/12/2014). The Government did not respond, and on 27 November, significant numbers were reported to be leaving Mandera, mainly health workers, teachers, and civil servants (Kenya Daily Nation, 27/11/2014). Workers unions have continued to urge their members in Mandera to leave until their security is guaranteed (Kenya Daily Nation, 03/12/2014).

On 1 December, one person was killed and 12 wounded in an attack in Wajir, close to Mandera (AFP, 01/12/2014). On 2 December, Al Shabaab carried out a second attack in Mandera, killing 36 quarry workers (AFP, 02/12/2014).

Hand grenades and pistols were seized during raids of mosques in November; one person

died in the raids. (AFP, 17/11/2014). Three mosques were closed (BBC, 19/11/2014).

In June and July, attacks in Kenya's coastal region left 102 dead. Soweto in Mombasa, Mpeketoni, Poromoko, Panganguo, the villages of Witu and Kibiboni, and Gamba police station were all targeted. About 500 families reportedly fled the area (Reuters, 06/07/2014). Although evidence points towards Al Shabaab involvement, the Kenyan Government insists local political networks are to blame, flaring political and ethnic tensions in the coastal area (IRIN 23/07/2014).

#### **Inter-communal Violence**

A growth in the population of both people and livestock has led to more frequent cattle raiding and violence, fed by the availability of small arms. As of end of November, inter-communal violence in Kenya had caused 310 deaths, 214 injuries and displaced 220,177 in 2014 (OCHA, 31/11/2014). The areas most affected by inter-communal violence are the northern Rift Valley and north-eastern regions.

On 7 December, 25 houses were burned down and several acres of plantations were destroyed in Kakamega county, following tribal clashes between Nandis and Kabras (Kenya Daily Nation, 08/12/2014). On 20 November, five villagers were killed and 12 injured in North Horr, Marsabit, after fighting between Gabbra and Dassanach communities (Kenya Daily Nation, 20/11/2014).

#### ***Conflict in Mandera and Wajir***

On 22 August, fighting resumed in Mandera county. By early October, total fatalities had risen to 48, with 68 wounded and 19,000 displaced (Kenya Red Cross, 05/09/2014). Clashes between Garre and Degodia communities along the border between Wajir and Mandera counties caused at least 60 deaths and displaced 75,000 people between May and June (OCHA, 23/06/2014). The Garre and Degodia Somali clans have been feuding over natural resources since March 2012.

#### ***Conflicts in Baringo, Samburu and Turkana***

**Despite the deployment of additional security forces, reports suggest that tensions in Baringo and Turkana remain high. People are now fleeing Baringo North, following raids (Kenya Daily Nation, 18/12/2014).**

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

Turkana has also seen an increase in the frequency of violent attacks by raiders of Pokoto and Turkana communities. On 4 November, at least 22 police officers and three civilians were ambushed and killed in Kapedo, and their weapons and ammunition were stolen (Kenya Red Cross, 04/11/2014). On 7 November, Kenya defence forces raided Kapedo in an attempt to recover the stolen weapons. More than 30 people were injured and several properties were burned down (Kenya Daily Nation, 08/11/2014). Residents fled Kapedo to Pokot North in West Pokot County and Turkana South (Kenyan Daily Nation, 20/11/2014).

## **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

### **Disasters**

#### **Drought**

According to national authorities, 300,000 famine-stricken people (60,000 families) in drought-hit Wajir South constituency need humanitarian assistance. The National Drought Management Authority said most of the water points in the northeastern constituency had dried up due to the prolonged drought (Kenya Daily Nation, 08/09/2014).

Garissa county, in northeast Kenya, has also been experiencing severe drought. Water pans are drying up quickly, livestock has begun to die, and Garissa residents are urgently appealing for food, water and medical services (Kenya Daily Nation, 10/11/2014).

#### **Floods**

On 5 December, over 300 people were displaced as mudslides and floods destroyed their homes in Jomvu, Mombasa (Kenya Daily Nation, 05/12/2014). On 14 November, heavy rains in the Tana Delta have caused floods in Bura and Hirimaru division in the southeast. Houses and WASH facilities have been destroyed. Close to 180 households are camping in nearby villages (Kenya Red Cross, 17/11/2014).

### **Displacement**

#### **IDPs**

On 1 December, the total number of IDPs in Kenya was 309,200 (OCHA, 31/11/2014).

As of 31 November, inter-communal violence had caused the displacement of 125,107 people in Mandera, 84,980 in Wajir, 4,920 in Lamu and 1,730 in Turkana.

#### **Refugees**

As of 1 December, Kenya is hosting more than 586,095 refugees and asylum-seekers. 177,454 are located in Kakuma, 227,953 in Dabaab, 129,392 in Alinjugur, and 51,296 in Nairobi (UNHCR, 14/10/2014). Somalis make up 75% of the refugees, South Sudanese 13% (UNHCR, 30/07/2014). As of 21 September, humanitarian actors have registered a decline in the number of refugees entering the country (IOM, 21/09/2014).

WFP has reported that resource constraints will cause a significant pipeline break in refugee operations in December, worsening an already critical nutrition situation among children (WFP, 15/10/2014). On 14 November, WFP announced that food rations to the entire refugee population in Kenya will be halved, as a result of insufficient funding (WFP, 14/11/2014).

**From Somalia:** As of July, 427,000 Somali refugees were in Kenya (UNHCR, OCHA). Most are in the northeastern Dadaab and Alinjugur refugee camp complex, which in July hosted 340,000 Somali refugees. 55,468 Somali refugees are in Kakuma camp, Turkana, and 32,014 are in Nairobi (UNHCR, 01/07/2014).



The Tripartite Agreement between the Kenyan and Somali Governments and UNHCR, signed in November 2013, establishes the legal framework for those Somali refugees wishing to return home. A first group of refugees will test the viability of returning the 337,500 Somali refugees still registered at the camp (Kenya Daily Nation, 07/09/2014). **On 8 December, the first returnees arrived in Somalia (IOM, UNHCR, 09/12/2014).**

**From South Sudan:** As of 10 December, more than 44,457 South Sudanese refugees have crossed into Kenya through Nadapal border since mid-December 2013 (UNHCR, 15/12/2014). 75,038 South Sudanese refugees are in Kakuma camp, Turkana county (UNHCR, 07/07/2014).

Kakuma camp is hosting 179,218 refugees, surpassing its capacity of 150,000 (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Flooding from heavy rains on 25 August and 3 September has caused further displacement, and hampered access by humanitarian actors (OCHA, 27/08/2014; UNHCR, 17/09/2014). The need for land is critical. Regular relocations from the reception centre have stalled as a result of the rains, and the need for dry, safe areas is urgent (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Government officials have authorised the construction of a new camp, but no land has been granted (UNHCR, 15/10/2014). UNCHR has reported that the overpopulation in Kakuma is causing friction among refugee communities, and security forces are finding it more difficult to manage situations (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

#### Access

Humanitarian workers on the ground have reported that poor roads, hilly terrain and protection concerns along the northern Rift Valley and north-eastern regions have hampered the delivery of aid to affected communities (OCHA, 31/11/2014).

#### Food Security

**Pockets of northeastern pastoral areas will deteriorate to Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) until March: Isiolo, Dadaab subcounty in Garissa, and Hadado and and Sebule subcounties in Wajir (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014). Food security will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until March in southeastern marginal agricultural areas, as short rains harvests are expected to be below average.**

#### Agriculture and Markets

**October to December rainfall was below average. The driest areas are reportedly in the northeast pastoral zone: Isiolo, Garissa and Wajir. Crops have so far not developed to normal levels in southern marginal agricultural areas (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).**

#### Health and Nutrition

##### Malaria

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

exponentially due to the high camp population and ongoing rains (UNCHR, 26/11/2014).

#### Nutrition

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

#### WASH

There is a critical need for clean water nationwide. Households are currently having to walk long distances to access water, much of which does not meet health standards (ACTED, 08/08/2014).

#### Protection

Since December 2013, 6,197 unaccompanied children have arrived in Kakuma camp, bringing the total to 12,174 (UNHCR, 01/10/2014).

*Updated: 07/01/2014*

## LIBYA DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR, POLITICAL UNREST

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**5 January:** Peace talks have again been postponed, with no new date set. The internationally recognised parliament in Tobruk has voted not to attend negotiations should the rival legislature in Tripoli be invited (AFP, 05/01/2014).

**5 January:** Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya. The Interior Minister stated he had received intelligence reports indicating that nationals of these countries were heading to Libya to join militants fighting the Government (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015).

**4 January:** Ansar Al Sharia abducted 13 Egyptian Christians, after having kidnapped seven over previous days (AFP, 05/01/2015). On 5 January, 13 Egyptians were reported released (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015).

**4 January:** The Libyan National Army launched airstrikes on an oil tanker in the Islamist-held port of Derna, killing two crew members and wounding others (AFP, 05/01/2014).

**30 December:** A suicide bomber blew up a car outside the headquarters of the House of Representatives wounding 18 people, including three lawmakers (AFP, 30/12/2014).

**30 December:** Libya Dawn aircraft attacked Libyan National Army (previously Operation Dignity) forces in the eastern region around As Sidr. The air force shot down the helicopter, according to the military (AFP, 30/12/2014).

## KEY CONCERNS

- The conflict has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014)
- There are 393,420 IDPs in 35 cities and towns in Libya (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). More than 150,000 people have sought refuge abroad (UNHCR 10/10/2014).
- Over 331,000 people are at risk and in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 08/10/2014).
- Indiscriminate shelling and targeting of civilian areas (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).
- Access is a major concern (OCHA, 03/09/2014).

## OVERVIEW

It is estimated that two million people have been affected by the conflict, which has generated shortages in food, fuel, water, medical supplies and electricity, as well as reduced access to health care and public services (OCHA, 07/11/2014).

The rapidly deteriorating security situation continues to cause new waves of displacement, particularly in the western outskirts of Tripoli and in the eastern city of Benghazi. The renewed fighting is deepening the humanitarian needs of IDPs and communities affected by the fighting. The price of food and basic items such as cooking fuel and wheat flour, have doubled.

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

## Political Context

The political crisis has led to worsening armed conflict over the course of the year. Libya has two rival parliaments and governments, with militias exerting much control on the ground. Rival economic policies and a potential struggle over the control of resources is likely to exacerbate the crisis, and worsen the economic situation (Financial Times, 08/12/2014).

The House of Representatives was elected in June. It moved to Tobruk in early August and recently moved its headquarters to the town of Shahat (AFP, 12/11/2014). Prime Minister Al Thani's Government was sworn in on 28 September. On 21 October, Libya's elected parliament officially endorsed former General Haftar and his Operation Dignity against Islamist militias. On 6 November, Libya's Supreme Court ruled the House of Representatives unconstitutional. Certain members of the House of Representatives declared that they did not recognise the ruling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

The Islamist-dominated General National Congress (GNC), which preceded the House of

Representatives and had never stood down, reconvened and voted to replace the House on 25 August.

## Peace Talks

**On 5 January, peace talks were again been postponed, with no new date set. The internationally recognised parliament, the House of Representatives in Tobruk, has voted not to attend negotiations should the GNC be invited (AFP, 05/01/2014).** On 29 September, UN-brokered talks began between the House of Representatives and elected members who have boycotted the assembly and have links to the General National Congress (Reuters, 01/10/2014). The talks did not gain much support from armed groups: the Libya Dawn coalition in Tripoli denounced the dialogue and declared that it was continuing with its military operations. The Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR) issued its own statement rejecting the initiative (AFP, 30/09/2014). Libya Shield Central has said it remained open to involvement in potential peace talks (Libya Herald, 02/10/2014).

## Security Context

The surge in violence since mid-July has affected more than two million people (UN, 03/09/2014). Casualty figures continue to rise in the west and east, mainly in Tripoli and Benghazi, as fighting persists. An abundance of weapons from the NATO-backed uprising against Gaddafi are sustaining warring factions (AFP, 14/07/2014). The United Nations Stabilization Mission for Libya (UNSMIL) left the country in mid-July.

## Main Stakeholders

The Libya Shield brigades, tied to the city of Misrata, are allied to Islamist political forces, as are the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR), a Benghazi-based alliance including Ansar al Sharia, Libya Shield units and other armed groups. Together with insurgents from Tripoli and other towns including al Zawiya and Gheryan, these groups make up the Libya Dawn.

Ansar al Sharia has declared an Islamic emirate in the eastern city of Derna and pledged allegiance to Islamic State (Al Arabiya, 06/10/2014).

The Al Qa'qa' and Al Sawai'q brigades, allied with the city of Zintan, and fighters from the Warshefana region west of Tripoli, back the House of Representatives, as does former General Khalifa Haftar, supported by units of Libya's regular armed forces. Haftar launched Operation Dignity in May, aiming to break the strongholds of Islamist forces. At end October, the House of Representatives declared a formal alliance with former General Haftar (Reuters, 20/10/2014). **Operation Dignity has been renamed: pro-Tobruk groups now call themselves the Libyan National Army (ICG, 05/01/2014). On 5 January, the House of Representatives appealed to the international community for more weapons (AFP, 05/01/2014).**

## Regional Involvement

Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria are all concerned that the violence will spill into their territories

(Reuters, 11/10/2014). In August, the United States said Egypt and the United Arab Emirates secretly bombed Islamist militia positions near Tripoli's airport (AFP, 08/10/2014). On 8 October, Prime Minister Al Thani announced that Egypt would help to train the Libyan army.

According to intelligence sources, Islamist groups operating in northern Africa have set up three secret training camps in southern Libya. Jihadists pushed out of Mali following French intervention are also said to be hiding in Libya's south. Experts see links between these groups and Islamist militias in northern and eastern Libya (AFP, 26/10/2014).

**Palestinian, Sudanese, and Syrian nationals have been banned from entering Libya. The Interior Minister stated he had received intelligence reports indicating that nationals of these countries were heading to Libya to join opposition forces in western Libya (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015).** Tuareg from Mali and, reportedly, Tebu from Chad, have joined their respective Libyan tribe members in fighting over Ubari (Al Jazeera, 05/12/2014).

**Islamic State (IS) has also set up training camps in eastern Libya for several hundred fighters, according to US officials (BBC, 04/12/2014).**

#### Conflict Developments

**On 28 November, former General Haftar announced an offensive to retake Tripoli. He vowed to recapture Benghazi within two weeks and Tripoli within three months (AFP, 29/11/2014).**

**El Sharara oilfield in the south of the country was attacked and shut down by gunmen supporting Libya Dawn in early November; Libya Dawn has taken control of the field by early December (Reuters, 11/11/2014; Daily Mail, 08/12/2014).**

#### Tripoli and Western Libya

Tripoli has witnessed continuous violence since 13 July, when Operation Dawn was launched. **On 7 December, at least a dozen people were killed and sixteen injured in fighting (Libya Herald, 07/12/2014).** Over 3–5 December, airstrikes were reported near Tripoli and close to the Tunisian border. Accounts of casualties and targets varied (Reuters, 04/12/2014, 05/12/2014; Asharq Al Awsat, 6/12/2014). On 2 December, airstrikes targeted a food warehouse and a factory in Zwara, 110km west of Tripoli. The strikes were reportedly carried out by Haftar's forces (AFP, 02/12/2014; Al Jazeera, 03/12/2014). In November, clashes between Libya Dawn and Operation Dignity forced the closure of Mitiga airport. The airport was bombed by Operation Dignity. Reports indicated the airport was later reopened (AFP, 16/11/2014; NYT, 24/11/2014). The airport was taken by Operation Dawn in August.

**State forces raided Misrata after the Libya Dawn attack on the Ras Lanuf oil terminal (AFP, 30/12/2014, 05/01/2015).**

Operation Dawn has expanded south into the Nafusa mountain region, with factional fighting taking place between Zintan militia and Misrata and other tribal and city-based

militia groups (ACLED, 24/11/2014). **170 people were killed and hundreds were injured in the fighting (Reuters, 23/12/2014).**

**On 18 December, fighting was reported between Misrata militias, part of the Libya Dawn coalition, and security guards at Al Ghani oilfield, near Zillah (IHS Jane, 18/12/2014).**

Over 11–12 October, militias from Zintan attacked the neighbouring town of Kekla, which supports Libya Dawn (AFP, 13/10/2014). **By 24 November, authorities had confirmed 140 deaths and more than 450 injured (WHO, 24/11/2014).**

**Fighting in Warshefana killed an estimated 100 people and 500 were wounded between August and early October (Reuters, 23/12/2014).**

#### Benghazi and Eastern Libya

Ansar al Sharia is reported to be firing missiles indiscriminately into Benghazi (Libya Herald, 07/12/2014). On 19 November, UNSMIL announced a 12-hour humanitarian truce, which was reportedly broken by Ansar al Sharia (UNSMIL, Libya Herald, 19/11/2014). Operation Dignity began an offensive on 15 October. Reports indicated warplanes and military helicopters over the city, as well as anti-aircraft fire (AFP, 09/10/2014). By 1 November, pro-Libyan National Army forces had recaptured parts of the city, including army positions and the entire east of Benghazi, and were advancing in the south of the city (AFP, 01/11/2014). **In early January, the Libyan National Army claimed to have almost full control of Benghazi's Laithi district, which was a key Ansar Al Sharia stronghold (Libya Herald, 06/01/2015).**

Benghazi appears to have been mostly under SCBR control since mid-July (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Haftar's forces had been forced to retreat to Benghazi airport. Several residential areas have been subjected to regular shelling. (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

**Over 3-4 January, the Libyan National Army launched airstrikes on an oil tanker in the Islamist-held port of Derna, killing two crew members and wounding others (AFP, 05/01/2014).**

**On 30 December, a suicide bomber outside the headquarters of the House of Representatives, wounded 18 people, including three lawmakers (AFP, 30/12/2014).**

**On 18 December, Libya Dawn forces had reportedly withdrawn from the area between Sirte and Benghazi. 30 militia fighters were killed and 270 wounded in the fighting, according to Operation Dignity sources (ANSAmEd, 18/12/2014).**

**On 13 December, Libya Dawn announced a campaign for the control of oilfields and terminals (The Telegraph, 14/12/2014).** On 14 December, As Sidr, Libya's biggest oilfield, and Ras Lanuf oil terminal, between Sirte and Benghazi, were closed following clashes between Libya Dawn and Operation Dignity affiliated troops. On 27 December, Libya Dawn attacked Ras Lanuf, killing 27 Libyan National Army fighters (AFP, 30/12/2014, 05/01/2015). On 30 December, Libya Dawn aircraft attacked Libyan National Army forces in the region around As Sidr. The air force shot down the

helicopter, according to the military (AFP, 30/12/2014).

On 12 November, twin suicide bombings in Tobruk wounded at least 25 people.

#### Inter-communal Violence

In addition to recent developments in the west and east, the situation in the south has reportedly deteriorated since January. Intermittent violence linked to inter and intra-ethnic rivalries has been exacerbated by geopolitics and shifting allegiances. Conflict, particularly in and around the cities of Sabha and Ubari, has resulted in displacement (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). **As of end November, the security and humanitarian situation in Ubari, Wadi Al Haya municipality in western Libya, remained critical. Fighting has resulted in significant displacement of Tuareg families seeking shelter and medical aid outside the city (WHO, 24/11/2014).** Ubari has seen armed clashes between the Tebu and Tuareg communities since mid-September. They began when Tuaregs supportive of Libya Dawn, and reportedly from another region, tried to take over Ubari's main fuel station (Reporters sans Frontieres, 14/10/2014). **Over December, Tebu and Tuareg militants, allied with the House of Representatives and Libya Dawn, respectively, clashed repeatedly (ICG, 05/01/2014).**

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

##### Access

Indiscriminate fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people trying to flee conflict areas. Violence and checkpoints along the route to Zawia from Tripoli are preventing people from reaching the Tunisian border.

Access to areas most affected by conflict is difficult, with security constraints and blocked roads preventing the delivery of food and medical supplies. Armed groups lack knowledge of humanitarian organisations and restrict their access to people in need. Parts of Benghazi are inaccessible and entire neighbourhoods devastated by shelling (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). On 8 December Libyan Red Crescent Society said its staff and volunteers had been forced to relocate to safer areas in Benghazi because of fighting (The Guardian, 08/12/2014). **The closure of the Gharyan–Kikla road means supplies cannot be delivered to Kikla, where authorities have described the humanitarian situation as catastrophic (WHO, 24/11/2014).**

Most humanitarian agencies have left. Even before the worsening security situation, there were few humanitarian agencies with staff on the ground in Libya. The lack of available cooperating partners is a major challenge for aid delivery (IRIN, 30/09/2014). The national agency tasked with leading the humanitarian response evaluates its own response capacity as almost non-existent (IRIN 07/08/2014).

**All commercial flights to Libya have been suspended (The Telegraph, 06/01/2015).**

#### Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

On 4 June, an ICRC staff member was assassinated in Sirte, prompting the ICRC to

suspend its work in the country (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014).

#### Infrastructure

Power outages of up to 19 hours a day in Tripoli impede communications (IRIN, 01/10/2014). Shortages of diesel have been reported (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). The battle for Tripoli airport resulted in the damage or destruction of numerous civilian aircraft and the ignition of a large fuel storage facility on the airport road. Bridge 27, linking Tripoli and western Libyan cities, has also been damaged (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Significant damage and destruction has been reported to public installations in Tripoli's southern and western suburbs (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014).

#### Displacement

##### IDPs

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

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

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

According to UNSMIL, the Benghazi Local Council has registered some 34,000 IDPs in need of basic assistance (UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Al Marj, near Benghazi, has had to close its schools to accommodate people unable to stay with host families. Al Bayda and Tobruk are also under pressure to house the displaced. Schools in Tobruk will also be closed so they can host IDPs.

An estimated 35,000 of Tawergha IDPs have been sheltering in temporary camps in Tripoli and Benghazi since 2011. No aid has been provided to the Tawergha camps since February 2014. While 10,000 Tawergha who fled Tripoli during summer fighting have mostly since returned, in the east, where the community is estimated to be 18,000-strong, many families are still displaced (IRIN, 10/12/2014). Some 2,500 Tawergha left their camp in Benghazi because of fighting and are now staying in parks, schools and parking lots in and around the town of Ajdabiya, many with only thin plastic sheets for shelter (UNHCR, 14/11/2014).

#### Migrants, Refugees and Asylum-seekers in Libya

Prior to the crisis, in addition to IDPs from the 2011 conflict, Libya was supporting an

increasing population of refugees and asylum seekers using the country as an exit point to Europe. There are approximately 200,000 migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi. Among them, 7,000 are deemed particularly vulnerable and need immediate evacuation assistance (IOM, 05/09/2014). **The total number of refugees in Libya is 36,984 (OCHA, 28/12/2014).**

Detention of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Libya is widespread and prolonged; conditions, which were poor prior to the current fighting, have worsened (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Third-country nationals face extreme difficulties in leaving the country as passage through Libya's borders with Egypt and Tunisia is restricted (IOM, 14/09/2014).

While some migrants have been displaced towards the south of the country, others opted to attempt leaving Libya by sea (IOM, 05/09/2014). Main departure points to Europe have shifted from Tripoli towards Benghazi, from where the journey is longer and more dangerous (IRIN, 06/08/2014). According to estimates, more than 3,000 migrants have died trying to cross the Mediterranean so far this year, more than double the previous peak in 2011 (IOM, cited in AFP 02/10/2014). 2,200 died between the beginning of June and 15 September (AI, 30/09/2014). The vast majority of refugees and migrants who arrived in Italy in 2014 had departed from Libya (AI, 30/09/2014).

#### Refugees and Third-country Nationals in Neighbouring Countries

More than 150,000 people, including third-country nationals (estimated at 15,000) have sought refuge abroad (OCHA, 03/09/2014). Since mid-July, a steady flow of Libyans and migrants has crossed to Tunisia through the two main land crossing points. In August, 6,000 people were crossing from Libya into Tunisia every day; most were third-country nationals (TCNs) (ICRC, 22/09/2014).

Since 2011, approximately 1.8 million people have fled to Tunisia (NYT, 09/09/2014).

#### Food Security

**Insecurity is affecting the food supply chain, with some estimates indicating a substantial decline in food imports into eastern Libya since May. Food prices in Tripoli remain volatile, reducing the purchasing power of the poorest households (WFP, 18/12/2014).**

Shortages of basic food supplies have been reported in all areas of Tripoli and food prices have risen drastically (IOM, 12/08/2014; UNHCR, 14/11/2014). Warehouses (both public and private) are situated in conflict areas, and fuel shortages are aggravating the situation.

#### Livelihoods

People in Benghazi and Tripoli specifically, and in other cities in general, have been facing regular electricity cuts, plus interruptions to the internet and wider communications. In Tripoli, fuel shortages and water cuts have affected livelihoods (IFRC, 12/08/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

Large numbers of expatriate medical personnel have left Libya, and such staff make up

80% of all medical personnel, according to the Ministry of Health.

**Access to health services has become a major concern mainly in Benghazi. Ongoing fighting has led to restrictions of movement for people and health workers in the conflict areas (WHO, 24/11/2014).** Al Jala hospital was occupied for several weeks by Ansar al Sharia, and closed in October after fighting when locals tried to remove Ansar al Sharia forces (IRIN, 02/09/2014; Libya Herald, 04/10/2014).

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

Hospital staff in Tripoli and Al Zawiya reported that medical supplies were could not be retrieved as storage facilities were inaccessible or had been destroyed (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014). Vaccines have been stolen from warehouses (IOM, 12/08/2014). The Libyan Red Crescent Society branches in Zawia, Khoms, Eljmail, and Zwara have reported difficulties in accessing and transporting medicines and medical supplies (IFRC, 12/08/2014). Zahra hospital reported severe shortages of medicines and medical supplies (ICRC, 17/09/2014).

#### WASH

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

#### Shelter

Increased shelling on residential areas has been observed mainly in Tripoli and Benghazi (IFRC, 28/07/2014). Alongside civilian properties, factories, mosques, and shops have also been destroyed in residential areas (Amnesty International, 08/08/2014).

#### Protection

With some exceptions, civilians have not been given the chance to evacuate before hostilities commenced and severe fighting has taken place in and around houses and other places of refuge (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Abductions, looting, burning of homes and other acts of revenge have all been frequently reported in relation to ongoing hostilities (UN Security Council, 05/09/2014). In Benghazi and nearby Derna, there have been at least 250 politically motivated killings in 2014 (HRW, 24/09/2014). Peace activists as well as senior army officers and journalists were killed in ten coordinated assassinations on 19 September (The Guardian, 20/09/2014). In Tripoli, a number of activists and other public figures have been abducted, received threats or had their homes looted or burned since July (UNHCR, 14/10/2014).

Armed militias controlling Derna are reported to have carried out summary executions, public floggings, and other violent abuse (HRW, 27/11/2014).

According to the UN, threats and intimidation have been used by people claiming affiliation

with Libya Dawn against Libya's national human rights institution in Tripoli, the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights (NCCLHR) (UN, 24/10/2014).

#### Abduction and Detention

**On 4 January, Ansar Al Sharia reportedly abducted 13 Egyptian Christians, after having kidnapped another seven over previous days (AFP, 05/01/2015). On 5 January, 13 Egyptians were reported as freed, in the hands of the local council and being protected by the local Ferjan tribe (Libya Herald, 05/01/2015).**

In addition to the detention of fighters or suspected fighters, dozens of civilians are remain missing solely for their actual or suspected tribal, family, or religious affiliation (UNSMIL, 04/09/2014).

Third-country refugees and asylum-seekers, including unaccompanied children, face arbitrary arrest and indefinite detention for migration control purposes by both state and non-state actors. Torture and ill-treatment has also been reported (AI, 30/09/2014).

#### Mines and ERW

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

*Updated: 07/01/2015*

## MALI CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**4 January:** Six UN peacekeeping troops were injured in a blast east of Gao; an Islamic extremist close to MUJAO claimed responsibility (AFP).

**1 January:** The mayor of Anderaboucane town in Gao region was ambushed by insurgents. The mayor and his son both died (Reuters).

**29 December:** In Bamba village, Gao region, between one and five people were killed in clashes between rival Tuareg groups (AFP).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Security, particularly in the north, remains volatile, and access is limited for aid workers. Security in and around the northeastern region of Kidal is of particular concern.
- 136,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition (OCHA, 07/10/2014).
- 263,000 people are in IPC Phase 3 and more than 1.6 million people are in IPC Phase 2 (Cadre Harmonise, 09/11/2014).

- 2.5 million people are in need of healthcare and one million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

### OVERVIEW

Violence and conflict in the north have led to a degradation of the humanitarian situation and large-scale displacement.

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

### Political Context

On 15 June, three armed groups from northern Mali – the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the High Council for the Unity of Azawad (HCUA), and the Arab Movement of Azawad (MAA) – signed the Algiers Declaration with the Government of Mali. The groups have agreed to engage with the Government on a path of dialogue and negotiation after several bouts of violence broke a June 2013 peace agreement (AFP, 01/09/2014).

However, continued violence put the peace talks on shaky ground (UN, 07/08/2014). On 28 October, the Azawad Movements Coalition (HCUA, MNLA, and MAA) announced united military efforts to stem insecurity in north (ICG, 01/11/2014). The third round of negotiations began on 20 November (Reuters, 20/11/2014).

### Security Context

The situation in Kidal and Gao remains tense since Tuareg and Arab insurgents took Kidal and the smaller settlement of Menaka in May. Clashes were reported between pro-government militia GATIA and a coalition of MNLA and CPA 16 October in Intillit, Gao region (ECHO, 19/10/2014).

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (Mujao), which split from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in 2011, and Ansar Dine, are among the main Islamist groups active in northern Mali, carrying out attacks on pro-government and international forces.

### International Presence

The stability of the Sahel region relies on the presence of foreign troops. Malian and French forces, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and the EU military training mission (EUTM) are all present, mainly in Bamako (53% of forces) and in northern cities such as Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Menaka (28%) (OCHA, 31/05/2014). MINUSMA's mandate expires on 30 June 2015. MINUSMA is to set up a military headquarters in Kidal, while French forces have increased their presence in northeast Mali near Tessalit and Angueldoc, and set up a military base in



Madama, at the Nigeria border, since late October (AFP, 23/10/2014).

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

### Security Incidents

There has been a series of attacks on MINUSMA vehicles, camps, and peacekeepers in northern Mali since mid-August (AFP, 21/09/2014). Landmines and IEDs are a particular threat. **33 peacekeepers have died since the start of the UN mission in July 2013 (UNSC, 06/01/2015).**

**On 5 January, an attack on a Malian army base in Nampala, close to the Mauritanian border in Ségou region, killed at least eight people. The assault was claimed by Al Qaeda-linked militants (AFP, 05/01/2015). On 4 January, six UN peacekeeping troops were injured in a blast east of Gao; a Malian Islamist close to MUJAO claimed responsibility. On the same day, four UN trucks were set alight by militants north of Gao (AFP, 04/01/2015). On 1 January, Anderaboucane, Gao region, was ambushed by insurgents. The mayor and his son both died (Reuters, 03/01/2015).**

**On 29 December, Islamist militants attacked a mixed military camp of MINUSMA and Malian and French forces in the north of Kidal region. No casualties were reported (AFP, 29/12/2015).**

**The same day, clashes between rival Tuareg groups killed between one and five people in the village of Bamba, Gao region (AFP, 29/12/2014).**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Access

The limited deployment of security forces and poor road conditions during the rainy season is restricting access to populations in need (EU, 12/09/2014; OCHA, 23/09/2014).

Several humanitarian organisations suspended their activities in the Intillit area following violent clashes on 16 October, and six INGOs preventively evacuated part of their staff from the Timbuktu region fearing the spread of the conflict (ECHO, 19/10/2014; OCHA, 24/10/2014). Certain areas requiring assistance in Mopti region, such as Tenenkou and Youwarou villages, remain inaccessible due to insecurity and poor infrastructure (WFP, 01/10/2014).

Security incidents involving NGOs have almost tripled in the past few months. Since January 2014, 20 violent incidents involving humanitarian personnel have been recorded (Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale, 10/10/2014).

Improvised explosive devices, looting, and rockets continue to threaten civilians and hamper access to vulnerable populations (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

Due to lack of funding, the UN Humanitarian Air Service has reduced its fleet in Mali from

two planes to one, seven destinations are still served, but at a reduced frequency (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

### Displacement

#### IDPs

As of 4 December, about 86,000 people are internally displaced as a consequence of the 2012 conflict, which is a decrease from 101,300 recorded in August (OCHA, 04/12/2014). 13,200 IDPs are in northern Mali, including 12,000 in Kidal (IOM, 16/10/2014). As of 31 August, more than 35,200 IDPs were in Bamako and 15,000 in Koulikoro. The overall number of IDPs is 340,000 (EU, 12/09/2014).

Clashes in Intillit, Gao region, on 16 October displaced more than 5,000 people, a quarter of the population, to neighbouring areas and Burkina Faso (OCHA, 24/10/2014). 710 newly displaced from Kidal were recorded in Gao in October (IOM, 16/10/2014).

In September, around 9,700 IDPs were considered vulnerable (IOM, 10/09/2014). 55% of IDPs in the south are children (IOM, 08/2014).

#### Refugees in Mali

As of 31 July, Mali hosts over 14,525 refugees from countries including Mauritania (12,900) and Côte d'Ivoire (1,110) (OCHA, 16/09/2014).

#### Returnees

361,000 IDP returnees have been identified in Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, and Mopti (IOM, 10/09/2014). 35,800 IDPs went back to their place of origin between June and September (IOM, 10/09/2014). The arrival of returnees in the north has exacerbated needs (OCHA, 10/09/2014). The majority of people displaced within Gao since 2012 have returned, although fighting in October has led to new IDPs (IOM, 16/10/2014).

So far in 2014, more than 31,000 Malian refugees have returned: more than 10,000 from Burkina Faso; about 12,000 from Niger; around 7,300 from Mauritania; and 2,200 from Algeria (UNHCR, 14/08/2014).

#### Malian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 November, an estimated 143,500 Malians refugees are recorded in neighbouring countries (OCHA, 04/12/2014). As of 9 September, 54,000 Malians were recorded in Mauritania, 50,000 in Niger, 32,000 in Burkina Faso, and 1,500 in Algeria (OCHA, 10/09/2014; UNHCR, 30/11/2014).

### Food Security

As of October, 263,000 people are in IPC Phase 3, Crisis food insecurity. More than 1.6 million people are in IPC Phase 2 according to the Cadre Harmonisé, an improvement compared to last year (FEWSNET, 09/11/2014). Mopti and Timbuktu regions are particularly vulnerable as they experienced rain deficits from May to October (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014).

The harvest will improve food security conditions from October to March. Nonetheless, there are pockets of deficit in some regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, and Kayes, where under-average harvests and livestock products are expected (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014; Food Security Cluster, 27/10/2014). Provisional early end of stock is expected in Gao, Bourem, Goundam, Niafunké, and in some areas north of Koulikoro, Kayes, and Douentza area. Poor households from agro-pastoral areas are likely to remain in IPC Phase 1 (FEWSNET, 25/10/2014). In north riverine areas, vulnerable households are likely to reach Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) as of April 2015 (FEWSNET, 16/11/2014).

#### Agricultural Outlook

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

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

#### Livelihoods

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

#### Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview

24.7 million people in the Sahel are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when food consumption was inadequate for 11.3 million people (OCHA, 03/02/2014). As of 29 October, some 6.5 million people have crossed the emergency threshold from being moderately food insecure to facing an acute food and livelihood crisis; this an increase of four million people since January due in large part to ongoing conflict and instability in CAR, northern Mali and northeast Nigeria (IRIN, 29/10/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

2.1 million people are considered to be in need of healthcare (OCHA, 17/11/2014).

#### Ebola

Eight cases of Ebola, six deaths and two cured patients, have been reported as of 11 December (Government, 11/12/2014). Arrivals from Guinea at the Kourémalé border are being filtered through one entry point, with reinforced health controls, and a new quarantine centre was to be installed (AFP, 17/11/2014). The United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) is establishing an office in Mali (international media, 23/11/2014).

#### Nutrition

As of 30 September, 136,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition, and 360,000 suffer from moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 07/10/2014). According to a nutritional survey, GAM rates are particularly concerning in Yelimane, Kayes, and relatively high in most of the country, apart from Sikasso and some areas of Mopti and Kayes (OCHA, 27/08/2014).

#### WASH

Two million people are considered to be in need of WASH (OCHA, 17/11/2014), including one million people who do not have access to drinking water in their community in Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal, and Mopti as a consequence of conflict (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

#### Shelter and NFIs

567,000 people are in need of NFIs in the conflict-affected areas of Timbuktu, Kidal, Gao, Mopti, and Segou (OCHA, 10/09/2014).

#### Education

Education access is disrupted for 639,500 children, and 11,600 teachers need support in terms of material (OCHA, 17/11/2014). Preliminary data for the 2014–2015 school year in the north indicate a decrease in the number of functioning schools compared to the 2013–2014 school year. The situation is particularly worrying in Menaka and Wabaria areas, Gao region, where only half the schools are open. In Kidal, only three schools are open. The main cause is the lack of teachers, who have fled insecurity (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

#### Protection

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

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

Allegedly carrying out forced recruitment, suspected Islamist fighters kidnapped ten children and killed two who tried to escape on 22 November, near Aguelhoc and Kidal (Reuters, 22/11/2014).

*Updated: 07/01/2015*

## MAURITANIA FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week 07/01/2015. Last update: 18/11/2014

## KEY CONCERNS

- 384,000 people estimated to needing humanitarian assistance in 2014 (OCHA, 08/2014).
- 800,000 people are estimated to be food insecure, of whom 190,000 are severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014).
- 31,000 SAM cases up to March 2014 mean that acute malnutrition level has already surpassed the estimated caseload for the year (UNICEF, 03/2014).
- Security challenges continue to be a problem in Mbera refugee camp on the border with Mali. Mauritania is the largest recipient of refugees fleeing the conflict in Mali (UNHCR, 06/2014 and OCHA, 04/2014).

## Political Context

### National Political Context

On 21 June, President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz was elected for another five-year term. Most opposition parties boycotted the poll, citing a lack of electoral reform.

The first legislative elections since 2006 were held in 2013, and the country's ruling Union for the Republic and its allies won 76 of 147 seats. The National Electoral Commission announced a record turnout of 75% of 1.2 million registered voters. However, the vote was boycotted by most opposition parties. The credibility of the Government continues to be questioned by much of the northern population, who claim they are being marginalised concerning the provision of basic services.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Displacement

#### Malian Refugees

Mauritania hosts almost 55,000 Malian refugees as of 1 September (OCHA, 08/09/2014). Almost all refugees live in Mbera camp, a remote desert location on the border that has significant security challenges, and where food insecurity and malnutrition are high. According to UNICEF, 60% of camp residents are women and children, and many have been in the camp for two years, resulting in overlapping emergency and medium-term needs.

Security problems and the inaccessibility of areas of northern Mali make it difficult to obtain return figures. A tripartite agreement is being prepared between UNHCR, Mali, and Mauritania to facilitate the safe return of refugees.

### Food Security

Poor households in northwestern areas of the agropastoral zone will continue to have difficulty maintaining regular food access and will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through December (FEWSNET, 09/2014). Access to food is difficult for some due to high prices of

coarse grains such as sorghum and wheat. Sorghum prices in Nouakchott increased by 57% between February and August (FAO, 11/2014).

In February, nearly 800,000 people, a fifth of the total population, were food insecure, including 190,000 severely food insecure (OCHA, 02/2014).

### Agriculture

Delays in replanting have been recorded as a result of delayed and below-average rainfall in some parts of the country (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014).

### Outlook

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

Poor rainfall during the June to October season in south-central Mauritania will result in significantly below-average main and off-season harvests, reduced seasonal labour incomes, and reduced income from livestock sales. Prices of sorghum are also expected to rise above the five-year average due to below-average local production and atypically low trade flows (FEWSNET, 17/11/2014). In February/March 2015, more than 300,000 poor households in affected areas of the Senegal River Valley (near the border between Mauritania and Senegal) and western agro-pastoral zones (southwestern Mauritania) will begin to face food consumption gaps.

### Food Security in the Sahel Region

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

## Health and Nutrition

### Malnutrition

Late March, UNICEF reported that 125,300 children will acutely malnourished in 2014, including 30,740 children with severe acute malnutrition; an increase of almost 30% compared to the 2013 caseload.

Preliminary results of an August survey indicate that the national GAM rate has decreased from 13.1% to 9.8%, with SAM at 1%. Guidimakha region is reported to have GAM of 16%, exceeding the emergency threshold. GAM is over 10% in Gorgol, Assaba, Tagant, Hod El Chargui and Hod El Garbi (UNICEF, 10/2014).

*Reviewed: 07/01/2015*

## NIGER FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**13–22 December:** The Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak in two municipalities of Chétimari and Diffa in the Diffa region. As of 22 December, 228 cases and 13 deaths have been reported, with a case fatality rate of 5.7% (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

## KEY CONCERNS

- 5.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure (OCHA, 09/2014).
- 1.6 million acutely malnourished children, 356,320 of whom are severely malnourished. 13.3% GAM among children 6–59 months (OCHA, 31/07/2014).
- 156,250 people have fled to Niger: 51,250 from Mali (UNHCR, 31/08/2014) and 105,000 from Nigeria (OCHA, 24/09/2014).
- 1,749 cases and 64 deaths have been recorded since January in a cholera epidemic, reportedly linked to the one in neighbouring Nigeria (UNICEF, 11/2014).

## Security Context

Insecurity has been rising in Niger and across the region due to crises in Libya, Mali, and Nigeria. Terrorist threats from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) are all of concern. France announced mid-July that some 3,000 French troops based in Chad will operate counterterrorist operations in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad (Reuters, 18/07/2014).

On 19 November, MUJAO attacked the town of Bani-Bangoe near the Malian border and exchanged fire with Niger's security forces, killing one soldier and injuring two others. They also sabotaged the telephone network (AFP, 20/11/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Disasters: Floods

As of October, Over 68,000 people have been affected and 36 killed by flooding due to heavy seasonal rainfall that started in August. 18,000 are affected in Tillabery, 12,000 in Maradi, 9,000 in Zinder, and 9,400 in Tahoua. More than 8,100 houses and almost 2,817 hectares of crops have been destroyed (OCHA, 13/10/2014).

### Displacement

#### Nigeria Crisis

**119,000 people have arrived in Diffa region from Nigeria since May 2013, 83,850 of whom are children and women displaced from Nigeria (UNICEF, 01/12/2014).** At the

beginning of the insecurity, approximately 70% were Niger returnees and 30% are Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, 09/2014). **But more recently, the majority of arrivals are Nigerian refugees (OCHA, 12/12/2014)**

More than 15,000 new refugees arrived in Diffa region following Boko Haram attacks in Damasack, Nigeria, on 24 November (OCHA, 3/12/2014). They have settled in villages and Diffa town. Most are young men who fled forced recruitment to Boko Haram; unaccompanied children were also reported (OCHA, 28/11/2014). 27,000 people arrived between August and September, in an increase in the arrival rate compared to the first five months of the year (UNHCR and IRC).

The newly displaced are in a critical situation, and have shelter and NFI, food, water, and health and nutrition needs (OCHA, 24/09/2014). **According to the International Rescue Committee, about 20,000 families have settled on islands in Lake Chad, either directly from Nigeria or from their initial refuge in Diffa. Insecurity is limiting assistance to those who have settled on the islands (OCHA, 12/12/2014).** Security has been reinforced in Diffa town, following rumours of possible attacks by Boko Haram (AFP, 28/11/2014).

Refugees who arrived earlier in the year are becoming host families for new arrivals, adding to the burden on families with very limited resources (IFRC, 03/10/2014). Internal displacement within Diffa region is increasing, driven by the search for means of subsistence and pasture: Diffa is vulnerable to both flooding and drought, and has long faced serious gaps in the provision of food staples, healthcare and potable water. The refugees and returnees add 10% to the region's population (UNHCR, 09/2014; IFRC, 08/08/2014; OCHA, 26/07/2014).

The Government has reportedly been slow in giving newly arrived Nigerians refugee status, despite a December decree granting refugee status to people fleeing the states under a state of emergency in Nigeria. As of September, only 18% of newly arrived people had identity documents (UNHCR, 09/2014).

#### Mali Crisis

51,250 Malian refugees are in Niger; 3,400 crossed into Niger between May and July (UNHCR, 31/08/2014; INGO, 13/08/2014). As of March, 80% of refugees were women and children. Most live in three camps in Tillabery region: Abala, Mangaize, and Tabareybarey. Two refugee hosting areas have been established in Intikane and Tazalit, Tahoua, for refugees from nomadic communities.

In May, Mali, Niger, and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement on the voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees, although the situation in northern Mali is not yet favourable for the promotion of massive returns. As of 31 August, over 12,000 Malians have returned to their homes (UNHCR, 31/08/2014).

Returnees from Mali constitute 14% (around 5,700 people) of the 40,800 returnees in Niger (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

#### CAR Crisis: Returnees

Since December 2013, 1,160 Niger nationals have been repatriated from CAR by IOM in coordination with the Government of Niger.

### Food Security

5.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure, compared to 2.9 million in 2013 (OCHA, 31/07/2014 and 30/09/2014).

In Diffa region, almost 161,200 people (one fifth of the surveyed host population) reported suffering from food insecurity (OCHA, 10/08/2014).

#### *Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview*

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

#### *Agriculture and Markets*

The seasonal rainfall deficit is expected to continue in eastern Niger (WFP, 22/10/2014). Disruptions in rainfall have destroyed seedlings in some areas, and farmers face serious challenges accessing seed. In Nguigmi department, Diffa region, not one village was able to sow seeds. Only 41% of villages in Diffa (250 of 606) had sown seeds by the end of July (OCHA, 26/07/2014).

In parts of Tillabery, poor seasonal rainfall since the middle of August, including prolonged dry spells, has led to late-season moisture deficits that have negatively impacted crop development (FEWSNET, 14/10/2014).

In the north, livestock are in poor physical condition due to the lack of pasture, resulting in a drastic drop in market prices for small animals (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

Boko Haram-related market disruptions have restrained trade flows towards Diffa and increased marketing costs (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

#### *Agricultural/Pastoral Outlook*

IDPs and host communities in the Diffa region will continue to face Stressed food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) in January–March 2015 as a result of cereal deficit, deterioration of livelihoods and pressure of existing resources. Households in the departments of Ouallam (Tillabery), Tchintabaraden and Abalak (Tahoua) and Gouré (Zinder) may face cereal deficits and will also be Stressed over this period (FEWSNET, 01/01/2015).

Poor rainfall in Diffa will affect the 2014–2015 agricultural and pastoral campaign, and is expected to cause a serious food deficit in most communities, according to a joint assessment mission conducted in early September (IFRC, 03/10/2014). Poor pastoral resource availability in parts of the northern Sahel will begin to stress pastoral households from June to September 2015. Refugees from northeastern Nigeria in the Diffa region will need continued food assistance (FEWSNET, 11/2014).

### Health and Nutrition

### *Cholera*

On 13 December, The Ministry of Health declared a cholera outbreak in two municipalities of Chétimari and Diffa in the Diffa region. As of 22 December, 228 cases and 13 deaths have been reported, with a case fatality rate of 5.7% (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Cholera had been reported since September 2014 in other parts of Niger. As of 28 November, 1,749 cholera cases had been registered in 2014, including 64 deaths, representing a case fatality rate of 3.7% (OCHA, 11/2014). 641 of these cases and 38 deaths were registered in September, in the regions of Tahoua, Maradi, Diffa, and Zinder (OCHA, 09/2014). By the end of October, the number of cases had dropped to 20 cases per week from a peak of 243 cases per week in early September. In 2013, 567 cases were reported for the same time period (UNICEF, 12/11/2014).

### *Nutrition*

Around 1.6 million children are acutely malnourished in Niger; **356,320 of them are severely malnourished, and 12,710 are in Diffa (OCHA, 22/12/2014)**. GAM among children 6–59 months is at 14.8% nationwide as per the SMART nutrition survey conducted between July and August, and exceeds the 15% emergency threshold in Maradi region (OCHA, 09/2014). In September, GAM was at critical levels in Agadez (14.0%), Tahoua (14.7%), Tillabery (13.4%), and Diffa (13.8%), according to OCHA.

### **WASH**

48% of the population does not have access to safe drinking water (OCHA, 17/07/2014).

According to a joint assessment mission conducted in early September, poor rainfall in Diffa will affect the 2014–2015 agricultural and pastoral campaign, and is expected to cause a serious food deficit in most communities (IFRC, 03/10/2014).

According to a joint assessment mission conducted in early September, poor rainfall in Diffa will affect the 2014–2015 agricultural and pastoral campaign, and is expected to cause a serious food deficit in most communities (IFRC, 03/10/2014).

### **Education**

**In the Diffa region, 35 schools have been closed due to insecurity, and others occupied by new arrivals from Nigeria (OCHA, 12/12/2014).**

*Updated: 07/01/2014*

## **SENEGAL FOOD INSECURITY**

### **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

No significant developments this week, 08/01/2015. Last update, 11/12/2014.

### **KEY CONCERNS**



- Over 2.6 million people are food insecure, including 477,000 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (FAO, 11/12/2014).

- 326,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition, 69,000 from severe acute malnutrition, and 257,000 from moderate acute malnutrition (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

## Political Context

Separatists continue to oppose authorities in the coastal Casamance area. Salif Sadio, leader of the separatist movement, declared a unilateral ceasefire on 30 April, as proof of engagement in an ongoing peace process.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

**At October, 2.6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance. It is expected that 4.13 million will require assistance in 2015 due to climatic conditions, a rise in food prices, and reduced cross-border exchanges (OCHA, 30/11/2014).**

## Disasters

150,000 people were affected by floods in 2014. Around 300,000 are affected every year, causing significant damage to crops and property (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

## Displacement

As of 30 September, there were 14,000 refugees in Senegal, as well as 2,000 IDPs and returnees (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

## Food Security

Over 477,000 people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and above as a result of the lingering effects of previous crises and the impact of the erratic rains in 2014. An additional 2.16 million people are in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) (FAO, 11/12/2014).

Humanitarian assistance is urgently needed to prevent food consumption gaps in 2015 (FEWSNET, 03/12/2014). National production for cereals and cash crops in 2014 is 45% below the five-year average due to irregular rains over May–August (FEWSNET, 30/11/2014). Production of groundnuts is also anticipated to decline significantly, and grazing resources and water points have been depleted in the major pastoral areas (FEWSNET, 13/11/2014). Significantly lower off-season cultivation activity is expected, as it relies on irrigation, as is decreased income from livestock sales (FEWSNET, 03/12/2014).

Poor households, especially in Thiès, Louga, Matam, and northern Tambacounda, will likely be Stressed in March 2015. Approximately 850,000 people across central and northern Senegal will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by May, in the absence of assistance (FEWSNET, 03/12/2014).

Poorly distributed and significantly below-average rainfall led to poor cropping conditions for much of central and northern Senegal.

As a result of the closure of borders and markets due to Ebola containment measures, trade volumes have fallen 50% below last year's levels, leading to a 40% and 50% increase in the prices of palm oil and coffee, respectively, in less than four weeks (WFP, 15/09/2014).

## *Sahel Food Crisis: Regional Overview*

24.7 million people in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, north Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, north Nigeria, and Senegal) are suffering from food insecurity as of 30 September (OCHA, 07/10/2014). Food insecurity in 2014 has risen dramatically compared to 2013, when 11.3 million people had inadequate food (OCHA, 03/02/2014).

## Health and Nutrition

### *Ebola*

Senegal reopened its air and sea borders with Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone on 15 November. The frontiers had been closed since 21 August. Territorial borders with Guinea remain closed (AFP, 15/11/2014).

The Ebola outbreak in Senegal is officially over since 14 October (WHO, 14/10/2014). Porous borders between Senegal and Guinea and trade flows via regular weekly markets constitute a serious risk to the spread of Ebola to the country (Red Cross, 29/09/2014).

### *Hepatitis B*

More than two million people, or 15% of the population, including 350,000 chronic carriers, have hepatitis B, due to untimely vaccination, prohibitive treatment costs, and lack of universal screening to curb transmissions (IRIN, 08/05/2014).

### *Nutrition*

**326,000 children were acutely malnourished in 2014, including 69,000 suffering from SAM, compared to 63,323 SAM and 255,675 MAM cases reported in 2013 (OCHA, 30/11/2014).**

## WASH

**38.7% of rural families and 61.7% of urban households have access to sanitation (OCHA, 30/11/2014).**

*Reviewed: 08/01/2015*

## BURUNDI FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS



**5 January:** 100 armed fighters were killed in Rwesero, north of Bujumbura. Army reports suggested they are planning a major offensive to destabilise the country ahead of the elections (AFP).

**24 December:** Heavy rains in Tuyigi province, in eastern Burundi, destroyed more than 750 houses (Government).

## KEY CONCERNS

- 78,958 people are in IPC Phase 3 and 4 while another 610,000 are food insecure (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

### Political Context

Since the President's re-election in 2010, scores of political killings, intimidation of the opposition, and a crackdown on media freedom have been reported. Most recently, observers stated concerns on restrictions on civil and political rights, following a series of violent acts by the ruling party's increasingly militant youth wing, Imbonerakure. On 12 December, the UN political mission in Burundi closed after 20 years (AFP, 12/12/2014).

### 2015 General Elections: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Deteriorating relations between the parties within the ruling coalition stem mainly from the desire of President Nkurunziza, first elected in 2005, to run for a third term in June 2015 elections. On 9 June, the Government, the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), and all political parties and actors signed the General Principles for the conduct of the 2015 elections (UN, 10/06/2014). **The UN Electoral Observation Mission in Burundi's mandate includes following and reporting on the presidential, parliamentary, and local elections scheduled between May and September 2015 (UN, 03/01/2015).**

### Security Context

**100 armed fighters were killed in the first week of January in Rwesero, north of Bujumbura, after having crossed from East Kivu in DRC. They were reportedly trying to reach Kibira forest, an area used as a base by opposition groups in the past. Army reports have suggested that a major offensive has been planned to destabilise the country ahead of the elections (AFP, 05 and 06/01/2014).**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Disasters

##### Flooding

**On 24 December, heavy rains in Tuyigi province, eastern Burundi, destroyed more than 750 houses (Government, 26/12/2014).**

### Displacement

#### IDPs

As of September, Burundi has 78,940 IDPs (UNHCR, 31/11/2014). They are mostly ethnic Tutsis, located in and around 120 sites across northern and central Burundi. No new displacement has been recorded since 2008 (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre).

#### Refugees

As of September, Burundi is host to 49,800 refugees, mostly from DRC (UNHCR, 31/11/2014). Refugees are mainly located in the border regions of Ngozi (north, alongside Rwanda), Ruyigi, Muyinga, and Cankuzo (east, alongside Tanzania) and Bubanza (west, alongside DRC).

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

#### Returnees

By end September, 850 Burundian refugees in the DRC had returned to their homeland in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

43,000 Burundians living in Tanzania have been forcibly repatriated. 65% are women and children. Many returnees have chosen to return to their province of origin without being registered, due to a lack of reception facilities at entry points (IOM, 01/2014).

The high number of IDPs and refugees returning to their places of origin is aggravating tensions over land ownership, as returnees claim land where other families, often of a different ethnic background, have since settled.

#### Burundian Refugees in Neighbouring countries

As of 1 September, 13,400 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers were residing in Uganda, corresponding to 3% of the total refugee population in Uganda. Most Burundian refugees are located in Nakivale and Oruchinga (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

As of 30 September, 9,233 Burundian refugees were residing in the DRC (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

As of 31 July, 6,101 Burundian refugees were residing in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/07/2014), most of the located in Kakuma Camp.

### Food Security

As of August, 78,958 people were in IPC Phase 3 and 4 (OCHA, 05/08/2014), while another 610,000 are food insecure (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

### WASH

Nearly 4.3 million people in Burundi (43% of the population) do not have access to improved sanitation facilities (Belgian Technical Cooperation, 10/10/2014).

*Updated: 08/01/2014*

## NAMIBIA FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 08/01/2015. Last update, 17/12/2014.

### KEY CONCERNS

- More than 110,000 people are in need of food assistance and over half a million people are at risk of food insecurity from June to December 2014 (Food and Nutrition Security working group, 22/07/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Disaster: floods**

**Food Security**

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

The northern regions have been worst affected by the 2013 drought, with the largest number of food insecure in Kavango and Ohangwena. Households have employed negative coping strategies, including reducing the numbers of meals and increasing consumption of wild foods.

*Agriculture and Markets*

Heavy rains received in some parts of Omusati Region mid-December and potential flooding in Kabbe in Zambezi region have raised fears among farmers that they might lead to a negative yield in the next harvest (Local media, 17/12/2014).

National cereal production was 136,680 metric tons over the 2013-2014 season, a significant increase from the 2012-2013 season's harvest but still below the five-year average (OCHA, 26/09/2014). Crop harvests as of 22 September were 20–50% lower than in the same period in 2013 due to localised dry spells, and agricultural employment opportunities had been reduced by 40–65%. Agricultural assistance is needed for the areas most affected by the 2013 drought (OCHA, 22/09/2014).

*Reviewed: 08/01/2015*

## UGANDA DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments this week, 09/01/2015. Last update: 16/12/2014.

### KEY CONCERNS

- 133,296 South Sudanese refugees have fled to Uganda since December 2013. 150,000 are expected by the end of 2014 (UNHCR, 24/11/2014).

- Cholera is endemic in the region, with an ongoing outbreak in Arua and Moyo districts (25/08/2014).

- 19.9% GAM among South Sudanese refugees. GAM is above 10% in Karamoja (OCHA, 05/08/2014; WFP, 06/2014).

- The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an Islamist group fighting the Ugandan government and based in the DRC–Uganda border region, has been accused of recruiting child soldiers, sexually abusing women and children, and carrying out attacks on peacekeepers.

### Security Context

Uganda had been warned of possible revenge attacks against US targets in response to the 2 September US air strike that killed Al Shabaab's leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane. On 13 September, the Ugandan police foiled an alleged Al Shabaab attack in Kampala, seizing large amounts of explosives and suicide vests (BBC News, 14/09/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

**Access**

Access was seriously disrupted between Adjumani refugee camp and Elegu border point, following flash floods that submerged sections of the road (UNHCR, 03/12/2014).

**Displacement**

**IDPs**

As of December, Uganda has 30,130 IDPs (OCHA, 30/11/2014).

Clashes between Ugandan and South Sudanese communities in mid-September had displaced 200 people from Moyo district to Adjumani town by mid-October. Some had taken refuge in schools (ACT, 13/10/2014).

**Refugees in Uganda**

As of 1 November, there were 405,300 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda, mainly from DRC (45%), South Sudan (38%), Somalia (6%), Rwanda (4%) and Burundi (3%) and others (4%) (UNHCR, 30/11/2014).

As of 12 December, 133,296 South Sudanese refugees had fled to Uganda since December 2013 (UNHCR, 03/12/2014). They are hosted in refugee settlements in Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kampala and Arua districts (UNHCR, 24/11/2014). 150,000 refugees are expected to arrive by the end of 2014 (WFP, 01/10/2014). The number of refugees entering the country has been steadily increasing since mid-November (UNHCR, 5/12/2014). By mid-December, all three settlements had seen a dramatic increase of number of new arrivals, mostly Madis, reportedly due to increased tensions and tribal clashes in the Equatoria region, as well as the beginning of the dry season (UNHCR, WFP, 12/12/2014).

Women and children account for 87% of arriving refugees; half are children under 12 years (FAO, 11/11/2014). Nearly 365 unaccompanied minors have been reported. At 1 December, 93,050 South Sudanese refugees were in Adjumani (UNHCR, 09/1/2014), the majority in Nyumanzi and Ayilo settlements (ACT, 13/10/2014). 3,750 people with special needs are in 176 adapted shelters (IOM, 26/10/2014).

The Ugandan Government has secured additional land in Moyo district in order to settle newly arrived refugees (UNICEF, 20/08/2014). Arua, Adjumani, and Kiryandongo are stretched far beyond capacity, and there is an urgent need to improve shelter, WASH, health, food, and psychological support (Red Cross, 17/09/2014). Hygiene practices and behaviours are lacking due to limited awareness among refugees (Red Cross, 30/09/2014). The onset of the rainy season in May brought new challenges, as heavy rains damaged shelter and WASH facilities in camps (ACT, 13/10/2014).

#### Ugandan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

**At 31 July, there were 1,263 Ugandan refugees in Kenya (UNHCR, 31/07/2014). At 30 June, there were 1,211 Ugandan refugees in DRC (UNHCR, 30/06/2014).**

#### Food Security

In Karamoja about 700,000 people remain at Stressed (IPC Phase 2) level of food insecurity (**FEWSNET, 31/12/2014**). Localised areas in Karamoja remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity, including Kaabong and Moroto (FEWSNET, 29/11/2014). Households in eastern Karamoja are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from April 2015 (FEWSNET, 27/10/2014).

Northern and central districts, including Amudat, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido, Napak, Abim and Kaabong are also of concern (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014). 20% of households in the region are only marginally able to meet minimum food needs, with continued erosion of livelihoods through sales of livestock (FEWSNET, 31/07/2014).

#### Agricultural Outlook

For the second year in a row, a well below-average harvest will lead to an early lean

season in eastern Karamoja (FEWSNET, 27/10/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

Health centres in Arua, Adjumani, and Kyriandongo require additional staff, space, and supplies to respond to refugee needs (UNICEF, 20/08/2014).

#### Cholera

Cholera outbreaks have been identified in the northwestern districts of Arua and Moyo (UNICEF, 20/08/2014).

#### Nutrition

Blanket feeding programmes are required to address increased GAM among South Sudanese refugees in West Nile (WFP, 01/10/2014). GAM among South Sudanese refugees in Uganda had reached 19.9% as of August (OCHA, 05/08/2014).

Malnutrition remains the main challenge in Arua, where it is most pronounced among the host population (UNHCR, 12/12/2014).

#### WASH

In Kiryandongo refugee camp, self-relocation by refugees is causing delay in completing construction of latrines (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

There are concerns over lack of water supply in Alere, Boroli and Olua I and II refugee settlements in Adjumani district, where the average supply is 9.7 litres of water per person per day, far below the minimum standard of 15 (ACT, 13/10/2014).

In Amudat district, safe water access, latrine access, and sanitation issues are a serious concern (WFP, UNICEF, 06/2014).

#### Protection

**Four Muslim clerics were kidnapped in Kampala on 8 January (BBC, 08/01/2015).**

47 SGBV incidents have been reported in Kyriandongo in 2014 (UNHCR, 12/12/2014).

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

*Updated: 09/01/2015*

## ERITREA FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 09/01/2014. Last update: 24/11/2014.

**No accurate or verified data relating to the food security situation or food price levels in Eritrea is available, therefore Eritrea is not included in the Global Overview prioritisation.**

## KEY CONCERNS

- Torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea (UN, HRW).
- Ongoing human rights abuses prompt thousands of Eritreans to flee the country every year. In December 2013, Ethiopia was hosting an estimated 84,200 Eritrean refugees (UNHCR).
- Over 60% of the Eritrean population was reported as being undernourished between 2011 and 2013 (WFP).

## Political Context

Human rights abuses, including torture, arbitrary detention, and severe restrictions on freedom of expression, association, and religion are common in Eritrea (UN Special Rapporteur, Human Rights Watch). Conscription to national service can last indefinitely, and is reportedly poorly paid. Harassment of citizens by authorities, on the grounds of their plotting to leave Eritrea, is reportedly widespread (UN Human Rights Council, 31/03/2014). In September, the UN Human Rights Council set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights abuses in Eritrea (Human Rights Watch, 24/09/2014). President Isaias Afewerki, who has ruled for over 20 years, uses the pretext of previous border conflicts with Ethiopia to justify tight control over its people (New York Times, 03/10/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Access

There is a lack of updated and reliable data on the humanitarian situation due to limited humanitarian access. As reported in ECHO's Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) of October 2013, providing direct humanitarian assistance remains a challenge due to limited access, and absence of assessments and humanitarian space.

In November-December 2013, several projects in partnership with the UN and the Government commenced; the Government had previously ordered the end of all operations by non-state development partners by the end of 2012 (IFRC, 30/05/2014). On 24 April, according to media sources, the UAE Red Cross had access to a million children across six provinces to distribute clothing.

### Displacement

## Refugees

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

### Eritrean Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

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

**Ethiopia:** As of mid-November, Ethiopia is hosting an estimated 99,000 Eritrean refugees, who are mainly settled in four camps in the northern Tigray and Afar region (OCHA). Recent arrival rates have spiked. 5,000 Eritreans entered in October, and by 24 November another 2,173 had arrived (OCHA, 24/11/2014). 3,043 refugees crossed into Ethiopia in 2013, more than in 2012.

About 90% of those who arrived in October were between 18 and 24 years old, and cited intensified mandatory recruitment into military service as their reason for flight (local news, 15/11/2014). The high proportion of unaccompanied minors who cross from Eritrea to Ethiopia is a priority problem (UNHCR).

**Sudan:** Eastern Sudan received an average of 500 Eritrean refugees per month in 2013, down from 2,000 a month in 2012. Sudan reportedly hosts at least 114,500 Eritrean refugees.

**Djibouti:** Djibouti receives an estimated 110 Eritreans each month (UNHCR). On 30 June, 74 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers were sent back from Sudan, after being convicted of illegally entering Sudan (UNHCR, 04/07/2014).

**Yemen:** Hundreds of Eritrean refugees are currently in Yemen. Reports indicate hundreds of Eritrean refugees are scattered across the streets of Al Safeyah in Sana'a, without proper shelter or livelihood. Refugees have informed UNHCR that most are imprisoned upon arrival in Yemen, who state security concerns (Yemen Times, 19/08/2014). Several NGOs have called on the Yemeni authorities to stop deporting Eritrean political refugees (UNHCR).

**Kenya:** As of 1 December, there are 1,586 Eritrean refugees in Kenya, most are located in Nairobi (UNHCR, 01/12/2014).

### Food Security

As indicated in ECHO's October HIP, as a result of access restrictions imposed by the authorities, very little data on food security in Eritrea is available.; satellite-based monitoring shows above-average vegetation conditions in Debub, Maekel, Gash Barka, and Anseba zobas thanks to good *kiremti* rains (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014). Harvesting is expected to start in the beginning of November (GIEWS, 28/10/2014). The Red Sea coastal area, however, has seen low precipitation and moisture deficits, indicating

significant deterioration of grazing resources (FEWSNET, 02/09/2014).

It is estimated that Eritrea produces only 60% of the food it needs, and markets do not seem to be functioning properly. These two factors suggest that a significant part of the population may be in need of food assistance. In addition, local food and fuel prices are likely to remain high, putting severe pressure on household coping mechanisms. The Government officially denies any food shortages within its borders and refuses food aid.

#### Health and Nutrition

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

#### Malaria

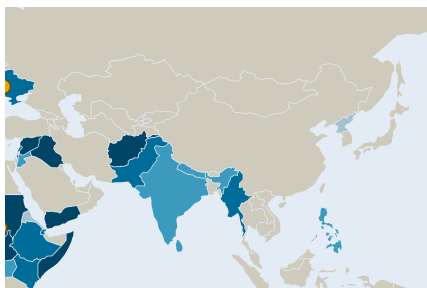
According to a government report, malaria infections have visibly declined thanks to higher community awareness and regard for environmental hygiene (Government of Eritrea, 24/09/2014). No figures are available to confirm this information.

#### Protection

On 13 May, the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea was released. It focuses on the indefinite national service and arbitrary arrest and detention, including incommunicado detention and inhumane prison conditions. Rampant human rights violations cause hundreds of thousands to leave the country (UN Human Rights Council).

Between 5,000 and 10,000 political prisoners are being held in a country of just over six million people. The UN human rights chief has accused the government of torture and summary executions (UN Human Rights Council, 05/02/2014).

*Reviewed: 16/12/2014*



# ASIA

## AFGHANISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, LANDSLIDES, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 12/01/2015. Last update: 05/01/2015.

### KEY CONCERNS

- 9,617 civilians killed or injured over January-November (UNAMA, 19/12/2014). At 15 November, 19,469 security incidents, a 10.3% increase compared to the same period in 2013 (UN, 09/12/2014).
- 7.4 million in need of humanitarian aid at end November. Badghis, Helmand, Kunar, Nangarhar and Wardak most need assistance (OCHA, 25/11/2014).
- Nearly 283,590 Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika provinces need food, WASH, shelter, winterisation preparation and NFIs (UNHCR, 03/12/2014).
- 16,266 returnees in 2014 and 782,162 IDPs including 131,367 people displaced by conflict in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/11/2014).
- 7 million people are severely food insecure (IPC, 01/11/2014), while 5.4 million need access to health services and 1.7 million need protection.
- 853,000 children under five suffer from SAM, and eight provinces show GAM rates above 15%, breaching the emergency threshold (OCHA, 31/07/2014; 28/10/2014).

### OVERVIEW

Natural disasters and armed conflicts in Afghanistan have caused humanitarian crisis. Assistance needs include food, healthcare, and protection.

The Afghan Government faces both internal and external challenges to its capacity and legitimacy, and the outcome of the 2014 presidential election will have implications for the country's internal cohesion. The security environment is highly volatile and expected to deteriorate as international troops gradually withdraw from the country.

### Political Context

On 29 September, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah were sworn in as Afghanistan's new President and Prime Minister, respectively (Reuters, 29/09/2014). The pair were rival presidential candidates in disputed elections (AFP, 26/09/2014).

### Peace Talks with the Taliban

Although various official and informal sources have evoked renewed preliminary contacts between Kabul and the Taliban, no substantial talks have yet been launched. Peace talks with the Afghan Taliban have been stalled since mid-2013.



## Security Context

Harassment and intimidation by anti-government forces, inter-tribal disputes, cross-border shelling in Kunar province, and clashes between state and anti-government forces in Farhah, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Badghis, Maidan Wardak, Parwan, Kunduz, Logar, Helmand and Kapisa provinces were major causes of insecurity and displacement in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Conflict was ongoing in Kandahar, Helmand, and Farhah provinces end November (UNHCR, 30/11/2014).

9,617 civilians were killed or injured by conflict between January and November 2014; 3,188 were killed, the highest annual toll since 2009. Children civilian casualties increased 33% compared to 2013, with casualties among women up 12% (UNAMA, 19/12/2014).

### International Military Presence

NATO formally ended its combat mission in Afghanistan on 31 December, moving to the Resolute Support mission made up of 9,800 US troops and 3,000 soldiers from other member states. The mission will focus on supporting Afghan forces' fight against the Taliban, along with US counter-terrorism operations. The move will test the readiness of 350,000 Afghan forces to deal with intensified Taliban attacks (Reuters, 01/01/2015).

### Taliban

The Taliban claimed victory against NATO as it ended its combat mission, and said they would continue their fight against remaining foreign forces in the country (Al Arabiya, 29/12/2014). Remote parts of southern and south eastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan, remain under Taliban control. Taliban numbers have increased by 15% since the beginning of 2013, as the group intensified attacks in the wake of NATO troop withdrawal in 2014.

### Conflict Developments and Incidents

**Helmand:** A shelling in Sangin on 1 January killed 25 civilians and injured a further 45 (UN, 01/01/2015). A Taliban attack on 17 December killed six people, including three policemen, and injured seven (AFP, 17/12/2014).

**Kabul:** A suicide attack targeting an EU police vehicle killed at least one passer-by on 5 January (AFP, 05/01/2015). The capital had been hit by at least 12 suicide attacks over 1 November – 13 December 2014, mainly targeting foreigners (AFP, 13/12/2014). A Taliban suicide blast killed seven soldiers on 13 December and injured 18 (AFP, 13/12/2014), while two Taliban suicide attacks targeting a bus carrying Afghan troops and a French cultural centre on 11 December killed at least seven people and wounded another seven (AFP, 11/12/2014).

**Other incidents:** Gunmen killed a police officer and two civilians, and wounded seven others in Nangarhar on 31 December, while a police officer opened fire on fellow officers in Uruzgan province on 30 December, killing three and wounding five (Radio Liberty, 31/12/2014). A NATO air strike killed five civilians and wounded six others in Logar province on 26 December (AFP, 26/12/2014). On 21 December, a bombing in Kunar on killed seven and injured three, while a Taliban attack in Jawzjan province killed seven

policemen and wounded another dozen (AFP, 21/12/2014).

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

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

At end November, 7.4 million of people in Afghanistan need humanitarian aid. Badghis, Helmand, Kunar, Nangarhar and Wardak most need assistance (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

### Access

Lack of access to verify displacement and respond to immediate needs of IDPs is a significant challenge (UNHCR, 30/11/2014).

Movement restrictions are increasingly being applied to aid workers. Access continues to present challenges to humanitarian actors in Helmand and the eastern region, particularly in Kunar and Nangarhar (OCHA, 31/10/2014). International military withdrawal raises concerns over reduced funding affecting the sustainability of services available to the population (Handicap International, 04/12/2014).

### Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

A Taliban attack killed 12 mine clearance workers from the Sterling Demining Afghanistan (SDA), an international demining company and implementing partner of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, in Helmand on 13 December (AFP, 13/12/2014).

Eight aid workers were killed and 12 abducted in 23 incidents involving aid workers in November, compared to four killed and 13 abducted in October (OCHA, 30/11/2014). By 15 August, there had been 117 cases of violence against aid personnel, assets, and facilities in 2014, resulting in 37 deaths and 35 injuries, 114 abductions and attempted abductions and the arrest and detention of five personnel (UN, 09/09/2014).

### Disasters

Around 116,400 people were affected by natural hazards between January and October, mainly by floods and heavy rainfall in northern and central Afghanistan. 450 died and 213 sustained injuries (IOM, 01/12/2014).

### Displacement

#### IDPs

At end November, there were nearly 782,162 profiled IDPs in Afghanistan, mainly in southern, western, and eastern areas, including 131,367 people displaced by conflict in 2014 (UNHCR, 30/11/2014). **IDPs are particularly impacted by the severe winter temperatures (UN, 07/01/2015).**

3,363 IDPs were displaced in Ghazni in November, 2,643 in Maidan Wardak, 2,167 in Ghor and 1,959 in Helmand, an increase on September numbers, except for Helmand; priority



needs are for food, NFIs, shelter and cash grants (UNHCR, 30/11/2014).

About 73,000 IDPs were living in urban areas in Kabul, Hirat, Mazar-e-Sharif and in settlements outside Hirat early November (OCHA, 06/11/2014). Priority needs are for food and NFIs, shelter, cash, and livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 30/09/2014). Displaced households living in IDP camps have started leaving the camps where shelters are inadequate for the coming winter (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014). Most IDPs in conflict-affected areas are with host families, in rented accommodation or in emergency shelters.

**Flood-related displacement:** As of October, 3,805 houses remain completely destroyed in the north by floods earlier in the year (OCHA, 15/10/2014). Most people displaced in Badakhshan and Takhar provinces are still living in camps with insufficient WASH facilities, requiring emergency shelter, NFIs, basic health services, and psychosocial support. The situation is constrained by poor access and security issues (Red Cross, 09/10/2014).

#### Refugees in Afghanistan

**At 8 January, nearly 283,590 refugees (39,494 families) from Pakistan had arrived in Afghanistan's Khost and Paktika provinces since mid-June (UNHCR, 08/01/2015). 281,178 were in need of assistance at 31 December (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).**

**Gulan camp in Khost hosts around 6,235 families**, but more than 80% of refugees live in host communities, which are often remote and difficult to access, and stretched beyond capacity (UNHCR, 08/01/2015; 03/12/2014). Gurboz and Bermei districts have the highest number of refugees, with 9,000 and 7,650 families respectively (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

Health, WASH, food, shelter, and mine clearance are priorities; additional needs include winterisation, education, and livelihood support (UNHCR, 02/10/2014). Host communities' resilience is expected to decrease over winter months as resources are exhausted and available shelter is limited (UNHCR, 23/10/2014).

Pakistani refugees are not expected to return to their country before March or April, due to infrastructure destruction, winter, and reduced livelihood opportunities (UNHCR, 29/10/2014).

An additional 600,000 Baloch refugees who fled insurgency activities in Pakistan since 1986 are living in precarious conditions in Afghanistan, notably in Nimroz (AAN, 31/12/2014).

**Kabul:** As of 11 December, 40,629 people were in 52 informal settlements in the capital (OCHA, 17/12/2014). The most populated are Charahi Qamber (7,436 individuals), Chamani Babrak (3,429) and Puli Campany (3,652) (OCHA, 17/12/2014).

#### Returnees

At 30 September, 16,266 Afghan refugees had voluntarily repatriated in 2014, a 57% decrease on 2013, partly due to the extension of Proof of Registration cards in Pakistan until 31 December 2015 and security concerns in Afghanistan. 32% returned to northern and northeastern regions, 27.6% to central regions and 13.5% to eastern regions (UNHCR,

30/11/2014). Returnees are in need of income-generating activities, vocational training, and technical education (IMC, 31/08/2014).

#### Afghan Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

As of 30 September, there were 2.5 million Afghan refugees in neighbouring countries (USAID, 01/10/2014).

#### Food Security

About 7 million people (23.4% of the population) are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or higher). In northeastern Afghanistan, 6.3% of the population is in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (221,278 individuals) and 17.9% in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (195,089). In Badakhshan, 31.8% of the population is in Emergency (154,680) and 23.6% in Crisis (114,977). 15 provinces are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), mainly in northern and central parts of the country, and 17 are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (IPC, 01/11/2014).

IDPs inaccessible to humanitarian agencies, particularly in insecure districts in Helmand, are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security, having lost much of their access to income and not receiving assistance (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014). **Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika provinces, as well as hosting families, are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) until March, but only thanks to continued humanitarian assistance (FEWSNET, 31/12/2014).**

**Households in Badghis province will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2) through March 2015 at least, due to a below-average 2014 harvest. Those who have been unable to stock adequate food for the winter and lean season may enter Crisis from January to March as the winter reduces market access (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).**

Due to a funding shortfall, WFP has been able to pre-position only 60% of food assistance for an estimated 830,000 people ahead of winter (OCHA, 30/10/2014). 54 districts in central Afghanistan will be impossible to access in winter, affecting around 750,000 conflict-displaced WFP beneficiaries (OCHA, 15/10/2014).

#### Agriculture and Markets

Wheat grain and flour prices in Afghanistan have increased 17% on average due to decreased flow of imported food commodities during the prolonged presidential election dispute (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014). Conflict in Helmand in 2014 hampered farmers' ability to harvest their crops (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

#### Livelihoods

Political uncertainty led to decreased investment in many sectors including construction and trade, which are key employers of casual labour. Faryab province saw the largest decline in casual labour wages: rates were 43% lower in September than in 2013 and the five-year average. They were 23% and 14% lower than 2013 in Badakhshan and Balkh provinces, respectively (FEWSNET, 01/11/2014).

Decreased prices for some cash crops compared to last year is limiting incomes

(FEWSNET, 01/12/2014). Opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has risen by 7%, from 209,000 hectares in 2013 to 224,000 hectares in 2014 (UN, 12/11/2014).

### Health and Nutrition

Pneumonia and acute respiratory infections are major concerns during the winter season as many provinces and districts face extremely cold weather. Access to health facilities may also be hampered (WHO, 03/11/2014).

The number of people in need of access to health services has increased from 3.3 to 5.4 million (OCHA). Conflict is causing widespread disruption to health services (WHO 24/07/2014).

There is a shortage of trained surgeons, anaesthetists and trauma capacity in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Nearly 80% of maternal and reproductive health needs are unmet (WHO, 10/12/2014).

### Nutrition

Over 853,000 children under five are severely malnourished (OCHA, 28/10/2014). Provinces in need of urgent attention are Uruzgan, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Khost, Paktia, Wardak, Kunar, and Laghman, where GAM rates are breaching WHO's 15% threshold for an emergency (National Nutrition Survey, OCHA 31/07/2014).

Less than 20% of children with SAM and MAM received the treatment they needed in 2014 (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Some 189,000 deaths of under-fives are most likely attributable to malnutrition (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

### Polio

As of 26 November, 21 polio cases had been confirmed in 2014, mostly in conflict-affected areas, compared to nine in 2013 (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 26/11/2014). Extensive cross-border movement is a major challenge. Afghan and Pakistani authorities agreed in July to cooperate in an anti-polio campaign in their border areas (DAWN, UNICEF 12/07/2014).

### WASH

Sanitation, water quality and hygiene remain public health concerns in Khost and Paktika (WHO, 03/11/2014). **Additional latrines are needed in Gulan camp (UNHCR, 08/01/2015).**

In July, around 2.4 million people were in need of WASH services as a result of landslides and flash floods during the first quarter of 2014 (UNICEF, 30/07/2014).

### Shelter and NFIs

Two million people are living higher than 2,000m in Afghanistan, including 244,200 new refugees in Khost and Paktika, 32,000 displaced in Kabul informal settlements and 2,300 recently displaced by conflict, leaving them exposed to winter conditions. 423,300 under-five children and 253,920 people over 55, and 7,000 in need of shelter and 544,000

economically vulnerable living in hard-to-reach areas are also vulnerable (OCHA, 31/10/2014). 29,600 people will be facing winter without adequate shelter (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

### Education

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

### Protection

Protection concerns are growing for Pakistani refugees and Afghan returnees in Khost (UNHCR 23/07/2014). **Women's and children's welfare and access to services, in particular medical services, in Gulan camp, and the establishment of referral pathways for specific gender-based needs are priorities. There are also reports of possible increased domestic violence as a result of camp conditions (UNHCR, 08/01/2015).**

The Afghan national and local police and three armed groups (Taliban, Haqqani Network, and Hezb-e-Islami) have been listed for recruitment and use of children. The Taliban has been listed for attacks on schools and hospitals (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 02/06/2014).

Around 1.7 million people need protection assistance, mainly IDPs and people otherwise affected by conflict. IDPs in protracted displacement need durable solutions (OCHA).

*Updated: 12/01/2015*

## IRAQ CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**5 January:** Four gunmen from the Iraq side of the border attacked a Saudi security patrol, killing three soldiers and wounding a further three (NYT).

**29 December:** A suicide bomber attacked Shi'ite pilgrims north of Baghdad, killing at least 17 people and injuring 35 (AFP).

**19 December:** Al Baghdadi town is experiencing shortages of basic food items as well as medicine due to a de facto siege of the area since October. IDPs are in critical need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA).

**19 December:** Iraqi Kurds claimed to have broken a siege on the Sinjar mountains, where Yazidi civilians and fighters had long been trapped (AFP).

**12 December:** Over one million Iraqis still lack adequate shelter for the winter and basic items such as blankets and kerosene; almost three million lack adequate nutrition to face winter conditions (US Government).

## KEY CONCERNS

- In 2014, approximately 12,282 people were killed and more than 23,100 injured, corresponding to the worst levels of violence since 2006–2007 (UNAMI, 01/01/2015).
- 5.2 million require some form of humanitarian assistance. 2.2 million are estimated beyond the reach of aid agencies (UN, 11/2014). Access is highly constrained in Anbar, Salah al Din, and Ninewa governorates (UNHCR, 10/2014).
- Over 2 million IDPs have been identified at 2,049 sites since January 2014 (IOM, 19/12/2014).
- 231,843 Syrian refugees are registered or awaiting registration in Iraq; 41% are children (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).
- Up to 50% of displaced Iraqis will need medical attention this winter (OCHA, 04/11/2014).

## OVERVIEW

The Islamic State insurgency has compounded an already fragile political and humanitarian situation, leading to a level 3 humanitarian crisis and international military intervention. Iraq now hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world with four massive waves of internal displacement in 2014: Anbar in January, Mosul in June, Sinjar in August and Hit in October. Priority humanitarian needs are food, water, shelter, fuel and access to health care. Human rights violations, particularly in areas controlled by IS are of major concern. There are large information gaps on the situation of affected populations outside of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

## Political Context

### National Political Context

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

### Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Masoud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan have ruled the autonomous Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) through a coalition government since 2005. Barzani's term has recently been extended to 2015, a move denounced as illegal by the opposition. Mid-November, Baghdad and Erbil reached a budget agreement, following a long-standing budget dispute. Once formalized, The agreement results in oil exports from KR-I and Kirkuk, the disbursement of the KR-I government budget from the Iraqi general budget, and the payment of Peshmerga salaries (UN 02/12/2014).

## Security Context

Although hard to verify, particularly in IS-controlled areas, **approximately 12,282 people were killed and more than 23,100 injured in Iraq in 2014, in the worst level of violence since 2006–2007. The highest number of civilian casualties in December was recorded in Baghdad governorate, with over 1,000 injured or killed (UNAMI, 01/01/2015).**

**Four gunmen from inside Iraq attacked a Saudi security patrol near the border on 5 January, killing three soldiers and wounding a further three, in the first such attack since Saudi Arabia joined the international coalition against IS (NYT, 05/01/2015).**

### Conflict Developments

Since the fall of Mosul on 10 June, IS, with support of armed opposition groups including tribal militias and members of the former Government and military, has been in control of large swathes of Iraq's provinces of Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din, and Diyala. The Iraqi army (ISF), Iraqi security (ISF) forces, popular mobilization units (PMUs) and Peshmerga continue to cooperate in fighting IS.

Since the beginning of December, IS has carried out simultaneous attacks on multiple fronts, especially in areas north of Baghdad, in Anbar, and near Samarra, Salah al Din (Institute for the Study of War, 12/12/2014).

**Anbar:** After attacks on Trebil and Al Walid crossings last month, IS shut down communication towers in western Anbar, indicating a possible push towards these crossings again. IS also executed 21 Sunni tribal fighters near the town of Al Baghdadi. IS gained some territory: it seized Al Wafa village, west of Ramadi, killing at least 10 police and causing residents to flee. In Haditha city, two suicide attacks targeted security checkpoints, killing at least 12 people (Al Jazeera 13/12/2014). IS also started an offensive east of Falluja, constituting an expansion threat towards Baghdad.

IS targeted the Shi'ite Arbaeen pilgrimage to Karbala, culminating on 13 December. In the western part of Karbala city, an IS mortar bomb killed one and wounded four people. More Shi'ite sites were attacked in Baghdad and Mugdadiyah, and elsewhere. Although large scale attacks were expected during the yearly event which attracts thousands of pilgrims, increased security measures have successfully averted a high number of casualties.

**Ninewa:** In order to control tribal resistance, IS continues to carry out security operations south of Mosul. **On 19 December, Iraqi Kurds claimed to have broken a siege on the Sinjar mountains (AFP, 19/12/2014).**

**Salah al Din:** Attacks have increased in the Samarra area, which is home to an important religious shrine. The ISF took control of Mutasim, south of Samarra, while an IS attack disrupted the ISF supply route between Samarra and Camp Speicher, where most security forces in the Samarra area are concentrated. IS attempted to reclaim strategic terrain around Baiji.

**Baghdad** has been the scene of near-daily bombings and shootings since the beginning of

November. **A suicide bomber attacked Shi'ite pilgrims north of Baghdad on 29 December, killing at least 17 people and injuring 35 (AFP, 29/12/2014).**

**Kirkuk: The overall security situation around and near Kirkuk city remains volatile, with reports of clashes in Daquq, Hawija and Debis districts (UNHCR, 28/12/2014).**

#### Stakeholders

##### *Islamic State (IS)*

IS, formerly the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, and an outgrowth of Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), has taken over large areas of northern and eastern Syria, as well as parts of northern and central Iraq. In June, IS declared the establishment of a Sunni caliphate, covering the area between Aleppo in northern Syria to Diyala in eastern Iraq. Its chief Abu Bakr al Baghdadi was declared caliph and leader for Muslims worldwide. In September, the CIA estimated that IS has between 20,000 and 31,500 fighters in Iraq and Syria (BBC, 15/09/2014). Since then, the group has suffered significant losses while at the same time attracting an unknown number of additional fighters. Their current capacity is unknown.

##### *KR-I Forces*

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

##### *Government Forces*

Government forces are involved in offences in Baghdad, Ninewa, Diyala, Anbar, and Salah al Din governorates.

##### *International Involvement*

US warplanes began air strikes against IS in August, while 30 additional countries pledged to help Iraq fight against IS militants on 15 September. The US announced plans to deploy an additional 1,500 military personnel to train Iraqi military forces and three Kurdish Peshmerga brigades in November.

The UK also pledged to send more troops to help train local forces (The Guardian 13/12/2014).

A senior Iranian official has confirmed that Iran carried out air strikes in November against Islamic State fighters at the request of Iraqi authorities (The Guardian 04/12/2014).

#### Humanitarian Context and Needs

In September, 5.2 million people were in need of some form of humanitarian assistance, including 1.8 million IDPs, 1.5 million affected host communities and 1.7 million people in areas under control of armed groups. By December, the number of IDPs had risen to over two million.

#### Access

An estimated 2.2 million people in areas under control of IS and affiliated armed groups are beyond the reach of aid agencies and require emergency assistance (UN, 03/12/2014).

**The capture of Zumar and Sinjar, Ninewa governorate, by Kurdish forces in mid-December has allowed the establishment of a humanitarian corridor, especially to reach Yazidi civilians and fighters that had long been trapped on the Sinjar Mountains (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).**

Several international NGOs have suspended activities in IS-controlled areas, but in some cases they continue to provide emergency assistance through local partners. Access to areas that had been controlled by IS and its affiliates is hindered by high levels of insecurity, booby-traps and landmines. Long delays in obtaining official clearances from Iraqi authorities is also affecting response (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

69% of the USD 2.2 billion Response Plan requirements remain unmet (OCHA, 09/12/2014). Immediate funds are required to prevent a break in the food pipeline in January 2015 (OCHA, 11/2014).

Anbar governorate remains largely inaccessible (OCHA, 05/12/2014). Thousands of people are trapped in siege-like conditions in Falluja and Ramadi, and access to Al Qa'im refugee camp remains difficult. The siege on Al Baghdadi, imposed by IS in October, remains in place (Reuters, 06/12/2014).

**Ninewa:** Access to Mosul is impossible for humanitarian actors, while conditions have dramatically deteriorated since IS took control. Government support, in the form of public salaries and the Public Distribution System, under which Iraqi citizens are entitled to a monthly *food* ration, is largely unavailable.

**Kirkuk:** The ability of humanitarian partners to assess and respond to needs remains limited (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

#### Displacement

##### *IDPs*

**At 9 December, 2,086,356 IDPs were identified across 2,049 sites; 56% in private settings, 33% in critical shelter arrangements, and 8% in camps (IOM, 19/12/2014).**

Most IDPs reside in Dahuk (430,000); Anbar (375,000); Erbil (196,000); Kirkuk (183,000); Ninewa (174,000); Baghdad (135,000); Sulaymaniyah (128,000); Diyala (83,000); and Najaf (81,000) governorates (CCCM/ IOM, 09/12/2014). **Over 180,000 IDPs are residing in 24 camps across the country. An additional 12 camps are under construction. The total additional capacity of planned camps is around 390,000, or around 20% of the current number of IDPs (CCCM, 05/01/2015).**

Around 60% of IDPs have left their governorate of origin. However, an increasing number of IDPs are forced to stay within the governorate, due to movement restrictions imposed by neighbouring governorates. (OCHA 11/2014). Kirkuk continues to receive more IDPs

after ongoing clashes in the area, with few humanitarian actors to support (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

The overall number and wide geographical spread of the displaced population pose a major challenge to assistance (IOM, 02/12/2014).

**Around 3,000 people were displaced in Anbar governorate mid-December following fighting on the outskirts of Al Baghdadi, around Hit and Ramadi districts. Al Baghdadi is experiencing shortages of basic food items as well as medicine, and IDPs are in critical need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 19/12/2014).**

#### *IDP Returnees*

Small-scale spontaneous returns have taken place in Zummar and in the Ninewa Plains. There are concerns over individuals returning to areas contaminated by ERW (OCHA, 28/11/2014).

#### *Displacement trends*

**Border crossings:** The Kurdish-controlled Peshkabour-Semalka crossing is mostly closed. While the IS-controlled Al Qa'im and Al Waleed crossings are technically open, insecurity prevents most civilian movement. Rabia crossing was reportedly taken from IS by Peshmerga forces in October, however insecurity prevents cross-border movement (Reuters 23/11/2014).

**Kirkuk:** IDPs in Laylan camp have to pass through a checkpoint to reach Kirkuk city, and are denied re-entry to the camp if they do not have ID cards (OCHA, 28/11/2014; PI, NRC/IRC, 13/11/2014). **Reports continue of IDPs being prevented access to Khanaqin city in Diyala and to Kirkuk (UNHCR, 28/12/2014).**

**KR-I:** Entry restrictions remain in place for IDPs trying to enter KR-I, especially for IDPs of Arab ethnicity, with exception of some medical and extremely vulnerable cases. The 19 November suicide bombing in Erbil led to further restrictions (OCHA, 28/11/2014). The numerous Peshmerga checkpoints at KR-I borders and in disputed neighbouring areas significantly limit freedom of movement.

#### *Refugees in Iraq*

**At 15 December, there were 231,843 Syrian refugees registered in Iraq.** KR-I hosts an estimated 96%. **Another 4,528 registered refugees reside in Anbar governorate,** around 1,500 of whom in Al Qa'im camp; and around 1,500 are elsewhere in Iraq (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).

**In KR-I, around 97,500 refugees are in Dahuk, almost 99,700 in Erbil, and 26,900 in Sulaymaniyah. 52,000 reside in Domiz refugee camp; 9,840 in Kawergosk; over 8,760 in Darashakran; 5,560 in Qushtapa; 5,450 in Arbat; 3,560 in Basirma; 7,475 in Gawilan; and around 1,400 in Akre (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).** All three KR-I governorates have different policies towards Syrian refugees.

41% of refugees in KR-I are under the age of 18. An estimated 50% of newly arrived Syrian

refugees in Gawilan camp are under 18, and 25% of assessed households were headed by single or widowed women (REACH, 10/2014).

**Syrian refugees from Kobani:** Between 10 October and 30 November, almost 22,000 refugees from Kobane, Syria, crossed into Turkey and have since arrived in KR-I. Arrivals per day decreased from around 475 in October to 295 per day in November (UNHCR, 30/11/2014). New arrivals are transported to refugee camps in Erbil.

**Returnees to Syria:** Between January and September 2014 over 25,500 Syrian refugees have returned to Syria (UNHCR, 23/09/2014).

#### *Non-Syrian Refugees*

During the first quarter of 2014, the number of registered, protracted, non-Syrian refugees and asylum seekers was 39,480.

#### *Host Communities*

1.7 million people in host communities are affected (OCHA, 07/11/2014). Local authorities are overstretched and underresourced.

#### *Iraqi Refugees in Neighbouring Countries*

At 1 November, there were about 38,500 Iraqi refugees in Jordan, with around 100-150 daily arrivals (UNHCR 01/11/2014). Lebanon hosts nearly 7,500 registered Iraqi refugees and a further 1,200 are awaiting registration (USAID 19/09/2014). Around 200,000 Iraqi refugees reside in Turkey (ECHO 12/2014), and over 3,000 in Yemen (OCHA 30/11/2014). Almost 3,800 Iraqi refugees remain in Newroz camp in Syria after fleeing advances of IS in Sinjar in August (WFP 10/2014).

#### **Food Security**

About 2.2 million people require urgent food assistance in Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates.

**Refugees:** Most Syrian refugees require food assistance, (WFP/FAO/UNHCR 31/10/2014). Food assistance for refugees is provided solely to those in camps (WFP, 07/12/2014). There is no clear system for food assistance for non-camp refugees in Dahuk, and scarce resources for refugees in urban settings are increasingly stretched (UNHCR 30/11/2014).

#### *Agriculture*

**Over 80,000 families from host communities in Erbil and Dahuk and in conflict-affected and government-controlled areas are in need of agricultural inputs (OCHA, 19/12/2014).**

The IS insurgency coincided with the wheat crop harvest; and the disruption of markets and restricted movement of food commodities remain a concern (FAO 11/12/2014; Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture/ Reuters 11/2014). In addition, the Government of Iraq reported that IS has appropriated more than a quarter of the overall national output – around one million tons – and taken it to Syria.

Many farmers and rural households have fled their fields, and the suspension of government services in these governorates means farmers have not yet received payment for wheat, creating cash flow problems. In Ninewa and Dahuk, farmers are selling livestock at lower prices, either to generate cash or because of their inability to afford fodder and cattle vaccination (FAO 11/2014).

According to FAO, in Ninewa governorate only around 500,000 hectares of the usual 800,000 hectares of land is likely to be sown this winter and planting in Salah al Din is forecast to be down by 30%. Cereal import requirements are expected to increase in 2014/2015 (FAO 11/2014).

#### *Livelihoods*

The deterioration of the economic situation and the breakdown of state infrastructure in IS-controlled areas is increasing unemployment. IDPs fleeing the violence face difficulties accessing livelihood opportunities.

**Refugees:** An assessment among Syrian refugees in April found that 47% of camp-residing Syrian refugees reported no source of income or cash for their household. Refugees who live in remote areas report even lower numbers of households with an income. Only 18% of female members of non-camp households are earning an income (REAH 14/09/2014). As the situation has significantly changed since the data was collected in April, with the large influx of IDPs in areas hosting refugees, it can be assumed that access to income generating opportunities have decreased among Syrian refugees. However, there is no information available to confirm this assumption.

#### **Health and Nutrition**

**5.2 million people need health support**, and 2.2 million in inaccessible areas are extremely vulnerable to public health risks (WHO, 20/12/2014; 10/2014).

The Health Cluster estimates that up to 50% of displaced Iraqis will need medical attention this winter, as the lack of winter essentials will negatively impact health status.

#### *Availability of Healthcare*

A number of health facilities have been damaged by bombing and shelling. Critical shortages of essential medicines, vaccines and supplies have become an increasing concern in urban health facilities, as supply routes from Baghdad are disrupted, and the embargo on cargo flights has stopped the medical supply chain (WHO, 09/2014).

Staff shortages are an additional complication: since June 2014, at least 2,714 health workers have been displaced from Ninewa, Anbar, Salah al Din and other inaccessible areas to Duhok (2,532) and Sulaymaniyah (182) (WHO 24/11/2014).

**Salah al Din:** The Iraqi army targeted a medical centre used by IS in Balad in early December (ISW 07/12/2014). Severe shortages of essential medicines and limited access to primary services causes patients from this area to seek services in Mosul, Ninewa, and Hawija, Kirkuk (WHO 24/11/2014).

**Mosul:** Only two units of the main hospital remain functional after damage was inflicted, staffing levels are down to 30–50%, and severe medicine shortages have been reported. Interruptions in the water supply have resulted in a rise of water-borne diseases (AFP 12/2014). IS reportedly executed ten doctors for refusing to treat wounded IS fighters, while evacuating main hospitals in the city so that they could treat injured IS members only (ISW 01/12/2014).

**Ninewa:** In November, a hospital was destroyed in Sinjar (WHO 24/11/2014).

**Anbar:** 180,000 IDPs in Hit district, Anbar governorate, are in need of health assistance, with facilities looted and damaged. Access remains limited (WHO 24/11/2014). In November, a teaching hospital was damaged in Fallujah (WHO 24/11/2014).

#### **Refugees**

**KR-I:** Health service delivery for refugees is challenged in areas with high concentrations of IDPs, due to shortages of staff, essential medicines and medical consumables (WHO 11/2014). Since mid-June, frequent power cuts are endangering health service provision in refugee camp health centres (UNHCR 2014).

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

Respiratory tract infections (almost 13,000 cases) and diarrhoea (over 4,000 cases) are the most common ailments in refugee and IDP camps. Compounded by malnutrition, respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea account for two-thirds of deaths among refugee and IDP children under five. Numbers are expected to rise during the winter (WHO 27/11/2014).

An estimated 20% of the non-camp refugee population face key obstacles such as financial costs; shortages of medicines in health facilities mean they have to rely on pharmacies (UNHCR 11/2014).

#### *Diarrhoeal Disease*

**Acute diarrhoea continued to be a leading cause of morbidity end December. 370 cases were reported over 13-20 December, a 5.2% increase on the previous week (WHO, 14/12/2014).**

#### *Hepatitis A*

**48 cases of hepatitis A have been reported from nine different sites since the outbreak was confirmed in Baharka camp, Erbil, on 23 November (WHO, 20/12/2014).**

#### *Maternal Health*

It can be assumed that 450,000 IDPs are women and girls of reproductive age. 72,000 are estimated to be pregnant, 10,000 of whom are expected to face pregnancy-related complications (UNFPA 11/2014). Maternity services are particularly stretched in Erbil



hospital (WHO 10/11/2014).

Over 50,000 Syrian refugee women and girls are of reproductive age, including over 4,000 who are estimated to be pregnant (UNFPA 30/11/2014).

#### *Measles*

So far, 1,127 measles cases have been registered in 2014. Cases are distributed in Ninewa, Salah al Din, Kirkuk and Diyala. When compared to 2013,; case numbers increased from 5 to 258 cases in Kirkuk, and from 1 to 178 in Diyala, while in the number of cases decreased by 50% in Ninewa (WHO 11/2014).

#### *Nutrition*

Seven cases of malnutrition were reported from Arabat refugee camp, in KR-I, in the first week of November, compared to five reported in the last week of September (WHO 04/11/2014).

#### **WASH**

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

**IDPs:** In KR-I, 31% of over 85,000 IDPs across 880 sites assessed they do not have access to electricity nor water (CCCM 11/2014).

**Refugees:** Almost 19,000 refugees in camps lack access to safe drinking water, latrines and bathing facilities, while over 100,000 lack adequate waste disposal (UNHCR/UNICEF, 31/10/2014). In Darashakran camp, Erbil, drainage of waste water has been reported. Pipes need repair in Gawilan camp, Ninewa. In Al Qa'im district, Anbar, water pump stations faced difficulties leading to water shortages in the refugee camp (UNHCR 30/11/2014).

**Inadequate water supply has been reported in the western parts of Mosul City, caused mainly by shortage of chlorine and broken pipelines (WHO, 20/12/2014). Newly established camps lack coordination and support for some WASH-related activities, including waste collection, hygiene promotion, and distribution of WASH relief commodities (USAID, 19/12/2014).**

**Other affected communities:** In central and southern governorates, lack of access to NFIs and hot water is affecting access to personal hygiene. Security issues are delaying access and provision of hygiene kits in Anbar and Salah al Din governorates (OCHA 11/2014).

#### **Shelter and NFIs**

There are 24 IDP camps, most are in Dahuk, Diyala and Erbil; 12 more camps are under construction, mainly in Sulaymaniyah and Ninewa; and there are three informal camps in

Dahuk and Diyala (CCCM, 06/12/2014). Most facilities and services do not meet minimum Sphere standards and other key sectoral indicators (REACH 31/10/2014). IDP camps often face capacity overflow, some require tents to be replaced. **The large influxes of Syrian refugees into KR-I since September has exhausted the capacities of Basirma and Kawergosk camps. The authorities decided to cancel the construction of Qushtapa 2 camp, further aggravating refugee shelter limitations (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).**

55% of IDPs live with host family or in rented houses (REACH 10/2014).

146 new IDP families in Hay al Naser and Huzairan, Kirkuk, are in need of shelter, key NFIs, and cash assistance (OCHA 28/11/2014).

#### *Winterisation*

**Over one million Iraqis still lack adequate shelter for the winter and basic items such as blankets and kerosene; almost three million lack adequate nutrition to face winter conditions (US Government, 12/12/2014).**

In KR-I, 945,000 IDPs are in dire need of kerosene; around 88,000 IDPs need shelter assistance, and almost 57,000 need winterisation kits still (OCHA 05/12/2014).

#### **Education**

Over 800,000 displaced are estimated to be of school age, including Syrian refugee children staying in host communities. **Over 500 schools are still occupied by IDPs, plus an estimated 130 schools by military. Over 39,000 children are estimated to have been affected by the occupation of schools (OCHA, 15/12/2014, OCHA 05/12/2014; UNICEF 31/10/2014).**

Around 252,000 school-aged children reside in KR-I; 87,000 in camps, and 165,000 in non-camp settings. In Dahuk, displacement has increased the student population by 50% (OCHA 10/2014). The school year started on 1 December, and some schools – previously occupied by IDPs – still require cleaning and minor rehabilitation (OCHA 05/12/2014). **In Sulaymaniyah, the lack of a high school in Arbat camp prevents education beyond grade nine and favours early marriage and child labour (UNHCR, 15/12/2014).**

Access to education has reportedly been compromised in Erbil by delays in the issuing of residency cards. In Zakho, Dahuk, transportation has been requested due to a shortage of Arabic schools within walking distance (UNHCR 30/11/2014)

**Refugees:** access to education is of concern in all refugee camps, with the proportion of school-aged children enrolled in schools ranging from 32% (in Gawilan camp) to 75% (Qustapa camp) (UNHCR, 12/2014).

The main barriers are very limited capacity in schools with the Arabic curriculum; high dropout levels in schools with the Kurdish curriculum due to lack of language support; lack of textbooks and other education materials; and lack of teachers (OCHA 11/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

#### **Protection**

Targeted attacks, abductions, forced conscription, human trafficking, and sexual assault against Iraqi civilians, particularly individuals from ethnic and religious minority groups, have all been reported since January (UNAMI 10/2014). Armed actors reportedly also attack civilian infrastructure, such as health facilities and schools (USAID 10/2014).

There are safety and welfare concerns for civilians recently liberated from IS-controlled areas, due to their perceived support for IS and affiliates.

#### *IDPs and Refugees*

**An increase in detention of IDPs in both camps and non-camp locations is reported, due to growing mistrust from local authorities and communities towards IDPs arriving from areas under IS control (OCHA, 19/12/2014).**

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

**Refugees:** A UNHCR/REACH assessment found that a fifth of refugee households across KR-I did not know where to obtain birth, marriage and death certificates or residency cards; the proportion was far higher in Erbil, at 49% (09/2014).

#### *Children*

Refugees: Overcrowding of camps is causing protection concerns for unaccompanied minors, who are leaving camps prematurely (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

4% of refugee households reported having separated minors with them (REACH 20/10/2014). From mid-October to mid-November, 26 unaccompanied and separated children were identified in KR-I (UNICEF 12/11/2014).

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

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

#### *ERW and Mines*

Iraq is heavily mined, with up to 1,838km<sup>2</sup> of contaminated territory and IS is reportedly planting more (Landmine Monitor/ICBL, IRIN 06/11/2014). An estimated 3,000 mines and explosive remnants of war were found in Jurf al Sakhr, 50km south of Baghdad, after IS left (OCHA 31/10/2014). UXO has been found mixed with scrap metal close to Deraboun camp, Dahuk. IDP children collect scrap metal to generate income (OCHA 28/11/2014).

*Updated: 05/01/2015*

## **OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES COMPLEX, FOOD INSECURITY, INSECURITY**

### **LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**7 January:** Storm Huda has affected both the West Bank and Gaza. The extreme winter conditions have reportedly been linked to five deaths throughout oPt (Al Jazeera, 11/01/2015). A state of emergency has been declared across all oPt (AFP, 08/01/2015).

**7 January:** Palestine formally joined the International Criminal Court (AFP, 07/01/2015).

### **KEY CONCERNS**

- 1.81 million people need humanitarian assistance, over 50% are children (OCHA, 09/2014).

- 1.45 million people, or 33% of the people in the OPT, including 57% of people in Gaza, are estimated to be food insecure (WFP, 19/12/2014).

- 1.5 million people in the Gaza Strip have no or extremely restricted access to water (OCHA, 03/08/2014).

- Continuity of medical care is threatened by the financial crisis and electricity shortages in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (OCHA).

- The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip limits access and movement of both people and goods.

### **OVERVIEW**

The 50-day war with Israel caused high civilian casualties in Gaza and large-scale destruction affecting all humanitarian sectors. Movement and access restrictions are aggravating the situation. The number of attacks on Palestinians by Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank has increased every year for the past eight years; attacks by Israeli security forces have also increased.

### **Political Context**

**On 7 January, Palestine officially joined the International Criminal Court. From April, Palestinian officials will be able to launch war crimes complaints against Israel. The United States and Israel opposed the move, citing that oPt is not a sovereign state. Israel has frozen approximately USD 127 million in tax revenue due the Palestinian Authority, while the US has threatened to withhold USD 440 million in aid (AFP, 07/01/2015).**

Israel has announced a series of measures affecting occupied territory since August 2014, beginning with the appropriation of some 400 hectares in the occupied West Bank, which an anti-settlement group termed the biggest in 30 years (Reuters, 31/08/2014). This was

followed by approval for almost 4,000 new housing units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (AFP, 05/09/2014; AFP, 01/10/2014; AFP, 27/10/2014).

The reconciliation Government, made up of members of both Hamas and Fatah, convened its first cabinet session in October (UNICEF, 09/10/2014). The Government was sworn in before President Abbas in June, ending seven years of division (AFP, UN, 02/06/2014). No formal announcement regarding the passing of its six-month mandate has been made by the Government (UNRWA, 14/12/2014).

## Security Context

### Gaza

One armed Palestinian was killed and nine were injured in 43 incidents involving Israeli forces opening fire into the Access Restricted Area (ARA) between 16 and 29 December (OCHA, 22/12/2014; OCHA, 29/12/2014). The boundaries of the ARA have not yet been defined by Israeli authorities, increasing the risks to civilians (OCHA, 24/11/2014).

**On 8 January, Egypt began doubling the width of the buffer zone along the Gaza border to 1km. The objective is to deter militants from crossing to Egypt (AFP, 08/01/2015).** A 17-year-old Palestinian was killed along the border by Egyptian military gunfire on 3 January 2015.

On 24 December Israeli forces killed a Hamas militant sniping at Israeli patrols. One Israeli soldier was wounded (AFP, 24/12/2014). On 20 December, Israel launched its first airstrike since the truce of 26 August, targeting a site reportedly used by Hamas for training, in response to rocket fire. No injuries were reported (OCHA, 22/12/2014). The first deadly shooting since the truce was on 23 November, when Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian farmer near the border in northern Gaza (AFP, 23/11/2014).

### Operation Protective Edge

Israel launched Operation Protective Edge on 8 July, striking Gaza with intensive aerial bombing, aimed at ending cross-border rocket fire. Hamas and Israel agreed a permanent ceasefire on 26 August (AFP). At least 2,257 people were reported killed, including 539 children: an estimated 1,473 victims were civilians (UNICEF, 02/01/2015; OCHA, 04/09/2014). Thousands of structures were destroyed. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers, and five civilians, including one child, were killed (OCHA, 29/08/2014). The number of violent incidents in and around Gaza had already been rising before the event of July and August.

### West Bank and East Jerusalem

**49 people were killed and 5,865 injured by Israeli forces in 2014 (OCHA, 29/12/2014). On 29 December, Israeli troops shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian boy and wounded another during a stone-throwing incident near Nablus (AFP, 29/12/2014).**

A Palestinian was killed during a military operation in Qalandiya refugee camp on 15 December (AFP, 16/12/2014). Palestinian cabinet minister Ziad Abu Ain died on 10 December after a confrontation with Israeli troops. A third of the 64 clashes between 16

and 22 December were in connection to these incidents (OCHA, 29/12/2014). Palestinian doctors said that an autopsy showed that Abu Ain died from being struck, inhaling tear gas, and a lack of medical attention. Israeli officials said a heart attack caused his death (Voice of America, 12/12/2014).

On 18 November, two armed Palestinians attacked worshippers at a synagogue on the western outskirts of Jerusalem (AFP, 19/11/2014; Amnesty, 18/11/2014). In line with a policy decided in early November, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that the houses of the synagogue attackers would be demolished (AFP, 19/11/2014).

### Settler-related Violence

In 2014, 330 incidents of settler-related violence resulted in Palestinian casualties or property damage in the West Bank and 237 incidents resulted in Israeli casualties or property damage. The demolition of 581 structures displaced 1,177 people; 565 structures were demolished in 2013 (OCHA, 29/12/2014).

On 23 December a group of armed Israeli settlers forcibly entered a Bedouin family's household in the Jerusalem periphery (OCHA, 29/12/2014). On 29 November the Bilingual Arab-Jewish School in West Jerusalem was set on fire (OCHA, 03/12/2014). On 12 November, Israeli settlers set fire to a mosque near Shilo settlement and Ramallah (AFP, 12/11/2014). There were 18 hit-and-run incidents reportedly involving Israeli settler vehicles in 2014, compared to 14 in 2013; two occurred between 16 and 22 December (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

Over 16–29 December, nine Palestinian attacks on Israeli settlers were reported; three resulted in injury to Israelis and five in damage to property (OCHA, 22/12/2014; OCHA, 29/12/2014). On 25 December, Palestinians attacked settlers with a Molotov cocktail near Azzun village (Qalqiliya), injuring one settler girl (OCHA, 29/12/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Access

Donors have pledged over USD 5.4 billion, half of which will go towards rebuilding Gaza (Reuters, 12/10/2014; 14/10/2014). The Palestinian Authority estimates it will cost USD 7.8 billion to reconstruct bombed areas (ACT Alliance, 10/10/2014).

### Border Restrictions

Since the UN reconstruction mechanism agreement with Israel and Palestinian authorities on 16 September, there has been an increase in cement and aggregate material brought in to the Gaza Strip (Logistics Cluster, 26/09/2014). After being blocked from passing through Rafah Crossing since July, on 23 December 100 trucks containing material for Qatari-funded infrastructure projects were allowed through Israeli-controlled crossings (UNICEF 02/01/2015; OCHA, 29/09/2014).

Border crossings continue to be highly restricted and closures in response to security incidents are frequent. The Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza has been predominantly closed since 24 October. Between 21 and 23 December, approximately

1,100 people, mainly patients and students, left Gaza and 900 returned. 37,000 people are waiting to exit Gaza, 17,000 of whom are registered with the Border and Crossing Authority (OCHA, 29/12/2014).

Egypt had imposed a three-month state of emergency in parts of northern Sinai and closed the Rafah crossing into Gaza in late October, after a bombing killed at least 30 Egyptian soldiers (AFP, 29/10/2014).

#### Critical Infrastructure

On 28 December the Gaza power plant shut down due to lack of fuel, making Gaza entirely dependent on electricity purchased from Israel (120 MW) and Egypt (30 MW), which meets less than a third of estimated demand (OCHA, 29/12/2014). Critical infrastructure, which was targeted directly during Operation Protective Edge, remains damaged and the energy and fuel crisis continues to adversely impact the routine provision of basic services in Gaza (OCHA, 11/2014).

#### Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

Nine UNRWA staff members have been killed since 20 July (UNRWA, 03/08/2014).

#### Disasters

**On 7 January, Storm Huda brought heavy snow to the West Bank and flooding in Gaza. The extreme winter conditions have been linked to five deaths; four were children (Al Jazeera, 11/01/2015). The Palestinian Authority has declared a state of emergency across oPt (AFP, 08/01/2015).**

Over 25 November–3 December, severe flooding blocked roads and forced around 50 families to evacuate their homes in Gaza City (OCHA, 03/12/2014).

#### Displacement

As of 30 November, more than 100,000 people remain displaced after the July–August conflict (OCHA, 30/11/2014). **17,913 IDPs are residing in collective shelters as of 28 December (UNICEF, 05/01/2015).** With the approach of winter, IDPs' living conditions continue to deteriorate, with many in need of additional humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 13/10/2014).

#### Food Security

**1.45 million, or 33% of Palestinians, are food insecure: 57% of the population of Gaza and 19% of the population of the West Bank (WFP, 19/12/2014). This is similar to food security levels prior to the July–August hostilities (UNRWA, FAO, WFP, Government, 12/08/2014).**

Electricity shortages have impacted food production and refrigeration. Delays at crossings are complicating deliveries. Destruction of tunnels bringing inexpensive goods has also impacted access to food and supplies.

Vegetable prices increased by 139% between June and August, although staple food prices remained stable due to the distribution of humanitarian supplies (WFP, 14/10/2014).

#### Agriculture

Some 85% of Israel's separation barrier runs inside the West Bank, rather than along the internationally recognised Green Line, cutting off Palestinians from 30% of their land (AFP, 29/10/2014).

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

#### Livelihoods

The majority of the Gaza population lost its productive assets in the July–August conflict. The livelihoods of 28,600 households, including farmers, breeders, herders and fishers have been severely affected or destroyed (Food Security Cluster, 28/08/2014). Losses to the farming sector are estimated at USD 450 million (Ministry of Agriculture cited by OCHA, 18/08/2014). Up to 720 fishers have lost their livelihoods (Food Security Cluster, 28/08/2014). According to the Palestinian Federation of Industries, 419 businesses and workshops were damaged, including 128 completely destroyed (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

A quarter of the Palestinian workforce remains unemployed – 16% in the West Bank and 45% in Gaza (World Bank, 10/09/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

Longstanding shortages of electricity, equipment, and drug supplies persist. Fifty primary health centres and 17 hospitals reported infrastructure damage during the conflict; one hospital and seven clinics were destroyed (OCHA, 04/09/2014; WHO, 05/09/2014).

The health system was already overstretched before the conflict (WHO, 30/09/2014). In the West Bank, stocks of 150 (of 525) essential medicines were at zero in May; the main government pharmacy in the Gaza Strip reported stocks of 118 (of 481) essential medicines were at zero (OCHA, 31/05/2014).

#### Mental Health

WHO estimates that 360,000 people in the Gaza Strip will need mental healthcare in the short and medium term, in addition to those needing routine mental healthcare services (WHO, 31/10/2014).

#### Child Health

373,000 children in the Gaza Strip are in need of direct and specialised psychosocial support (OCHA, 03/08/2014). The number of social workers and counsellors is insufficient (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

#### WASH

Although extensive repairs have restored 70–80% of the water and sanitation network to pre-conflict conditions, significant constraints still impair the delivery of services (OCHA, 29/10/2014). 40 water facilities were damaged and 23 destroyed (Gisha, 20/08/2014).

Some 30–50% of water storage capacity at the household level is damaged, putting particular strain on host families (ECHO, 02/10/2014). In addition, households without electricity and/or supplementary pumps cannot fill rooftop storage tanks when water is available (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

Only 50% of wastewater in Gaza is treated, and treatment is currently of low quality, leaving about 100,000 million cubic metres of raw sewage to be discharged directly to the sea (World Bank, 10/09/2014). Although solid waste is being collected in most areas, it is being left in temporary sites rather than dumped in designated landfills.

Gaza's only water reserve is the coastal aquifer, which it shares with Israel and Egypt, and which is 55 million cubic metres; Gaza needs 190 million cubic metres every year, according to senior officials. The aquifer could be unusable by 2016 and the damage it has suffered may be irreversible by 2020 (AFP, 05/09/2014).

#### Shelter

With the onset of winter, 700,000 people are in need of shelter assistance, including emergency winterisation (OCHA 30/11/2014).

**An estimated 124,000 housing units have been either destroyed or severely damaged (AFP, 08/01/2015).** This is in addition to the pre-crisis housing deficit of 80,000 units (NRC, 11/10/2014). **Winter conditions have further slowed reconstruction efforts (Al Jazeera, 11/01/2015).**

In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, demolition of houses, stop-work orders for houses and structures, as well as confiscation of building materials, pose critical challenges (OCHA, 03/12/2014).

#### Education

22 schools were completely destroyed and 118 schools damaged by the conflict. UNRWA has reported at least 75 damaged school buildings. Many higher education facilities, including the Islamic University in Gaza, were also damaged (OCHA, 04/09/2014). The education sector already had a shortage of almost 200 schools before the conflict (OCHA, 04/09/2014).

#### Protection

##### Forcible Transfer

Israeli authorities continue to make eviction and demolition orders from an area designated as a 'closed military zone'. Most of the around 7,000 Palestinian Bedouins and herders, some 60% of them children, have demolition orders pending against their homes, and over 85% lack connection to the electricity and water networks. Two-thirds of communities

reported facing settler violence during the past three years (OCHA, 23/09/2014).

##### Child Protection

3,436 children were injured in 2014; 54,000 were homeless. Up to 1,500 orphaned children will need sustained support (OCHA, 04/09/2014; UNICEF, 02/01/2015).

On 10 December, ten Palestinian children suffered excessive gas inhalation after Israeli troops fired teargas near the Ibrahimiyya School in Hebron during school hours (NRC, 25/12/2014).

182 children were imprisoned and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system in November, a 9.4% decrease on August figures (Defence for Children International, 06/11/2014).

##### Detention

At the end of August, 473 Palestinians were under administrative detention in Israel without trial, compared to 250 in June–July. It is the highest number since April 2009 (Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, 07/10/2014).

As of December, detention or shooting at fishers, as well as confiscation of boats and equipment, continue to be reported (Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, 07/12/2014).

##### Media Workers

At least four journalists and three media workers were killed while covering the conflict in July and August (Committee to Protect Journalists, 23/12/2014).

##### Mines and ERW

It is estimated that more than 1,900 ERW have yet to be secured (UNRWA, 23/09/2014). Over 2–8 December, four children and a pregnant woman were injured by unexploded ordnance (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

In 2014, ERW has killed 31 civilians and injured ten in Gaza. This figure includes 12 children, the highest number affected by ERW in the last six years (UNICEF, 23/10/2014; 27/10/2014).

*Updated: 13/01/2015*

## SYRIA **DISPLACEMENT, CIVIL WAR**

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**12 January:** In 2014, 2,100 people died in Syrian prisons from torture, starvation, and lack of medical treatment; 27 were under the age of 18 (SOHR, 10/01/2015; AFP, 11/2014).

**11 January:** 11 people in opposition-held areas, including seven children, have died

from the extreme winter conditions (AFP, 11/01/2015).

**8 January:** Several IDP camps in northern Idlib, along the border with Turkey, have been flooded after days of icy rain and snow. A large number of families have been forced out, after their tents and belongings were damaged (ECHO, 08/01/2015).

## KEY CONCERNS

- Over 200,000 deaths were documented between March 2011 and December 2014, including over 63,000 civilians, almost 11,000 of whom were children (SOHR 12/2014). 2014 recorded the highest number of deaths, with 76,000 fatalities.
- Some 12.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children (OCHA/UNICEF 12/2014). With the onset of winter, the need of winter aid is a priority (UNHCR 11/2014).
- 7.6 million IDPs (HNO OCHA 11/2014).
- 4.8 million people live in hard-to-reach areas (OCHA 12/2014).
- 3,323,031 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 10 December. Lebanon: 1,158,995; Turkey: 1,165,279; Jordan: 622,672; Iraq: 233,625; Egypt: 138,212 (UNHCR 05/01/2014). Children make up 51.6% of the refugee population.
- 711 of 1,921 primary health centres and more than one-third (37 of 92) public hospitals are out of service. 26 of 41 basic emergency obstetric care centres are reported non-functional (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA 30/11/2014).

## OVERVIEW

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

The conflict has killed over 200,000 people and caused large-scale displacement. More people are in camps than last year, and more non-displaced are in need of humanitarian assistance. The country has also experienced severe drought. Protection concerns are widespread. WASH and access to food are high priorities as well as access to health services. Humanitarian needs in areas under prolonged and ongoing siege are particularly high as access to food, basic services, and livelihoods is obstructed.

### Political Context

The Syrian Government and key opponents have agreed to move towards Russia-mediated peace talks (AFP 02/12/2014). Previous attempts have failed. Local truces have mainly been short-term solutions for access, instead of becoming tools for a broader

political solution and step towards peace talks. In November, UN Envoy Mistura led talks on the establishment of 'freeze zones' in Aleppo (UN/BBC 11/2014; SNAP 07/12/2014).

In June 2014, President Bashar al Assad was elected for another seven years.

### Security Context

Widespread conflict and high levels of violence continue, including indiscriminate aerial bombings by government forces and indiscriminate shelling by armed opposition (UNSC 21/11/2014). There are some 1,000 armed opposition groups fighting in Syria (BBC, 13/06/2013).

In 2014, 76,000 people were killed in the conflict, the highest toll since the war began. 18,000 civilians, including at least 3,500 children, were among the victims (SOHR, 02/01/2014). At least 6,550 civilians died during airstrikes, half of them in Aleppo. Aerial bombardment injured 40,000 in 2014 (SOHR, 05/01/2015). More than 200,000 people have died since fighting began in March 2011 (SOHR 02/12/2014).

### Conflict Developments

**Islamic State** (IS, formerly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) declared an Islamic caliphate on 30 June, defining the group's territory as running from northern Syria to the Iraqi province of Diyala, northeast of Baghdad. IS was in full control of Ar-Raqqa governorate, its stronghold in Syria, as of October. It holds significant swathes of territory in Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor, and has clashed with various armed groups when spreading to new areas such as Rural Damascus, Damascus, and Homs. In recent weeks, IS-related conflict events have been mainly recorded in Aleppo governorate, where the group has been clashing with Kurdish forces in the area of Kobane. Latest reports indicate that Kurdish forces now control 80% of the Kobane city area (SOHR, 05/01/2015). In southeast Syria, IS's advance on Deir-ez-Zor airport has slowed after a campaign of several months (SOHR, 12/2014; OCHA, 05/12/2014; OCHA, 19/12/2014).

**Jabhat al Nusra (JAN)**, linked to Al Qaeda, is increasingly consolidating its control in northwestern Syria, previously held by the collapsing moderate opposition. JAN has turned against other opposition factions, such as the Syria Revolutionaries' Front (SRF) and the Hazm Movement, which are considered mainstays of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), and mainstream Islamist groups have begun to strengthen relations with JAN. In mid-December, JAN seized the key Wadi al Deif and Hamidiyeh military posts, giving them control of most of Idlib province (AFP, 16/12/2014). **Following recent victories against both government and rival opposition forces, JAN has attempted to consolidate its influence in rural Idlib, setting up checkpoints on key access routes and, in one town, arresting up to 50 activists seen as affiliated to FSA. This has resulted in protests, and in Salqin in Western Idlib, clashes between Ahrar al Sham (Islamic Front) and Al Nusra Front (OCHA, 02/01/2015).** Since the middle of the year, JAN has seized towns and extended its influence along the border with Turkey. Armed opposition groups, including JAN, have sustained their offensive on Nubul and Zahra villages, held by the Government, in Aleppo (OCHA, 05/12/2014).

In a move that might reconsolidate **opposition forces**, on 29 November, 72 opposition



groups, including Ahrar al Sham, FSA and western-backed groups, formally established the Syrian Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). Ahrar al Sham was reconstituted following the merger of two group members, indicating growth and consolidation within the alliance (ISW 09/12/2014). In Aleppo city, five major military factions, including Ahrar al Sham, Jaysh al Mujahideen, and Harakat Nour al Din al Zenki, united in a new military command entitled the Sham Front, potentially a crucial step forward in their continued defence of Aleppo City (ISW, 30/12/2014). **Opposition forces have launched an incremental counteroffensive that has reversed government forces' most recent gains in Mallah Farms and seen opposition forces retake Handarat village (OCHA, 02/01/2015).**

**Government forces** have regained control of several areas north of Aleppo, in Homs city, and in several areas in the Qalamoun region in Rural Damascus, in 2014. Syria's military is increasingly using barrel bombs. About 2,000 airstrikes across 12 of Syria's 14 provinces have killed at least 527 and wounded 2,000 people over 20 October to 28 November (SOHR/AFP 28/11/2014). Over 23–26 December, 474 airstrikes were carried out by government forces, killing at least 115 civilians and injuring 420 people (SOHR, 26/12/2014).

**International intervention:** As part of a multinational campaign against Islamist militant groups, a US-led coalition began airstrikes in mid-September on IS and JAN military installations. 865 people have been killed, including 50 civilians (UNSC 21/11/2014). In November, there were 160 airstrikes, down from 220 in October (SNAP 07/12/2014).

Israeli airstrikes near Damascus in early December are in line with previous strikes targeting weapons shipments and missile components allegedly meant for delivery to Hezbollah (ISW 09/12/2014).

The southern governorates, strategically important thanks to their proximity to government-controlled Damascus and As-Sweida governorates, have become major battlefronts. Opposition groups and JAN consider the south, especially Dar'a, as a main stronghold, away from the threat of IS (SNAP 07/11/2014). Central governorates have witnessed an increase in airstrikes and the use of barrel bombs, especially Rural Damascus. Idleb was also heavily affected.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 12.2 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria, including 5.6 million children. Winter aid is a priority (OCHA/UNICEF/UNHCR 11/2014). **11 people in opposition-held areas, including seven children, have died from the extreme winter conditions (AFP, 11/01/2015).**

The Response Plan funding gap stands at 46% – or over USD 1.7 billion (OCHA 12/12/2014).

Over two million people need humanitarian assistance in Aleppo governorate; food and water assistance are the highest priorities. 1.2 million are in need in Idleb, 830,000 in Ar-Raqqa, 523,000 in Deir-ez-Zor, 504,000 in Al Hasakeh, 483,000 in Hama, 381,000 in Dar'a, 347,000 in Lattakia, 108,000 in Rural Damascus, and 56,000 in Quneitra. In general, needs

are more severe in rural areas, specifically in the food, health, water, and NFI sectors (MSNA 30/10/2014).

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

### Access

There are 4.8 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including up to two million children (UNICEF, 12/2014). 212,000 people remain besieged, a decrease from 241,000 in mid-October, in Nubul and Al Zahra in rural Aleppo; Eastern Ghouta, Daryya, and Moadamiyah in Rural Damascus; the Old City in Homs; and Yarmouk camp in Damascus (UNSC 21/11/2014; UNICEF, 12/2014). Shortages of food and medicine caused the deaths of more than 300 civilians, including about 100 children, in areas besieged by the Syrian regime in 2014, mostly Eastern Ghouta (AFP, 27/12/2014).

**As of early January, access to the government-controlled villages of Nubul and Zahra in Aleppo remains fully restricted.**

Interference by powerful groups or people is the biggest humanitarian constraint. In government-controlled areas in Lattakia, Hama, and Idleb governorates, assistance does not reach affected populations seen to be affiliated with opposing parties.

The UN's response efforts are chronically underfunded: only 47% of the Syria component of OCHA's appeal is covered. Only 59% of the 2014 regional component has been funded (Financial Tracking Service, 06/01/2015).

### Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers

69 humanitarian workers have been killed in the conflict since March 2011. Twenty-seven United Nations staff (including 24 UNRWA staff) have been detained or are missing (UNSC 21/11/2014).

### Trapped and Hard-to-Reach Communities

**Aleppo:** Government forces have continued to advance, putting them in close proximity to a stretch of the only remaining access route into Eastern Aleppo city. Approximately 300,000 civilians would be affected if the Government successfully surrounds the east of Aleppo city, as all routes would require actors to cross front lines (OCHA, 07/11/2014). In October, Aleppo received assistance for the first time in 12 months (UN, 10/2014).

**Ar-Raqqa:** Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along access routes have prevented deliveries since July (WFP, 11/11/2014).

**Damascus:** Since mid-September, there has been a significant decline in the quantity of relief items delivered to 18,000 civilians in Yarmouk Camp, with irregular aid distribution due to insecurity and lack of clearance (UNRWA 07/12/2014; 30/12/2014). On 30 December, state news reported that around 217 people had been given safe passage out of the area by the Syrian army (AFP, 30/12/2014).

**Dar'a:** Intensified conflict has prevented deliveries to rural areas (WFP, 11/11/2014).

**Deir-ez-Zor:** Volatile security conditions and the presence of armed groups along access routes have prevented deliveries since May (WFP, 11/11/2014). IS restricts access to government-controlled areas, affecting approximately 150,000 civilians (UNSC, 21/11/2014).

**Hama:** Since the end of October, the deterioration of the security situation and numerous checkpoints in rural areas has slowed deliveries (WFP, 11/11/2014).

**Homs:** Under partial siege for the past 12 months, over half of Al Waer's 350,000 residents are IDPs, who are mostly living in substandard accommodation (WFP, 22/10/2014). Following intense negotiations, UN aid reached Homs in November, for the first time in six months (AFP 13/11/2014).

**Idleb:** 1.3 million people have been affected by cuts in electricity supply, following a JAN offensive on Idleb City (UNSC 21/11/2014). JAN's seizure of two strategic military bases opens up large stretches of the highway for humanitarian access, and has reportedly led to the return of many refugees and IDPs (OCHA, 19/12/2014).

**Quneitra:** Intensified conflict prevented deliveries to rural areas (WFP 11/11/2014).

#### Border Restrictions

Border closures or tight restrictions by neighbouring countries are dissuading people in life-threatening situations from seeking refuge abroad. At the two fully open crossing-points between Turkey and Syria, refugees without passports are routinely turned away unless they have urgent medical or humanitarian needs. Bab al Hawa crossing was closed by Turkish authorities on 16 November, following fighting between factions of Ahrar Al Sham (OCHA, 21/11/2014). JAN's control of the Bab al Hawa border crossing – a major access route to northwestern Syria – could lead to its long-term closure by Turkish authorities (OCHA, 11/2014). The Turkish Government has opened a new border crossing at Khirbet Jouz (ISW, 02/12/2014).

Five registered refugees have been fired at by Jordanian border patrols; one was wounded, the other four were deported (HRW 24/11/2014).

Palestinian refugees are particularly affected by closed borders and forced returns from neighbouring countries (UN 24/11/2014).

#### Critical Infrastructure

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

#### Displacement

##### IDPs

There are 7.6 million IDPs within Syria; 50% are children (OCHA 25/11/2014). Between

January and September, the number living in IDP camps grew by 56%, from 108,000 to approximately 165,000. Idleb has the highest concentration of IDPs, more than 40% of the population. Elsewhere, IDPs generally account for 10–35% of the population (WFP 11/11/2014; MSNA 30/10/2014).

Changed conflict dynamics, ongoing violence, the depleted capacity of host families, depletion of savings, and the search for better livelihoods are all contributing to increased multiple displacement (MSNA 30/10/2014; OCHA/REACH 30/10/2014).

Displacement in September–November was mostly due to intensified conflict and most reported in Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, and Lattakia, followed by Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al Hasakeh. Lattakia (80%), Ar-Raqqa (60%) saw the biggest increase in their population (WFP 11/11/2014; MSNA 30/10/2014).

#### Refugees

There are an estimated 29,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria. Almost 4,300 are registered in Al Hasakeh governorate (UNHCR 25/11/2014).

#### Syrian Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

**3,342,528 Syrians are registered or waiting to register as refugees outside Syria as of 5 January (UNHCR, 12/01/2014).**

From January to September 2014, 100,000 new Syrian refugees were registered in neighbouring countries – down from 150,000 per month in 2013 (UNHCR 09/2014). In October, only 18,453 new refugees were registered by UNHCR (NRC/IRC, 12/11/2014).

Following a pledge by the aid community, western governments committed to take in around 100,000 Syrian refugees in the coming months (UNHCR, 09/12/2014).

**Turkey:** 1,165,279 refugees (UNHCR, 10/12/2014), almost 892,000 of whom are outside, camps. The Government has suspended pre-registration as of 20 October to focus on the full registration process: as of 11 December, at least 52,000 Syrian refugees have been biometrically registered (UNHCR, 05/01/2014). The rate of full biometric registration is reportedly 400 people a day (UNHCR, 20/11/2014). At Suruc, around 1,000 people are estimated to be waiting on the Syrian side of the border. At Yumurtalik border crossing, another 500–600 people are waiting (UNHCR, 11/12/2014).

**Lebanon: 1,160,468 refugees (UNHCR 08/01/2014).** Lebanon's borders have been closed to Syrian refugees since 24 October. Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa. Previously, Syrians were allowed to stay up to six months automatically. It is unclear what this will mean for Syrians in Lebanon not registered as refugees (BBC, 05/01/2015).

**Jordan: 622,384 refugees (UNHCR 12/01/2015),** with an average of 100-150 people returning to Syria per day (IFRC, 18/12/2014). Between 3,000 and 4,000 people are camped on the Syrian side of the border. UNHCR is trying to broker their access with authorities. No entries through informal border crossings have been registered since 1 November (23/11/2014).

**Egypt: 136,717 refugees (UNHCR 12/01/2015).** 150 have been deported to Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. More have received deportation orders (Amnesty International 14/11/2014).

**Iraq: 233,625 refugees (UNHCR 31/12/2014).** The Kurdish Regional Government's intelligence and security services have started to legalise the stay of Syrians who crossed to KR-I via the Peshkabour border but have not been registered (UNHCR 11/2014).

**Palestinians:** Over 50% – or 280,000 – of approximately 540,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria have been displaced within Syria, and 12% to neighbouring countries: 45,000 have been recorded with UNRWA in Lebanon; 14,642 in Jordan and 860 in Gaza. Around 4,000 are reportedly in Egypt (UNRWA 28/10/2014).

### Food Security

Almost 4.5 million are in need of food assistance. Food aid was resumed in mid-December, following an ad-hoc funding campaign (WFP, 09/12/2014). WFP had suspended food aid for 1.7 million people affected by the Syria conflict, because of a funding crisis on 1 December (WFP/UNHCR 01/12/2014). The food aid basket for 4.2 million Syrians had already been cut by 40% in October (AFP, 10/2014).

In many areas of Syria, food security is deteriorating because of continuing civil war and fragmentation, international sanctions, disrupted food production, and hikes in domestic fuel and food prices (WFP, 19/12/2014).

IDPs outside formal camps are most susceptible to food shortages. The most acute needs are reported from Aleppo, Dar'a, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus, including from 600,000 besieged civilians in Eastern Ghouta, Rural Damascus (MSNA, 10/2014). Food dispatches are continued to be hindered by worsening security conditions, particularly in the north-east and south (WFP 25/11/2014). Bread shortages are threatening food security in many areas, particularly in the north.

Government subsidies have brought down inflation in some parts of the country. However, in parts of opposition-held Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, and Rural Damascus, prices have risen over 75% in just over three months (WFP, 10/2014). If the conflict continues in 2015, it is expected that 60% of Syrians will not be able to secure their own food requirements (WHO, 10/2014).

### Agriculture and Markets

The "cereal belt" of Syria includes Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al Hasakeh, Deir-Ez-Zor, Hama, and Idlib, and produces more than 80% of the country's wheat. Drought and conflict have both impacted production. According to FAO estimates, Syria's overall cereal production in 2014 was approximately 18% below total production in 2013 and 38% below the five-year average (2009–13) (FAO, 14/10/2014).

### Livelihoods

More than half the population lived in extreme poverty at the end of 2013. Unemployment is at 54% (3.39 million people) (Syrian Centre for Policy Research/UNDP, 19/10/2014). The

conflict has set the economy back more than three decades. 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).

Economic pressure, erosion of livelihoods, lack of income-generating activities, and increased size of households hamper access to services and goods across all sectors (MSNA, 30/10/2014).

### Health and Nutrition

Over 2.4 million people are in need of health assistance, with highest numbers reported from Ar-Raqqa (627,600), Aleppo (475,270), and Al Hasakeh (356,200). 43% of areas with frequent fighting, and 37% with sporadic fighting, reported acute health needs (MSNA, 30/10/2014). The winter is likely to have a large impact on vulnerable people, particularly those residing in the mountainous regions in northern Syria (WHO, 31/10/2014). The chronically ill, disabled and child-headed households are the most vulnerable groups at risk of health concerns (MSNA, 30/10/2014).

Tuberculosis, typhoid, and scabies have become endemic in northern Syria (AFP, 28/11/2014). **In opposition-held Aleppo, cholera, typhoid, scabies and tuberculosis are spreading among the population of 360,000 for lack of treatments or vaccines, according to local doctors (Reuters, 08/01/2015).**

**WHO has not been able to deliver medical aid to the opposition-held parts of Aleppo, despite a government promise to allow access end of December (Reuters, 08/01/2015).**

### Capacity

Since the start of the conflict, some 200,000 Syrians have died from chronic illnesses due to lack of access to treatment and medicines. Hospitals are unable to cope with the demand for surgery, due to the increase in the number of injured – averaging 25,000 each month – combined with a lack of (female) medical staff, severe supply shortages and frequent power cuts (PHR, 10/2014).

711 of 1,921 primary health centres and more than one-third (37 of 92) public hospitals are out of service (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA, 11/2014). Five governorates (Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Homs, Dar'a, and Deir-er-Zor) have the highest number of non-functional public hospitals. Local drug production has fallen by 70% (WHO, 10/2014).

In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, contamination of the Euphrates River, heavy violence, damaged water infrastructure, hot weather, overcrowded shelters, and frequent power cuts have made the population more susceptible to the spread of communicable diseases. Typhoid and hepatitis A are on the rise, with 76% of typhoid cases between January and mid-July 2014 reported from Deir-ez-Zor (PHR, 10/2014).

### Attacks on Health Workers and Facilities

Between March 2011 and August 2014, 560 medical personnel had reportedly been killed, mostly in targeted killings (PHR, 10/2014). In the same period, PHR documented 195

attacks on 155 separate medical facilities. Of these, 176 were committed by government forces, 13 by non-state armed groups, and six by unknown forces (PHR, 25/09/2014).

#### Diarrhoeal Disease

Diarrhoea is one of the main causes of death for children under 12 months old (IFRC, 24/07/2014). The number of acute diarrhoea cases continues to increase, with 60,012 reported by mid-September, up from 22,169 reported in July (WHO, 22/08/2014; WHO, 30/10/2014).

#### Maternal Health

3 million women and girls of reproductive age are in need of care in Syria, including around 432,000 pregnant women. Every day, some 1,480 women give birth in dire conditions. 26 of 41 basic emergency obstetric care centres are reported as non-functional (Syrian Ministry of Health/UNFPA, 30/11/2014).

#### Measles

4,200 cases of measles were reported in Syria in 2014 (Reuters, 19/12/2014).

#### Mental Health

More than 350,000 individuals in Syria are estimated to suffer from severe forms of mental illness; over 2 million people suffer from mild to moderate problems such as anxiety and depression disorders, and a large percentage have moderate to severe psychological/social distress (WHO/UNHCR, 19/10/2014).

#### Nutrition

In areas with high IDP concentration, 2.3% Severe Acute Malnutrition –above the 2% crisis threshold- and 7.2% Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate –within the threshold for poor nutritional status- was reported. Al Hasakeh, Hama, and Tartous had the highest SAM rates – above 3% – while Aleppo, Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Quneitra, and Rural Damascus had SAM rates above 2.5% (2014 Nutrition Assessment (preliminary results); UNICEF, 21/10/2014).

#### Polio

Although the beginning of December marked eight months with no additional cases of wild poliovirus in the Middle East, indicating that transmission of the virus has been interrupted (AFP, 28/11/2014; Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 26/11/2014). 36 polio cases have been reported in Syria since October 2013.

#### Typhoid

More than 6,500 cases of typhoid were reported in Syria in 2014 (Reuters, 19/12/2014).

#### WASH

4.6 million people are in need of WASH assistance. Six out of ten governorates report

major problems in the WASH sector. Syrian families consume 40% less water than they did pre-crisis.

All parties to the conflict are increasingly targeting vital services. One-third of water treatment plants no longer function, and sewage treatment has halved. As of September, three of four water pumping stations in Aleppo have been shut down, affecting over two million people (PHR, 10/2014; WHO/UNICEF, 22/07/2014). More than 400,000 are reported in acute need of water in Al Bab subdistrict of Aleppo governorate alone (MSNA, 30/10/2014). The cut-off of a main water source feeding Damascus has aggravated the already scarce resource triggered by drought (UNICEF, 12/2014).

In November, after three months, UNRWA was permitted to transport limited amounts of clean water into Yarmouk camp (UNRWA, 10/11/2014).

#### Shelter and NFIs

1.6 million people are in need of shelter assistance (MSNA, 30/10/2014). 1.2 million houses have been damaged, 400,000 of which have been totally destroyed (UNHCR, 30/10/2014). Only IDPs in government-controlled areas receive shelter response, through collective shelter rehabilitation and private shelter upgrade (UNHCR, 20/11/2014).

**Several IDP camps in northern Idlib, along the border with Turkey, have been flooded after days of icy rain and snow. A large number of families have been forced out, after their tents and belongings were damaged (ECHO, 08/01/2015).**

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

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

#### Education

420,000 Syrians aged 6–14 are in need of education services, and many of these children have been out of school for two or more years (UNHCR/REACH, 07/2014). Nationwide, 51.8% of school-age children were not going to school (Syrian Centre for Policy Research, 05/2014; AFP, 12/09/2014). 4,000 Syrian schools have been destroyed, damaged, or used to house IDPs, leaving the educational system on the verge of collapse. Reports indicate most schools in Ar-Raqqa are closed (UNICEF, 21/10/2014); airstrikes have also caused damages to schools (UNICEF, 12/2014). 76 UNRWA schools – more than two-thirds – have become unusable. Another 15 are used as collective shelters, housing 6,043 people (UNRWA, 17/11/2014).

The primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support the family (Syrian Interim Government/OCHA, 07/11/2014).

#### Protection

Protection is a priority concern in the Syrian crisis. Human trafficking, and reportedly organ trafficking, is reported to take place in Syria (UNHCR 20/11/2014). Non-state armed groups continue to commit violations, including summary executions. Ethnic and religious communities in IS-occupied areas have been targeted directly (UN Human Rights Council 11/2014). IS has executed 1,429 people in Syria since June, the majority civilians (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014; SOHR/AFP, 17/11/2014). There are unconfirmed allegations of IS abuses against the Al Shaitat tribe for refusing to recognise IS jurisdiction, with hundreds of civilian members of the tribe reportedly abducted and detained in Deir-ez-Zor (UNSC 21/11/2014). Over November–December, IS killed 120 of its own members, most of them foreign fighters trying to return home (SOHR, 28/12/2014).

#### Indiscriminate Attacks

In October and November, the government forces carried out more air strikes and barrel bombings on opposition-held areas in the central and southern governorates, killing and wounding civilians.

Improvised mortar bombs, used by Syrian fighters, killed 311 civilians between July and December this year, two-thirds in Aleppo (SOHR/Reuters, 12/12/2014).

#### Recruitment

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

#### Refugees

Over 280,000 PRS have been displaced, many multiple times. Over half of PRS are currently unemployed and coping mechanisms are stretched to breaking point.

#### Chemical Weapons

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) maintains a presence in Syria (UNSC, 10/2014). There has been a spate of allegations of chlorine attacks, the most recent reported on the town of Kafr Zeta on 28 August (OPCW, 09/2014). An OPCW commission found confirmation that a toxic chemical was used in three villages of northern Syria earlier in the year.

#### Mines and ERW

In 2013, children accounted for almost half of 2,403 civilian casualties from landmines, victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cluster munition remnants, and other explosive remnants of war (International Campaign to Ban Landmines/ Cluster Munition Coalition, 19/11/2014). Landmines in a restricted zone, laid along the border decades ago by the Turkish military, killed at least three civilians trying to flee Syria and injured at least nine others (HRW, 02/12/2014).

#### Detention

200,000 people are estimated to be in government detention, including 20,000 detainees that are completely unaccounted for (SOHR/HRW, 02/12/2014). OHCHR continues to receive reports of the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in government detention facilities (UNSC, 21/11/2014). **In 2014, 2,100 people have died in Syrian prisons** from torture, starvation, and lack of medical treatment, **among them 27 children under the age of 18 (SOHR, 10/01/2015; AFP, 11/2014)**. 11,000 detainees were allegedly freed after President Assad declared a general amnesty in June (AFP, 11/2014).

Some 7,000 government troops held by opposition forces are unaccounted for (SOHR, 07/2014). Another 1,500 IS, other opposition, and Kurdish fighters have been kidnapped during battles in recent months (AFP, 07/2014).

#### Sexual and Gender-based Violence

IS has sought to exclude Syrian women and girls from public life. Forced marriage of girls to IS fighters and the selling of abducted girls into sexual slavery have been reported (UN Human Rights Council, 14/11/2014).

#### Media

Journalists and other media workers are systematically targeted.

*Updated: 12/01/2015*

## YEMEN CONFLICT, FOOD INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**11 January:** At least five men were killed and an unknown number injured in a raid launched by armed tribesmen on Houthi headquarters in Rada. The raid was launched to free five tribesmen detained by the Houthis on 10 January, according to tribal sources (Yemen Times, 12/01/2015).

**7 January:** A car bomb targeting a police academy in Sanaa killed 37 and wounded 66 (AFP, 07/01/2015).

**6 January:** A Yemeni tribal chief allied with the Houthis and at least four other people were killed in an ambush in Al Zaher district, Al Bayda governorate (Reuters/Yemen Times 06/01/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 15.9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 28/12/2014).

- Over 10 million are food insecure, including 5 million severely food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey 2014). Levels of food insecurity have doubled since 2009 (FAO, 06/2014).

- 8.6 million have no access to healthcare (OCHA, 09/10/2014).
- One million children under five are acutely malnourished; 280,000 are severely malnourished (OCHA, UNICEF 06/2014).
- 13.1 million do not have access to safe water and improved sanitation; 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 09/10/2014). Open defecation remains the practice for more than 20% of the population (UNICEF 2014)
- There are 335,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), 227,000 returnees and 245,000 refugees in the country (OCHA, 09/10/2014).
- Extreme access constraints prevail in Hadramaut, Shabwah, and Marib governorates. The governorates with the highest severity of needs are Aden, Abyan, Amanat Al Asimah, Al Jawf, Sa'ada, Hajjah (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

## OVERVIEW

The highest priority humanitarian needs include food and nutrition assistance, access to healthcare, shelter – primarily for conflict-affected people – protection, and provision of water and sanitation

Yemen's political transition towards democratic elections in 2015 has stalled. In addition to economic challenges, it continues to face three concurrent security challenges: Houthi insurgents advancing from the north; southern secessionists; and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) throughout the country.

## Political Context

Interim President Hadi is supposed to be overseeing a US-supported political transition and structural reform, but instability and violence continue across the country. Shia Houthi insurgents from the far north have de facto control over Sa'ada and neighbouring Amran, and parts of Al Jawf, and Hajjah governorates, and have rejected the proposed division of the country into six federated regions, claiming it is unequal in terms of wealth distribution. At end November, Shi'ite and Sunni groups met for the first time for talks aimed at de-escalating the crisis (AFP, 29/11/2014).

A large portion of southern leaders are still aiming for a fully independent, unified south.

Prime Minister Khalid Bahah's Government received parliamentary approval in December, after agreeing not to implement UN sanctions on Yemeni citizens (Yemen Times, 18/12/2014). The new Government was sworn in in November (Al Jazeera, 09/11/2014). Yemen's ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh had withdrawn his General People's Congress (GPC) party from the new Government (AFP, 09/11/2014; 13/11/2014). A Houthi presidential aide stated the Houthi group endorsed the new Government despite its opposition to some ministers (Reuters, 13/11/2014).

## Southern Movement (Al Hirak)

Rallies in the south calling for secession have gained momentum since October due to the developments in Sanaa and other northern governorates; one protester was wounded in Yemen on 1 January (Yemen Times, 19/10/2014; AFP, 01/01/2015). The Southern Movement continues to ask government employees for civil disobedience (Yemen Times, 16/12/2014).

On 27 October, the Southern Movement's two existing councils were merged to represent all southerners, and calling for the south's full independence, a federal and parliamentary political system, the restoration of the legitimacy of Ali Salem Al Beidh, president of South Yemen before 1990, and his appointment as president of the south. The Southern Movement has called on Houthi support (Yemen Times, 28/10/2014). 33 members of parliament have formed the Southern Parliamentary Bloc, in support of protestors arguing for secession (The Daily Star, 27/10/2014).

## Economic Crisis

Yemen's economic difficulties are adding to the political crisis. Oil revenues declined almost 30% between January 2013 and January 2014 (Yemen Central Bank, 02/2014). In July, the Government increased the price of petrol by 60% and diesel by 95%. On 1 December, it was reported that Saudi Arabia is considering stopping financial support to Yemen, a move that could tip the country further towards economic collapse (IRIN, 01/12/2014).

Observers have warned that the economy will continue to decline if the Government cannot protect pipelines. Attacks on oil pipelines are regularly reported (Al Jazeera).

## Security Context

In 2014, at least 7,000 people were killed, including 1,200 civilians, according to a Yemeni think tank (Al Jazeera, 04/01/2014). 274 people have been killed and 470 injured in Sanaa since September, according to the Yemeni Government. Other reports indicate 652 people killed and 930 injured (Yemen Times, 22/12/2014).

The inability of internally divided state forces to check the Houthis' ascent or dampen sectarianism has galvanised separatist groups (Reuters, 09/11/2014). AQAP, Al Qaeda's powerful Yemeni branch, backed by Sunni tribesmen, have instead fought to halt the Houthis' advance (AFP, 20/10/2014).

## Houthi Insurgency

The Houthis, also referred to as Ansarullah, are based in Sa'ada governorate. Their advance in 2014 has seen fighting in Al Jawf, Amran, Al Bayda, Dhamar, Ibb, Marib, and Hajjah governorates, as well as Sanaa and Al Hudaydah. On 31 December, Houthis seized Raymah governorate (Yemen Times, 01/01/2015). The Houthis virtually control Ibb governorate, with the exception of Udain, which AQAP and its allies recaptured in October (29/10/2014). Houthis seized the Red Sea port city of Hudaydah in October.

Houthis took control of much of Sanaa in September. Protests against their presence took place on 28 September, and Houthis began dismantling protest camps on 16 October,



although they were reportedly still in control of the city, operating checkpoints and keeping guard outside key ministries, commercial districts, and diplomatic missions (Reuters, 19/10/2014). Violence persists despite a peace agreement and an annex covering security and military conditions in Amran, Al Jawf, Marib, and Sanaa governorates, as well as other governorates witnessing violence (Yemen Times, 29/09/2014).

The Houthis have taken up arms before, citing political, economic, and religious marginalisation (Al Jazeera, 16/11/2009).

#### **Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Ansar al Sharia**

AQAP, based in the south and east of the country, has expanded its presence in Hadramaut. According to analysts, the Houthi advance has bolstered support for AQAP and Ansar al Sharia: tribes in Ibb and Al Bayda, for example, who are opposed to the Houthi advance, have allied themselves with Ansar al Sharia (Reuters, 09/11/2014).

AQAP regularly targets army and security forces, foreigners for abduction, and oil pipelines. In late December and early January, AQAP targeted several members of the security forces, including in Al Bayda and Shabwah. Yemeni authorities blame AQAP for a campaign of targeted killings in which up to 350 senior army officers have died in the past three years (Reuters, 04/01/2014).

#### **Security Incidents and Conflict Developments**

**Sanaa: On 7 January, a car bomb hit dozens of potential police recruits lining up at a police academy. 37 people were killed and 66 wounded (AFP, 07/01/2015).**

A number of bomb and IED attacks were reported in December (Yemen Times, 08/12/2014). On 14 December Houthis took control of Arhab district (Yemen Times, 16/12/2014). Armed Houthi 'popular committees' had mushroomed at improvised checkpoints across the city. Critics charge that they are as a partisan force. Houthis have also been accused of violently suppressing dissent (IRIN, 03/11/2014). The largest of a number of attacks in October targeted a gathering for Houthi supporters, killing 47 and wounding dozens more. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility (AFP, 09/10/2014).

**Al Bayda: On 11 January, at least five men were killed and an unknown number injured in a raid launched by armed tribesmen on Houthi headquarters in Rada. The raid was launched to free five tribesmen who had been apprehended and detained by the Houthis on 10 January, according to tribal sources (Yemen Times, 12/01/2015). On 6 January, unidentified assailants killed a Yemeni tribal chief allied with Shi'ite Muslim Houthi militias and at least four other people in an ambush in Al Zaher district (Reuters/Yemen Times 06/01/2015). On 16 December, a suicide bomb attack in Rada, targeting a Shi'ite militia leader, killed 25 people including 15 children (AFP, 16/12/2014).**

Clashes between Houthis, AQAP and affiliated tribes began in October and intensified into more sustained conflict in November, with violence mainly centred in Wald Rabi, Al Quraishyah and Rada districts. Clashes have involved the use of rocket-propelled grenades and attacks on schools and hospitals used by the warring parties (AFP, 17/10/2014; 20/10/2014; 08/11/2014). Rada is a mixed Sunni-Shi'ite area that has

frequently been the scene of clashes. As of early December, AQAP has reportedly withdrawn mainly towards Marib governorate (OCHA, 01/12/2014).

**Dhamar: On 4 January, four people were killed and 25 wounded in a bomb attack targeting a Houthi gathering in Dhamar city (AFP; Reuters, 04/01/2015).**

**Ibb: On 31 December, 49 people were killed and 70 wounded in a suicide attack on a religious celebration by Houthi supporters in Ibb city (AFP, 01/01/2015).**

**Marib: A large influx of armed tribesmen have entered the governorate since 10 January. Reinforcements from Al Jawf, Al Baida, and Sa'ada governorates are joining local tribes to defend the governorate against possible Houthi assaults. According to tribal sources, upwards of 30,000 armed tribesmen are stationed in Sahil area (Yemen Times, 12/01/2015).** The Houthi leader threatened to seize Marib governorate on 3 January (Al Arabiya, 04/01/2014). On 1 January, clashes broke out in the city of Marib between tribesmen and government troops, whom the tribesmen suspected to be Houthi supporters. Six soldiers and two tribesmen were killed (Al Jazeera, 02/01/2015). On 14 December, AQAP claimed an attack which killed a leading General People's Congress figure, accusing him of supporting Houthis (Yemen Times, 16/12/2014).

**Hadramaut: On 9 December, a suicide attack on the headquarters of the First Military Command in Seyoun killed at least five people, according to officials (Al Jazeera, 09/12/2014).**

#### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

##### **Access**

Extreme access constraints prevail in Hadramaut, Shabwah and Marib governorates (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

The ongoing fuel crisis and insecurity are slowing humanitarian operations and access. Road closures further hamper aid deliveries.

##### **Displacement**

Several waves of conflict, lack of access, and the fluidity of displacement all make it extremely difficult to estimate new displacements and needs.

In 2014, 80,000 people fled their homes due to conflict (OCHA, 09/10/2014).

In 2015, an estimated 915,000 refugees and migrants will require multi-sector humanitarian assistance – an increase of 16% on 2014's estimate (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

##### **IDPs**

As of end of December, there were 334,000 IDPs in Yemen (OCHA, 22/12/2014). The vast majority are hosted in five governorates: Sa'ada (103,014 people); Hajjah (88,603 people); Amran (71,548 people); Sanaa (46,228 people); and Al Jawf (24,700) (OCHA, 11/2014).

90% of IDPs are estimated to live outside camps (OCHA, 3/09/2014; Global CCCM

Cluster, 27/03/2014).

**In Al Bayda governorate, 20,000 were displaced over November–December due to fighting between armed groups. As of 21 December, around 1,500 people remain displaced (OCHA, 01/12/2014; 31/12/2014).**

#### Refugees

Around 800,000 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants require humanitarian assistance. **As of end November, 82,680 refugees and migrants had arrived in Yemen in 2014 (OCHA, 31/12/2014).**

At least 2,000 Syrians refugees have been registered in Yemen since August. The total number of Syrians in Yemen is estimated to be more than 10,000 (OCHA, 5/11/2014). There has been a marked increase in arrivals of refugees and migrants from Africa, in excess of 10,500 people in August. Border controls have been relaxed between Ethiopia and Somalia since early 2014 (OCHA 29/09/2014). More than 243,000 Somali refugees are living in precarious conditions either in the only refugee camp, Kharaz, or in urban areas. One million undocumented Ethiopian migrants also live in Yemen (ECHO, 27/08/2014)

#### Returnees

During October, IOM recorded 25,940 Yemeni returnees at the Al Tuwal border crossing point between Yemen and Saudi Arabia (IOM, 14/11/2014). Between January 2013 and September 2014, 936,408 Yemenis returned from Saudi Arabia, as the Saudi Government restricted the activities of foreign workers (OCHA, 30/11/2014). Most returnees have acute humanitarian needs.

**At the end of November, 215,400 IDPs had returned home (OCHA, 31/12/2014). Returnees were located in Abyan (138,631), Sa'ada (68,618) and Al Bayda (8,155) (OCHA, 31/12/2014).**

#### Food Security

The overall current food security situation shows a slight improvement since 2011, however, 4.8 million people are still in Emergency and 5.8 million are in Crisis phases, equalling 40% of the population (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). Nearly half of the rural population and over one quarter of the urban population are food insecure (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

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

Crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) are expected in the country between January and June (FEWSNET, 12/2014). Emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) are expected in Shabwah, Abyan, Sa'ada, Hajjah and Lahj governorates over January- June 2015 (IPC, OCHA, 22/12/2014).

#### Agriculture and Markets

Insecurity is hampering agricultural activity as well as agricultural assistance programmes (FAO cited in OCHA, 08/10/2014).

As of October, seasonally adjusted wheat prices had risen by 15%, and the retail prices for fuel had increased by 48% (WFP, 27/10/2014).

The purchasing power of wage workers and animal owners; access to staple food commodities have declined (FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). Yemen imports up to 90% of its main staple foods, including wheat and sugar. Continued instability, currency depreciation, and low foreign reserve levels have all contributed to costlier food imports and higher local commodity prices (WFP, 31/07/2014).

#### Livelihoods

The conflict in Sanaa has disrupted livelihoods and hurt the local economy (Yemen Times, 06/11/2014).

The loss of remittances due to the expulsion of Yemeni migrant workers from Saudi Arabia is likely to have a severe impact on the lives of thousands of families (ECHO, 27/08/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

An estimated 8.6 million people have limited access to health services (OCHA, 09/09/2014). Qualified medical staff are in short supply, as is medical equipment.

#### Nutrition

The number of acutely malnourished children under the age of five has fallen from an estimated one million at the end of 2013 to just over 840,000 in 2014, according to the Nutrition Cluster. In the same period, the number of severely acutely malnourished children declined from 279,000 to about 170,000. However, more than one in ten children is still acutely malnourished, with boys more affected than girls (Comprehensive Food Security Survey, 11/2014).

National GAM has slightly improved: 12.7% of under five children are malnourished compared to 13% in 2011 (OCHA, 31/08/2014; FEWSNET, 16/09/2014). The Comprehensive Food Security Survey shows that GAM has improved considerably in Al Hudaydah, Aden, Lahj, Marib, Al Dhale'e, Hadramaut and Al Bayda; but severely deteriorated in Taizz, Ibb, Dhamar and Al Maharah, due to various factors including poor water and sanitation conditions, poor food consumption habits, and scarce health facilities.

#### WASH

An estimated 13.1 million people do not have access to safe water (OCHA, 09/09/2014), 12.1 million are without access to improved sanitation, and 4.4 million lack access to adequate sanitation (OCHA, 28/02/2014). Open defecation remains standard practice for more than 20% of the population and appears to be higher for young children (UNICEF 2014).

## Education

In 2015, 1.1 million people affected by conflict or other disasters will require education services, including provision of education or rehabilitation of schools, among other things (OCHA, 22/12/2014). Over 350 damaged schools require rehabilitation or reconstruction, affecting some 72,000 children (Yemen Times, 04/11/2014).

Nationwide, an estimated 2.5 million children are not in school (OCHA, 04/2014). 69% of the estimated 1.14 million 6–14 year-olds not in school are girls (UNICEF cited in Yemen Times, 04/11/2014).

## Protection

Conflict in Sanaa has raised critical protection concerns regarding systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (OCHA, 08/10/2014).

### Children

In 2015, an estimated 3.9 million children are living in areas where violations of their rights constitute a serious risk. Of these, an estimated 2.6 million are in need of child protection services (OCHA, 22/12/2014).

The Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict has reported that Houthis, Ansar al Sharia, AQAP and state forces are all recruiting children (01/10/2014). Child recruitment by armed forces and armed groups was also reported during the Amran conflict (UNICEF, 31/07/2014). Armed children guard checkpoints (OCHA, 08/10/2014). In Sanaa city in September, sixteen boys were recruited and used by parties to conflict, while one was abducted (OCHA, 05/11/2014).

### GBV

About 100,000 people are predicted to require support related to gender-based violence in 2015. GBV in Yemen remains critically under-reported. From January to mid-October 2014, 8,300 GBV cases were reported (OCHA, 22/12/2014). In the first half of 2014, 285 cases of gender-based violence were reported in Aden (OCHA, 05/06/2014).

### Mines and ERW

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are a major concern in the northern governorates. There were several incidents reported in Sanaa, Sa'ada, Al Dhale'e, Amanat Al Asimah and Ibb in September and October (UNICEF, 31/10/2014).

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

*Updated: 12/01/2014*

## LEBANON CONFLICT, INTERNAL UNREST

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**7 January:** Due to snow accumulation, all routes in and out of the Bekaa Valley have been cut off (Medair 07/01/2015).

**5 January:** Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must now apply for a visa; previously, Syrians had been automatically allowed to stay for six months. It is unclear what this will mean for Syrians in Lebanon not registered as refugees (BBC, 05/01/2015).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 1,153,477 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. 13,411 are awaiting registration (UNHCR 18/12/2014). Over 45,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria have been recorded by UNRWA (04/11/2014).
- The increasing proportion of refugees living in substandard shelters and the lack of funding represent major challenges for the required weatherproofing assistance. As of late November, less than 60% of 92,400 refugee families in need were planned to benefit from assistance, leaving more than 37,000 families without the needed weatherproofing (Shelter Cluster, 11/2014).
- An estimated 420,000 school-aged refugee children need education services (REACH 11/2014).
- Only 30% of Syrian children born in Lebanon have birth certificates (UNHCR 10/11/2014).

### OVERVIEW

Lebanon has the highest per capita concentration of refugees worldwide. While the country struggles to deal with the refugee influx, which exceeds a quarter of the Lebanese population, tensions between host and refugee populations are increasing due to food price hikes, and pressure on health and education systems, housing, employment. The World Bank estimates that the Syria crisis cost Lebanon USD 2.5 billion in lost economic activity during 2013. The number of people living in Lebanon has increased by 30% compared to 2011. The number of poor living in Lebanon has also risen by nearly two-thirds since 2011, to 2.1 million, and Lebanese unemployment has doubled (UNHCR 18/12/2014).

### Political Context

On the grounds that elections would currently present too much of a security risk, the Lebanese Parliament extended its mandate for another two years and seven months at the beginning of November, after a similar move in 2013. The Reform and Change bloc, which had boycotted the extension vote, announced it would challenge the extension law at the Constitutional Council (Daily Star, 12/11/2014).

Some observers state the extension might pave the way for dialogue regarding the five-

month presidential vacuum (Daily Star, 06/11/2014; 05/11/2014). Former president Michel Sleiman's term expired on 25 May. The March 8 bloc, which includes Hezbollah, has boycotted voting for the new president, arguing that the sessions are futile until rival groups agree on a consensus candidate.

The Government was formed in February after ten months of political stalemate, and brings together the Hezbollah movement and its allies, and the Future Movement bloc, who back opposing sides in the Syria war. Neither side has veto power over the other. Long-awaited dialogue between both movements, aiming to reduce Sunni-Shi'ite tensions, pave the way for ending the presidential vacuum, and boost efforts to combat terrorism, was due to start on 23 December (Daily Star, 23/12/2014).

## Security Context

Hezbollah's involvement in Syria, and the alleged presence of Jabhat al Nusra (JAN) and IS in Lebanon, raises destabilisation concerns in Lebanon. Along its northern and northeastern border with Syria, Lebanon is engaged in a battle against the Islamic State (IS), JAN and affiliated armed groups. JAN hinted at attacks on Hezbollah strongholds in November, which observers perceive as consistent with JAN's stated strategy to force Hezbollah to withdraw from Syria and refocus on Lebanon. **However, analysts estimate that no more than 3,000 IS and JAN fighters are in Syria's Qalamoun area on the border with Lebanon, which is insufficient to wage a large-scale assault on the country (Stratfor, 03/01/2015; Daily Star, 06/01/2015).**

In August, armed fighters briefly took over the town of Arsal, in the Bekaa Valley, with air raids along the border and bomb attacks targeting military and Hezbollah in Arsal and Bekaa Valley. Violence in Arsal, and sporadic incidents across the country, have been followed by an increase in raids and arrests by the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF). Around 950 people were arrested in November, for residing in Lebanon without a valid permit, or on terror or drug-related charges, among others (Daily Star, 06/12/2014).

**Bekaa Valley:** During a raid on Majdaloun temporary camp, west Baalbek, ten people of Syrian origin were arrested on suspicion of links with militant groups (Daily Star 09/12/2014).

Since mid-October, several instances of shelling have taken place, as well as gunfire, armed clashes, and border violations (OCHA 30/11/2014).

**Tripoli:** Since October, there have been several bouts of fighting in Tripoli between Sunni groups sympathetic to armed opposition groups in Syria, and Alawite groups supporting the Government of Syria. Fighting was recurrent before the alleged presence of IS and JAN, and is mostly a manifestation of long-standing socio-economic grievances and sectarian tensions (SNAP 06/11/2014). The fighting caused major damage to the impoverished Sunni neighbourhood of Bab-al-Tabbaneh, home to some 100,000 people, including over 6,600 registered Syrian refugees (SNAP 06/11/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

## Prisoner Exchanges

Since clashes in early August, IS and JAN are believed to be holding about 25 Lebanese soldiers and members of security forces still. Arsal Deputy Mayor Fliti is now mediating.

He already met IS militants, noting the group wants a unified government stance over the acceptance of an exchange (Daily Star 21/12/2014). Meanwhile, Hezbollah stated it will also take action for the release of captives (Daily Star 23/12/2014).

On 5 December, JAN executed a hostage, a Lebanese policeman, and vowed to kill another captive unless the Government releases the women and children related to IS leader Baghdadi and an IS commander who were detained last week. The execution led to unrest throughout the country, including a spike in security incidents targeting Syrian refugees.

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

Some 3.3 million people in Lebanon, including 1.2 million children, are directly affected by the Syria crisis (UNHCR 16/12/2014). Lebanon is also hosting 270,000 long-term Palestinian refugees (UNICEF 12/12/2014).

## Access

Refugees live across 1,750 different locations in Lebanon, making the delivery of humanitarian assistance challenging (UNHCR 10/2014). Northern Bekaa, Tripoli and Akkar are areas of higher risk for humanitarian workers (OCHA 30/11/2014), and parts of those areas been designated by the UN as a security 'red zone', allowing critical missions only (WFP 03/12/2014).

**In early January, stormy weather and snowfall cut off all routes in and out of the Bekaa Valley (Medair 07/01/2015).**

## Border Restrictions

**Since January, Syrians wanting to enter Lebanon must apply for a visa; previously, Syrians were automatically allowed to stay up to six months. It is unclear what this will mean for Syrians in Lebanon not registered as refugees (BBC, 05/01/2015).** The Government introduced measures to limit the Syrian refugee influx in May 2014. In October, the Government formally agreed to stop welcoming displaced people, barring exceptional cases, and to ask UNHCR to stop registering the displaced. The policy has resulted in a substantial reduction in refugees registering (UNHCR, AFP 24/10/2014). The impact is raising serious protection concerns (UNHCR 07/2014).

An average of 13% of registered refugees have entered through unofficial border crossings and are not able to pay the prohibitive regularisation fees. Those who entered through official crossings often have difficulties meeting the residency renewal fees (UNHCR 10/2014).

The unpredictability of policies and their implementation severely hampers the provision of protection services and frustrates advocacy efforts aimed at putting in place a solid legal framework (SNAP 07/12/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** Since May, PRS entry to Lebanon has been almost entirely limited to those transiting to a third country. An increasing number of PRS remain in Lebanon without legal stay, and face an array of protection concerns (OCHA

01/09/2014).

#### Critical Infrastructure

The shortage of surface water due partly to little rainfall last winter has reduced hydroelectric power generation, leading to a scarcity of electric power (UNHCR 11/2014).

#### Displacement

##### Refugees in Lebanon

**1,158,995 Syrians are registered as refugees in Lebanon. 12,590 are awaiting registration (UNHCR 31/12/2014).**

**Bekaa is hosting 404,914 refugees; Beirut 320,024; North Lebanon 285,235; and South Lebanon 136,232 (UNHCR 31/12/2014).**

79% are women and children. 53.4% are children. 32% of registered families are headed by women. Over 38% of households include at least one person with specific needs (UNHCR 09/2014). Most refugees come from Homs, Idleb and Jebel Saman districts in Syria (UNHCR 30/11/2014).

More than half of refugees coming to Lebanon moved at least once before crossing the border; one in ten moved more than three times (UNHCR 01/09/2014). The number of Syrians in Lebanon who are not registered with UNHCR is unknown.

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** 45,000 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) reside in Lebanon (UNRWA cited by OCHA 04/11/2014).

##### Host Communities

All 446 host communities have reported inadequate or insufficient access to water, waste water management systems, affordable housing, and employment opportunities. Conditions in urban locations are better than in rural communities (OCHA 09/2014).

86% of Syrian refugees are living in Lebanon's 242 most vulnerable locations. Competition for scarce income-generating opportunities, more expensive goods and services, and less affordable accommodation, are the main drivers of tensions (UNHCR 09/2014; REACH 08/2014)

#### Food Security

As of August, 13% of households were classified as moderately food insecure, and less than 0.5% were considered severely food insecure. The highest levels of food insecurity are found in North Lebanon (Akkar) and the Bekaa Valley (WFP 18/12/2014). Nearly 68% of households reported having reduced the number of meals (VASyR 08/2014). 27% of new Syrian refugees have poor to borderline food consumption scores (UNHCR 08/2014).

##### Agriculture and Markets

A severe drought has resulted in a substantial decline in agricultural production throughout

the country (FAO 11/2014). Average rainfall in 2014 is estimated at 470mm, far below annual averages of 824mm (Inter Press Service 07/2014). Prices inflated as a result, with fruit and vegetables most affected.

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

##### Livelihoods

78% of refugee households are not able to generate an income, citing a lack of work as the main issue. 28% of Syrian refugee households resorted to emergency coping strategies in 2014, up from 22% in 2013. Newcomers arriving in 2014 are in general more vulnerable. 39% of refugees surveyed in July were unemployed for over 12 months in Syria before fleeing to Lebanon (UNHCR 09/2014).

Approximately 80% of households borrowed money or received credit and/or money to buy food, and 68% of refugee households reported that WFP vouchers were their main source of income (WFP 09/2014).

77% of refugee households are relying on non-agricultural casual labour and debts or loans (VASyR 2014). 30% of refugees are unemployed and 88% of the employed are paid 40% less than the minimum wage in Lebanon. Female Syrian workers earn 30% less than male workers. The high cost of living forces households to move into substandard accommodation (UNHCR 09/2014; ILO 04/2014).

Unemployment in border areas hosting Syrian refugees has doubled since the refugee influx. In Akkar, unemployment is increasing, reaching over 58% in some areas (UNHCR 11/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** More than 37% of PRS have reported cash and food aid as their main source of income (UNRWA, 03/2014). The majority of employed PRS cannot rely on wages to ensure a decent standard of living. Only 11% of PRS households were able to rely on previous saving and remittances.

#### Health and Nutrition

72% of primary health centres assessed by UNICEF lack sufficient essential drugs, 67% lack sufficient medication for chronic diseases, and 49% lack sufficient antibiotics for children (08/2014).

Lebanon has a private healthcare system, and cost is therefore a major obstacle for refugees despite UNHCR covering 75% of medical charges (MSF 19/11/2014). Short opening hours and lack of trained health personnel further limit access. In Akkar, Tripoli, and Bekaa, people have to travel over 2km to access services (OCHA/REACH 10/2014).

In the Bekaa, there are challenges in communicating with obtaining clear data on hepatitis A affected areas (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

##### Mental Health

Around 300,000 displaced Syrians are estimated to be most vulnerable to mental health concerns; 60% are women and children (WHO 07/2014). 89% of Syrian youth (18–25 years of age) described themselves as depressed, anxious, or afraid most of the time (UNFPA; UNHCR 10/2014).

#### WASH

Demand for water has increased by 7% due to the refugee influx: 33% of refugee households do not have drinking water, compared to 28% in 2013 (VASyR 08/2014; UNHCR 07/2014). In some areas water shortages can only be addressed through infrastructure projects (UNHCR 09/2014). An estimated 55.4% of households reported storing water in containers at home, which can increase the risk of infectious disease transmission (UNHCR 10/2014).

Lack of funding in the Tripoli area caused suspension of WASH activities in Koura and Batroun districts (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

Informal settlements have limited or no sanitation facilities. Approximately 12% of households (twice the percentage in 2013) do not have access to a place for washing. Of those who had access, over 7% were sharing bathrooms and latrines with 15 people or more (VASyR 08/2014). WASH conditions are worse for refugees in informal settlements; for those in difficult-to-access locations in the Bekaa Valley and the north; and for PRS (UNHCR 07/2014).

Only 8% of wastewater in Lebanon is treated, and the 25% increase in the population now in Lebanon has led to an 8 to 14% increase in the amount of wastewater generated (Ministry of Environment; UNHCR 16/12/2014).

**Waste management:** Waste management remains poor in most places where refugees live, diminishing funding has reduced waste management activities in Bekaa and the north, and municipalities do not have the capacity to collect (UNHCR 09/2014).

#### Shelter and NFIs

There is a 41% gap in substandard shelter assistance because of lack of funding (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

Shelter remains an urgent concern, especially as refugees run out of resources to pay rent, and increasingly resort to informal settlements. The number of evictions is growing every month (UNHCR 10/2014). Refugees live in substandard dwellings, with limited privacy and protection from the elements. 55% of Syrian refugees live in substandard housing, including 38% in insecure dwellings; and 17% in improvised informal settlements (UNHCR 09/2014).

As of 1 September, 1,392 informal settlements house 186,243 refugees. In June 2012, there were 282 informal settlements (UNHCR 09/2014, UNHCR 07/2014). Bekaa has over 700 settlements of four or more tents; Akkar has over 300 settlements, some of which were severely damaged by heavy rainstorms in October. In Akkar, the majority of informal settlements had existed for a year or more, and are generally on private land, on the

outskirts of host communities. The populations are highly dependent upon assistance and loans (UNHCR/ REACH 11/2014).

**Winterisation:** Over 60% of Syrian refugees live in the north or the Bekaa Valley, where winter conditions are more severe than in the rest of the country. Cases of pneumonia and respiratory problems are expected to rise in the absence of heating (Daily Star 24/11/2014). The increasing proportion of refugees living in substandard shelters and the lack of funding represent major challenges for the required weatherproofing assistance. As of late November, less than 60% of 92,400 refugee families in need were planned to benefit from assistance, leaving more than 37,000 families without the needed weatherproofing (Shelter Cluster, 11/2014). **Two Syrians have died since the onset of the snowstorm (AFP, 07/01/2015).**

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** The PRS population increased from 110,000 to 140,000 since 2011: 26,000 are Palestinian refugees from Syria (OCHA 09/2014). PRS households are residing in alarmingly crowded dwellings, with an average of 4.6 persons per bedroom; 8.4 people on average share one bathroom. Most households (71%) reported paying rent for shelter. Slightly over a quarter of households (27%) were hosted free of charge.

**Lebanese returnees:** Some 50,000 Lebanese nationals are expected to return from Syria by the end of 2014, with the majority obliged to rent or live with host families. At least 51% are shelter insecure: 27% live in single-room structures, warehouses, garages, or unfinished buildings; 4% live in informal settlements and collective shelters; 4% are classified as homeless (IOM/OCHA 09/2014; UNHCR 07/2014).

#### Education

The school-aged population has increased by almost 480,000 as a result of the refugee influx. More than 420,000 children are in need of education services (REACH 11/2014; VASyR 2014). Roughly 65% of community representatives in Akkar and Tripoli reported improving access to education as urgent or critical (OCHA/REACH 10/2014).

The biggest barrier to schooling is financial. Other obstacles are a lack of awareness of available educational support; a lack of space in public schools; and the cost of transportation. Language barriers and safety concerns contribute to a high drop-out rate among refugee children (REACH 11/2014; UNHCR 09/2014).

90,000 Syrian refugee children between the ages of 5 and 17 were enrolled in public schools in 2013/2014. More than 30,000 of these children were enrolled in a second shift programme that delivers a lighter certified curriculum in Arabic for Syrian students who were not able to enrol in the first shift (REACH 11/2014).

**Palestinian refugees from Syria:** About 6,600 PRS students have enrolled in 60 UNRWA schools for the 2014/2015 school year (UNRWA 03/12/2014). School enrolment rates have doubled since the last academic year, to 64%. Enrolment rates are lower for PRS living outside camps, and decrease as children grow older (even within the same household): children aged 13 years and older are facing difficulties adjusting to UNRWA's Lebanese curriculum, taught in English or French.

#### Protection



Members of the Lebanese army have committed serious violations, including right violations of detained refugees, evictions, and threats of eviction. In addition, 45 Lebanese municipalities have imposed curfews on Syrian refugees since the August Aarsal clashes. Such curfews violate international human rights law and appear to be illegal under Lebanese law (HRW 10/2014). 570 people were evicted by security forces in October, down from 3,855 in September (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

**Statelessness:** Stateless refugees in Lebanon include Syrian Kurds who were denaturalised in Syria in 1962. Between March 2011 and August 2014, 34,272 Syrian refugees have been born in Lebanon. 72% do not possess an official birth certificate (UNFPA 30/11/2014). The exact number is difficult to ascertain.

Upon arrival, refugees require prompt registration and documentation to ensure access to services, relief assistance, and effective protection interventions. The lack of a legal or administrative refugee framework; the dispersed refugee population; lack of civil status documentation; irregular legal statuses; physical safety and security; and limited access to justice remain challenges (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

#### Sexual and Gender-based Violence

Displacement increases the risk of SGBV, as does overcrowding, lack of income-generating opportunities, and lack of privacy. Unaccompanied girls and adolescents, single heads of households, child mothers and spouses, and women and girls living with disabilities are the most at risk (UNHCR 14/11/2014). 25% of survivors of reported SGBV cases are under 18 years of age.

The mobility of refugee women in Lebanon is reportedly restricted due to fear of sexual harassment and exploitation (UNFPA 13/08/2014).

A weak legal framework, limited resources, and social barriers prevent refugees at risk of SGBV, or victims, from seeking and receiving adequate protection. Other challenges include lack of documentation and growing tension between refugees and host communities.

#### Child Protection

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

There are no official statistics on child marriage, which exists in some areas; but the rate has risen with the influx of Syrian refugees (UNICEF, AFP 08/2014). Child labour is also reported to be increasing across the country, and there is a noted increase in unaccompanied or separated children among working children. The fragile national child protection system, compounded by protracted displacement and a dispersed refugee population, remain the main challenges in addressing refugee child protection risks (UNHCR 31/10/2014).

#### Mines and ERW

Lebanon has nearly 1,400 confirmed minefields and 520 cluster munitions strike areas, including in areas hosting refugees. In March, refugees were living within 10–20m of known

minefields in West Bekaa and Rashaya (Mine Action Group).

Updated: 07/01/2014

## MYANMAR INTERNAL UNREST, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**15 December:** According to a senior member of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, NCCT is to meet with government officials in an effort to resume stalled ceasefire negotiations (local media).

**10 December:** Clashes were reported between the Myanmar army and KIA, TNLA, and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Muse district, Shan state. According to the TNLA, there have been seven clashes with the army since the beginning of December (local media, 12/12/2014).

**30 November:** There has been no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin state since September, due to the volatile security situation and delays in government authorisation. Some 27,500 IDPs around Laiza and east of Bhamo have not received blankets and warm clothes for winter (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Repeated bloodshed between Buddhists and Muslims in Rakhine state since 2012, with human rights abuses against the Muslim minority reported (UN).

- 640,000 IDPs, resulting from years of internal conflict, including 137,400 IDPs, mainly Rohingya Muslims, in Rakhine state (OCHA, 08/2014).

### Political Context

Myanmar's first democratic elections in 25 years are scheduled for October or November 2015 (local media, 21/10/2014). In October 2014, unprecedented talks were held between President Thein Sein and his political rivals, including Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as senior military and election officials. On 31 October, government officials stated that Parliament would consider amending the country's constitution – which currently bars Suu Kyi, released from house arrest in 2010, from becoming president – ahead of elections next year (AFP, 31/10/2014).

Nonetheless, local activists report that the prosecution of dissidents is continuing. In October, civil society representatives stated that political reform has stalled (HRW, 17/10/2014).

### Peace Negotiations

Minority groups make up some 30% of the 51.4 million population, and ethnic and political

groups have conducted protracted insurgencies mainly in remote and economically marginalised areas such as Kachin, Kayin (Karen ethnic group), Kayah (Karenni), Rakhine, and Shan states (Government, 28/08/2014).

In 2013, authorities signed several peace deals with various insurgent movements, with the exception of the Kachin Independence Army (the armed wing of the Kachin Independence Organisation, or KIO), and the ethnic Ta'aung army (TNLA). In mid-August, leaders of ethnic groups announced that the Government had agreed to include their longstanding demand for a federal system in a draft accord (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). However, in October, a leader of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), the main ethnic coalition, warned that the military's refusal to give up its parliamentary veto to any amendment to the constitution, and the failure to provide more powers to ethnic states, would make efforts to forge a nationwide ceasefire meaningless (local media, 24/10/2014). At **end November, the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) stated a ceasefire would be impossible by the end of 2014, following the Myanmar army's attack on a military camp near Laiza, headquarters of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) (local media, 26/11/2014; 28/11/2014). In early December, the KIA cancelled its monthly meetings with the local Myanmar Army commander (local media, 10/12/2014).**

**According to a senior member of the NCCT, the NCCT is to meet with government officials in an effort to resume negotiations (local media, 15/12/2014).**

### Security Context

Despite peace negotiations, the security situation remains tense in parts of Myanmar. The Government came under criticism in October, for what has been perceived as a series of offensives against ethnic armed groups in Kachin, Karen, Mon, and Shan states (local media, 20/10/2014). In the west, massive human rights infringements against the Rohingya Muslim minority in Rakhine state continue to be reported.

**In early December, the UNFC announced the establishment of the Federal Union Army (VoA, 02/12/2014).**

#### Rakhine State

Tensions remain high in Rakhine state, with authorities imposing restrictions on the displaced Muslim minority after government attacks on Rohingya Muslims were reported in January. The Government denies the incident. Over 17–18 November, robberies and arbitrary arrests were reportedly carried out by security forces in Maungdaw Township. The victims were Rohingya Muslims (local media, 20/11/2014).

#### Kachin State

The KIO still has administrative control over several key areas of Kachin, and clashes between its army, the KIA, and the Myanmar army have been intermittent since the termination of a 17-year ceasefire in June 2011 (local media, 06/10/2014). Over 22–23 November there were reports of shelling by the government army near Laiza and Mai Ja Yang, and the situation remains tense (OCHA, 24/11/2014). **On 19 November, 23**

**militants were killed in an attack on a KIA camp near Laiza; the victims were not Kachin, but members of affiliated militias (local media, 28/11/2014).**

#### Kayah State

**According to reports from early December by local activists, government military forces have been expanding their presence in Kayah state with various measures, including the confiscation of land for military purposes (local media, 08/12/2014).**

#### Kayin and Mon States

On 14 October, the commanders of units of different Karen armed groups, including the Democratic Karen Buddhist Association (DKBA) and parts of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the armed wing of the Karen National Union, announced they would begin military cooperation in order to confront the increase in army operations in their areas over past months (local media, 14/10/2014).

In November, fighting between a Karen armed group and the military displaced 700 people (WFP, 15/11/2014). Fighting in October reportedly displaced 2,000 people towards Thailand (local media, 08/11/2014). Tensions and occasional incidents escalated into full-scale clashes between government forces and the DKBA on 26 September. In some of the worst fighting since 2012, mortar fire and rocket-propelled grenades were reported in Mon state's Kyaikmayaw township and near Kayin state's Myawaddy town (local media, 29/09/2014).

#### Shan State

Fighting continues in eastern Shan state, and hundreds of people have fled insecurity since June. **On 10 December, clashes were reported between the Myanmar army and KIA, TNLA, and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Muse district. Clashes were also reported between TNLA and the army over 8–9 December, in Namhsan Township and Kyaukme Township. According to the TNLA, there have been seven clashes with the army since the beginning of December (local media, 12/12/2014).**

On 21 October, two soldiers died in a rocket-propelled grenade attack during clashes with armed Ta'ang in Loilen district's Namsang township, and two were injured, according to opposition groups (local media, 24/01/2014). Over 15–17 October, fighting occurred in northern Shan state between allied forces of the TNLA, KIA, and MNDAA and the Myanmar army (local media, 17/10/2014). In July, two civilians were killed and at least ten children wounded after fighting between government troops and opposition. Fighting between the regular army and the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) has continued despite a ceasefire agreed in January 2012.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Access

According to local NGOs, the delivery of aid to conflict-affected communities in remote

areas within Shan and Kachin states is hampered by the categorisation of some areas as “black zones” by the Myanmar army, restricting foreign groups’ access (IRIN, 08/10/2014). Insecurity also impedes access.

**Kachin state:** There has been no cross-line humanitarian assistance to non-government-controlled areas in Kachin state since September, due to the volatile security situation and delays in government authorisation. Some 27,500 IDPs around Laiza and east of Bhamo have not received blankets and warm clothes for winter. This includes over 12,000 children considered by humanitarian organisations to be particularly vulnerable (UNHCR, 30/11/2014). IDP camps near Laiza, Kachin state, are also reported to be facing a shortage of food supplies. None of the food distributions planned by WFP and its partners were able to take place in non-government areas in October and November (local media, 05/12/2014; UNHCR, 30/11/2014). More than 20 IDP camps are under KIO management, with an estimated total population of 50,000 (local media, 05/12/2014).

**By mid-December, villages in Kachin state, particularly in the Hpakant area, reported movement restrictions due to fighting between the Myanmar army and the KIA (local media, 16/12/2014).**

**Rakhine state:** Access to services is impeded by tension and restrictions on freedom of movement. As of mid-July, a vulnerability mapping exercise showed that 36,000 Rohingya Muslims in 113 isolated villages in Rakhine state have no or limited access to basic services, including markets, education, and healthcare (OCHA). Buddhist Rakhine activists and politicians have campaigned to restrict healthcare and other aid for the Rohingya living in the state.

International media reports from the end of July indicate that access to northern Rakhine state along the Myanmar–Bangladesh border is tightly restricted. The Government has designated a specific area of Sittwe – the Southern Quarter – for relief organisations to establish offices and accommodation. NGOs and UN agencies say limited space in the Southern Quarter is a key constraint to operating at full capacity (USAID 02/07/2014).

#### Disasters:

##### Floods

More than 100 homes, farms, and plantations in Magwe division’s Kanyin village were flooded after heavy rains on 17 October. Residents who were most affected were evacuated to a temporary shelter (local media, 20/10/2014).

#### Displacement

##### IDPs

As of 1 August, there are 639,500 IDPs in Myanmar (OCHA, 08/2014). An estimated 236,000 IDPs require humanitarian assistance in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states (USAID, 20/10/2014).

As of end October, 3,300 people remain displaced in Meiktila, Mandalay region, following

inter-communal violence that broke out in March 2013. With winter approaching, mats, blankets, and other essential items are needed (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

**Rakhine:** There are approximately one million Rohingya in Rakhine state; most are considered crisis-affected and need humanitarian assistance. 139,000 people, mainly Rohingya Muslims, continue to be displaced as of end October, after the Government moved some 140,000 Muslims into closed camps following inter-communal violence in 2012 (IRIN, 05/11/2014; OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Rohingyas not living in camps are restricted to their communities in northern Rakhine state and unable to move freely (Refugees International, 14/11/2014). An estimated 50,000 displaced people live in host communities and 50,000 in isolated villages (OCHA 31/07/2014).

**Kachin:** 98,371 people are displaced in Kachin and Shan states, with more than half living in areas where government services are not available (OCHA, 12/2014). An estimated 20,000 IDPs live with host communities. Many have been displaced for up to two years, triggering both emergency and medium-term needs. Shelters and water systems in IDP camps need repair or replacement and families lack the means to generate income (OCHA, 30/09/2014). IDPs who have been resettled in Ngwe Pyaw Standard Village, a purpose-built village near Myitkyinar township, are reportedly facing severe shortages, as access to livelihoods is extremely limited (local media, 08/11/2014).

**Mandalay region: Approximately 3,300 people are displaced in Meiktila (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).**

#### Returnees

Land taken by the military, the state, and companies close to the Government impede the orderly future return of refugees, particularly from Thailand, and the resettlement of IDPs to their home communities or new sites (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014).

#### Refugees from Myanmar

According to UNHCR as of late March, over 415,000 refugees originate from Myanmar. In early November, UNHCR reported that an increasing number of people, mainly Rohingya, are setting out to sea on smuggling boats; many capsize. In mid-November, about 12,000 Rohingya had left Rakhine since 15 October, thought to be heading for Thailand, and a month later had not yet reached their destination, according to relatives and an advocacy group (VOA, 28/10/2014; Reuters, 15/11/2014). **As of end November, the number of Rohingya who have fled since early October was thought to have reached 19,000 (AFP, 30/11/2014).**

**Bangladesh:** To date, most Rohingya are denied refugee status by the Bangladeshi authorities. An estimated 30,000 Rohingya Muslims live in official camps, where they are assisted by aid agencies, and another 200,000 refugees reside in unofficial camps or Bangladeshi villages where they get little or no humanitarian assistance and almost no protection from human rights abuse. On 6 November, the Bangladeshi Government announced that Rohingya refugees will be relocated from the existing camps, as the area

will be developed for tourism (local media, 09/11/2014).

**Malaysia: As of end November, over 40,000 Rohingya registered with the UN are in Malaysia. Rohingya activists say a roughly equal number are unregistered (AFP, 30/11/2014).**

**Thailand:** Since June, movement restrictions have been more strictly enforced; Myanmar refugees are banned from leaving the camps, confined to their homes 1800–0600, and threatened with deportation if they do not comply (Refugees International 29/08/2014). In July, the Thai authorities pledged to send back to Myanmar about 100,000 of the 120,000 refugees living in border camps (UNHCR has registered 76,000 refugees). According to senior Thai military officials, measures are in place to deter boats from approaching the country's shores (Reuters, 15/11/2014). Rohingya Muslims are reportedly subject to human trafficking in Thailand (international human rights organisations, 12/2013).

#### **Food Security**

Overall, the food security situation has improved. However, recurrent inter-communal tensions since June 2012 have negatively impacted the food security situation, mainly for IDPs (FAO, 24/09/2014). 70,000 people are food insecure in Rakhine state (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

As of September, WFP expected that funding shortfalls would limit the ability of humanitarian actors to address food needs in Myanmar beginning in November (USAID, 30/09/2014).

#### **Agricultural Outlook**

Drier than average conditions were the norm in 2014, affecting cultivation. The central, mainly agricultural, regions were most seriously affected, although aggregate national crop production is not expected to be significantly affected (WFP, 09/12/2014).

#### **Livelihoods**

Rohingya fishermen of Maungdaw township, Rakhine state, have been barred from fishing since 7 November (local media, 10/11/2014).

#### **Health and Nutrition**

The biggest challenge in Rakhine is access to healthcare (OCHA, 30/09/2014). If Rohingya camp residents wish to leave their camp to see a doctor, they must first obtain a referral by a government doctor and reportedly must also often bribe the security guards (Center for International and Strategic Studies, 22/10/2014). Only patients in the most critical condition tend to reach hospital. Access to health services in Rakhine state remains significantly below levels before February, when a Médecins Sans Frontières office and Malteser suspended activities, according to the World Health Organization (OCHA, 30/09/2014).

#### **Nutrition**

**In June, 2.1% SAM and 6.8% MAM was found among 32,000 children under five screened in Rakhine. This indicates a deterioration in parts of Rakhine state since March.** Severely malnourished children are being referred to Sittwe hospital; fewer referral services, high transportation costs, and fear of travelling to Sittwe are preventing many children from receiving medical care (OCHA 30/06/2014).

#### **Shelter and NFIs**

**In Rakhine state, 15,000 people are in urgent need of shelter repair. In Kachin, there is a major need to scale up maintenance and repair work, to reduce the need for reconstruction (OCHA, 31/10/2014).**

**Displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine have limited access to cooking fuel and energy. The situation is particularly difficult for over 80,000 IDPs who have been in camps in Sittwe Township for over two years. Households in camps and isolated villages are relying on negative coping strategies, using shelter materials or unsustainable and hazardous materials as fuel, the exchange of food rations for fuel, and over-exploitation of surrounding forest and woodland (OCHA, 30/11/2014).**

#### **WASH**

In Rakhine state, a general deterioration in the WASH situation in camps is aggravating health problems and increasing the risk of waterborne disease (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

#### **Education**

In Rakhine state, 28,000 vulnerable children require education support. 60,000 adolescents in isolated communities are without any education opportunities (OCHA, 08/2014).

#### **Protection**

About 200 Shan people are alleged to have been forcibly recruited into the Kachin Independence Army since the start of armed clashes with the army in June 2011 (local media, 11/11/2014).

#### **Legal Status of Rohingya Muslims**

In 2014, for the first time, Rohingyas were included in the census. The census figures indicated 1.1 million people in Rakhine state, almost a million of them Rohingya Muslims (UNFPA, 30/08/2014).

Over 800,000 people, mostly Rohingya Muslims, are estimated to be without citizenship in the northern part of Rakhine state (UNHCR). Myanmar continues officially to state that the Rohingya Muslims are migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh, thus excluded from citizenship under the 1982 Citizenship Law. The Government has drafted a plan which would force Rohingya Muslims either to register as Bengalis or be detained. Rakhine authorities would construct temporary camps for people who refuse to be registered or who are without adequate documents. Rights advocates say this could put thousands of Rohingya at risk of indefinite detention. Accepting the term Bengali could leave the

Rohingya vulnerable if authorities class them as illegal immigrants and attempt to send them to Bangladesh (Reuters, 27/09/2014).

Children

**In 2014, 376 children have been released from the armed forces (UNICEF 24/11/2014).**

SGBV

**In 2014, the Women's League of Burma released a report that documented more than 118 victims of sexual violence at the hands of the Myanmar army since Thein Sein's government took power (local media 26/11/2014).**

**Assessments in camps for recently displaced people in northern Shan state indicate that domestic violence is prevalent in the camps. Drug consumption and other negative coping mechanisms among men were identified by the women as a contributing factor. Adolescent girls are exposed to particular protection risks, according to the assessment findings. Cross-border trafficking for the purposes of domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and forced marriage was identified as a major protection concern by respondents (OCHA, 30/11/2014).**

Mines and ERW

Around five million people in Myanmar live in mine-contaminated areas (Mines Advisory Group, 05/10/2014). Mine clearance has not begun in Kayah state, despite a ceasefire since 2012, and around 15–20 people are injured annually, although the number of fatalities is unknown. More than 34,000 IDPs are at greatest risk due to their being in unfamiliar areas.

**An assessment in Kachin and Northern Shan states concluded that the majority of reported landmine victims over the second half of 2014 were male farmers, and 56% were displaced people. Myths and wrong beliefs about mine risks persist. Most of the accidents registered happened while people were travelling on foot to areas they visit often, such as fields. More than 25% of landmine victims knew the area was dangerous before entering it (UNICEF, 30/11/2014).**

On 18 October, a landmine exploded outside a school in Kachin state, injuring three people, including two young students (local media, 20/10/2014).

According to local media, citing intelligence reports by the Bangladeshi border security forces, Myanmar security forces have planted mines along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh (local media, 23/11/2014). Myanmar has previously denied this practice, while Bangladesh has claimed to have found and removed mines in the border area.

*Updated: 18/12/2014*

## PAKISTAN CONFLICT, FLOODS, DISPLACEMENT, EARTHQUAKE

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**5 January:** Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire along the Line of Control, killing four near Sialkot. Tensions escalated on 31 December when an Indian border guard and two Pakistani paramilitary soldiers were killed during exchanges of fire (AFP).

**4–5 January:** Nine people, including four government officials, were kidnapped by militants in Zhob district in Balochistan. A blast in Quetta killed one (DAWN).

**20 December–4 January:** A bomb targeting Shi'ite Muslims killed four and injured eight in Orakzai district, Khyber Agency; militants set fire to two primary schools in Kurram Agency, causing severe damage; a police officer and a paramilitary soldier were killed in a raid on suspected Taliban hideouts in Shabqadar and Matni, Peshawar (AFP).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 1,781 civilians killed in terrorist violence in 2014 (SATP, 01/01/2015). Nearly 6,000 people were killed and 5,500 injured in militant, sectarian, terrorist, and politically motivated attacks in 2013, making it one of the deadliest years in the last decade (Center for Research and Security Studies).

- Over one million displaced by military operation Zarb-e-Azb in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency (Protection Cluster, 25/11/2014). There were already 930,000 IDPs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA as of mid-December 2013.

- Drought conditions in Tharparkar in Sindh affected nearly 1.74 million people (259,946 families) in 2014 and killed 650, mostly children. 3,814 livestock have died (USAID, 04/12/2014; Inter Press Service, 03/01/2015).

### OVERVIEW

Priority humanitarian needs are health, nutrition, and food assistance. The security situation remains volatile due to militant attacks in urban centres and military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas.

### Political Context

Opposition protests for a probe into allegations of vote rigging by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have been taking place in Pakistan since mid-August, led by Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Tahirul Qadri's Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT). There are signs that the military has been exploiting these protests as a means of re-asserting its dominance over civilian authorities. Major roads were shut down by the opposition in Lahore on 15 December, although government negotiations with PTI and PAT had resumed on 10 December (AFP, 15/12/2014, 10/12/2014).

### Security Context

Violence in Pakistan in 2014 has involved military operations in tribal areas but also armed group attacks in urban areas and in Balochistan, and tensions along the Pakistan–India

border. **1,781 civilians were killed in terrorist violence in Pakistan in 2014, compared to 3,001 in 2013 (SATP, 01/01/2015).**

A ceasefire between the Government and the Taliban expired on 23 April. Both militant and security sources have stated that the ceasefire was used by the Taliban to preserve militant bases, and on 10 June, the Taliban vowed to start all-out war.

In early September, a new branch of Al Qaeda was announced. Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent will cover Myanmar and Bangladesh, the Indian states of Assam and Gujarat, and the disputed territory of Kashmir (Financial Times, 03/09/2014).

#### **Security in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**

The Government launched operation Zarb-e-Azb against armed groups in North Waziristan Agency on 15 June, after the Taliban's declaration of war and attack on Karachi airport. A second operation, Khyber 1, began on 18 October in Tirah Valley in Khyber Agency. At 1 December, the army had reportedly killed more than 1,400 militants and 95 soldiers had died (Al Jazeera, 01/12/2014).

**A bomb targeting Shi'ite Muslims killed four and injured eight in Orakzai Agency, on 4 January; militants set fire to two primary schools in Kurram Agency on 30 December, causing severe damage.**

**A police officer and a paramilitary soldier were killed in a raid on suspected Taliban hideouts in Shabqadar and Matni, Peshawar, on 20 December (AFP, 04/01/2015; 30/12/2014; 20/12/2014). On 16 December 141 people were killed, including 132 children, at an army-run school in Peshawar in the Pakistan Taliban's deadliest attack to date, in retaliation for the Government operation in FATA (BBC News, 17/12/2014).**

Three bombings in November in Khyber Agency killed six while a gunfight in Orakzai killed 20 (AFP, 18/11/2014, 04/11/2014; AFP, 11/11/2014). Two Pakistani civilians were killed in Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by stray bullets from clashes between Afghan forces and militants on the other side of the border (AFP, 15/11/2014). At least six people were killed and three others injured by Jamat-ul-Ahrar bombing a village in Peshawar on 7 November (AFP, 7/11/2014).

Many people have fled NWA for Bannu, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, but incidents have been reported here too. **A roadside bomb in Bannu exploded near a military vehicle on 11 November, killing a soldier and wounding another (AFP, 11/11/2014).**

#### **Balochistan**

The United Baloch Front (UBF) has opposed the alleged annexation of Balochistan since 1948. 2014 saw a sharp rise in acts of violence. Attacks by Islamist armed groups are also a problem in the state.

**Nine people were kidnapped by militants, including four officials, in Zhob district over 4–5 January (DAWN, 05/01/2015). One person was killed and a further 27 injured in two blasts in Quetta on 5 January and 21 December (DAWN, 05/01/2015;**

**24/12/2014).** A blast in Sibi city injured ten people on 11 December (DAWN, 12/12/2014). A car bomb near Quetta killed one and injured eight on 4 December (AFP, 04/12/2014). In November, a car bomb targeting a judge killed one and wounded 25 in Quetta, while six were killed in a shooting in Bolan district (AFP, 11/11/2014). At least 32 people were killed in more than five sectarian and separatist attacks in October (AFP, 19/10/2014, 05/10/2014; DAWN, 06/10/2014, 02/10/2014; France24, 23/10/2014).

#### **Tensions along the Pakistan–India border**

**Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire along the Line of Control on 5 January, killing four near Sialkot. Tensions escalated on 31 December when an Indian border guard and two Pakistani paramilitary soldiers were killed during exchanges of fire (AFP, 05/01/2014).**

On 2 November, 55 were killed and 120 wounded by a suicide bombing at the main Pakistan–India border crossing near Lahore. The attack was claimed by several factions within the TTP (AFP, 02/11/2014). Mortar shelling in Lahore on 5 November killed three and injured one (AFP, 05/11/2014).

#### **Other Incidents**

A prominent Sunni Muslim leader was killed in Sukkur in Sindh on 29 November (AFP, 29/11/2014), while four people were killed and another injured in separate incidents in Karachi on the same day (Government, 30/11/2014). A grenade attack in Karachi in Sindh injured 15, including three parliamentarians, on 21 November (AFP, 21/11/2014).

#### **Humanitarian Context and Needs**

##### **Access**

Humanitarian actors reported serious funding constraints on assistance to IDPs, with shortfalls likely in access to health, food, nutrition, education, and child protection (OCHA, 15/12/2014).

Access in Balochistan remains challenging due to hostilities between the Government and militants, separatist movements, and sectarian violence (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

#### **Security Incidents Involving Aid Workers**

By November, 79 aid workers, including 36 police escorts and 21 polio workers, had been attacked in 2014 in 71 incidents, 51 of which were linked to polio. 42 were killed, 18 injured, and 19 kidnapped (OCHA, 30/11/2014). The highest number of incidents occurred in KP, FATA and Sindh (OCHA, 31/08/2014). In 2013, 155 aid workers were killed, 171 seriously wounded, and 134 kidnapped – a 66% increase on 2012 (OCHA, 19/08/2014).

##### **Disasters**

##### *Floods*

Some 137,400 people (20,505 families) remain vulnerable across Punjab and Azad



Kashmir after flooding in October. They lack access to food, NFIs, shelter, WASH, health and livelihood opportunities (ACT, 26/11/2014). Recovery needs are most important in Jhang, Muzaffargarh, Multan, and Hafizabad districts in Punjab and Haveli, Poonch, and Sudhnuti in Azad Kashmir (Government, 11/11/2014).

Monsoon rains and floods affected more than 2.53 million people, caused 367 deaths, and injured 673 people in Punjab, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan. More than 107,000 houses had been damaged and 971,000 hectares of cropped areas affected.

Over the past three years, the monsoon region has shifted 100km west. As a result, heavy and unpredicted rainfall has occurred in Pakistan, especially in KP, causing massive destruction (Government, 20/08/2014). **Short, intense rainfall is becoming common during Pakistan's monsoon seasons and undermining underground water resources (Trust, 04/11/2014).**

#### *Drought*

Drought conditions in Tharparkar in Sindh affected nearly 1.74 million people (259,946 families) in 2014 **and killed 650, mostly children**. 3,814 livestock have died (USAID, 04/12/2014; **Inter Press Service, 03/01/2015**).

Dadu, Jamshoro, and Thatta districts have been classified as calamity-hit areas (USAID, 27/11/2014). Anticipated needs are supplementary nutrition feeding, drought-tolerant agriculture inputs, animal fodder, available water management and building of water reservoirs (USAID, 29/10/2014).

#### **Displacement**

##### *IDPs*

On 7 December, the Government gave the go-ahead to civilian authorities to start the phased return of IDPs to North Waziristan, signalling the near-completion of military operation in the agency (The New York Times, 07/12/2014).

At December, there were nearly 1.93 million IDPs (288,603 families) in FATA and KP (Government, 03/12/2014). As of 25 November, security operations in North Waziristan had displaced nearly 500,000 people (74,400 families) to Bannu, Hangu, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts (OCHA, 25/11/2014). At 4 December, operation Khyber 1 had displaced 581,089 people (91,580 families) (USAID, 04/12/2014). 64% of IDP families are staying with relatives, while 6,657 families are in three camps (New Durrani, Jalojai and Togh Sarai) (OCHA, 25/11/2014). They need urgent support as winter sets in (OCHA, 15/12/2014).

2,543 families in Jalojai camp in Peshawar need shelter, WASH, health, and protection support; 300 off-camp families in Peshawar, Hangu, and Kohat in KP need shelter support, information on registration and services, winterised kits, education, and enhanced protection mechanisms (Protection Cluster, 25/11/2014).

As of October, as schools re-opened, IDPs vacated 940 schools across Bannu, Barat and Lakki Marwat in KP. They moved to host families, unused schools, or to Baka Khel camp

in Bannu (USAID, 04/10/2014). 58% need food assistance, 95% lack income, and many require emergency livestock support (USAID, 04/10/2014). Temporary shelter construction assistance in overcrowded host communities, better protection monitoring, and emergency education services for 82,000 displaced children are also required (OCHA, 12/09/2014).

Among the IDP population, female-headed households (7%), children-headed households (4%), older people, and people with disabilities (5%) are excluded from distribution, mostly due to lack of documentation. Access to information, particularly on the registration process, available services, and support, is lacking (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

#### *Refugees in Pakistan*

**At end December, 1.5 million Afghan refugees were in Pakistan (UNHCR, 29/12/2014).** Approximately one-third live in refugee villages, and two-thirds in urban and rural host communities; the exact number is difficult to ascertain (UNHCR, 1/11/2014).

#### *Returnees*

As of 20 October, nearly 59,200 IDPs (8,837 families) have returned to their place of origin in 2014, including 27,780 to Kurram Agency and 31,425 to KP. In total, 165,603 families had returned to FATA between 2010 and 2014 (UNHCR, 20/10/2014).

#### *Pakistani Refugees in Neighbouring Countries*

By 1 December, nearly 253,350 Pakistanis and Afghan returnees (37,813 families) had fled to Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan (OCHA, 01/12/2014). Nearly 181,000 (27,000 families) are in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA, 30/10/2014).

#### **Food Security**

1.16 million people need food assistance (OCHA, 25/11/2014). Most conflict-related IDPs rely on negative coping mechanisms and need food and NFI support (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

Tharparkar and parts of Umerkot, Sanghar, Khairpur, Sukkur and Ghotki districts in Sindh province are in Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4) as a result of prolonged drought conditions (USAID, 04/11/2014). In Tharparkar, food insecurity has worsened since early 2014 due to cereal production shortfalls as a result of a second successive season of poor rains, coupled with loss of small animals (FAO, 29/10/2014). Populations away from irrigated agricultural land are expected to face difficult conditions in the months ahead (WFP, 09/12/2014).

Increasing demand for food and NFIs has resulted in massive inflation: nominal prices increased between July and September for oil (+8%) and sugar (9%), following the trend of previous quarters (WFP, 27/10/2014).

#### **Health and Nutrition**

1.21 million people are in need of basic health services and quality maternal and child health services. The influx of IDPs has severely strained health facilities and the lack of medical staff to provide care for displaced women is a critical challenge (UN Population

Fund, 03/10/2014).

#### *Dengue*

455 dengue cases have been reported in Punjab in 2014. The most affected districts are Rawalpindi, Sheikhpura, and Lahore (USAID, 19/10/2014).

#### *Diarrhoea*

At 22 November, over 2.7 million cases of acute diarrhoea had been reported in 2014, and 48,786 cases of bloody diarrhoea (Government, WHO, 26/11/2014).

#### *Crimean–Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)*

148 suspected cases of CCHF have been reported from different provinces in Pakistan since February, including 40 related deaths, compared to 100 and 20 in 2013 respectively; the latest cases were in Sindh (Government, WHO, 26/11/2014).

#### *Polio*

**296 wild polio cases were reported in 2014 in Pakistan**, from FATA, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab; the previous peak was 199 cases in 2000 (WHO, 06/12/2014; DAWN, 01/01/2015).

**The first polio campaign of 2015 was cancelled on 5 January due to security concerns; vaccination began in FATA on 7 January (DAWN, 07/01/2015).**

**Around 200 children under five were not vaccinated against polio in December in many hard-to-reach villages in Dadu district, Sindh (DAWN, 16/12/2014).**

Gunmen killed a member of a polio vaccination team in Faisalabad in Punjab on 9 December, and the Taliban claimed the killing of two policemen protecting an immunisation team the day before in Buner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (AFP, 09/12/2014). At early October, attacks on polio vaccination teams had killed 59 people since December 2012, including health workers and police providing security (AFP, 02/10/2014).

#### *Nutrition*

An estimated 2.86 million children and pregnant and breastfeeding women are undernourished in Pakistan (OCHA, 25/11/2014). In Sindh, 1.1 million children under five are acutely malnourished; 400,000 of them are suffering from SAM (ECHO, 20/10/2014).

By May, more than 200 people in Pakistan had died from malnutrition-related causes in 2014 (OCHA, 09/05/2014). In the remote Neelum Valley, an estimated 21% of children are acutely malnourished, well above the national average of 15%, which is already at the emergency threshold (WFP, 12/2013). In Balochistan, maternal mortality rates have been increasing due to malnourishment and anaemia (DAWN, 29/11/2014).

#### **WASH**

1.1 million people are in need of WASH (OCHA, 25/11/2014). An estimated 690,000 people

– largely IDPs and returnees in KP and FATA – urgently need assistance in accessing safe drinking water. 186,000 IDPs do not have access to safe drinking water, more than 128,000 remain in need of improved sanitation facilities, and approximately 256,000 people require critical hygiene services (USAID, 04/10/2014).

Hygiene conditions among the newly displaced are very poor, and the probability of WASH-related disease outbreaks is rising (OCHA, 07/08/2014). 40% of displaced families in Bannu are not using latrine facilities and practise open defecation (OCHA, 15/08/2014).

#### **Shelter and NFIs**

Inadequate shelter services, overcrowding, harsh weather conditions, and high rental charges are key challenges for displaced families (OCHA, 15/08/2014). 50% of the population in Tirah valley in FATA has been living in makeshift shelters after having been displaced in 2013 (IOM, 14/11/2014).

960,000 displaced people are in need of shelter, including 85,637 IDP families off-camp and 6,500 in-camp in urgent need of winterised items (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

#### **Education**

Educational supplies are a major gap in education response, such as school tents, stationery, and other teaching and learning materials. 450,000 children are in need of education (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

At least 86,000 students from government schools in NWA are affected by the current military operations. The number of students enrolled in private schools is unknown. Many educational institutions are occupied by military or security forces (DAWN, 15/07/2014).

**The majority of school-aged Afghan refugees in camps in Pakistan are unable to attend school after sixth grade due to lack of means to attend private schools (Inter Press Service, 22/12/2014).**

#### **Protection**

An estimated 1.08 million people are in need of protection. This group largely consists of IDPs and returnees in KP and FATA. Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly need referral assistance and specialised protection in displacement and returnee areas (OCHA, 20/02/2014).

#### *SGBV*

421 incidents of violence involving 534 women and girls were reported in Karachi province during the third quarter of the year (DAWN, 11/10/2014).

In areas where the Taliban is active, over 500 girls' schools have been bombed. In the south and southwest of the country, ethnic violence continues to curtail women's freedom of movement.

*Updated: 08/01/2015*

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**3 January:** Indian and Pakistani troops have exchanged fire along the Kashmir border, killing four and causing the displacement of more than 10,000 people in Samba and Kathua Districts in Jammu and Kashmir (Times of India).

**29 December:** 117 people have died due to a cold wave in the north of the country (Times of India).

**23 December:** Bodo militants launched an attack on Adivasis in Assam, killing 75 and displacing more than 2,000 (AFP, Times of India).

**21 December:** An IED explosion in Manipur killed three and injured four, after another explosion on 15 December had killed one and injured five (AFP).

## KEY CONCERNS

- Landslides and floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains in Jammu and Kashmir have left 281 dead. 1,949,790 people have been affected and 67,934 left homeless (Times of India, 30/09/2014).

- Cyclone Hudhud affected 920,000 people in October (IFRC, ECDM).

- Floods in Assam and Meghalaya in September and October displaced 164,000 and caused extensive damage. Up to 1.2 million people may have been affected (IFRC).

## Political Context

Kashmir is a disputed between the Government of India, the Government of Pakistan and Kashmiri insurgent groups, who since the Indo-Pakistan War have fought over control of the area. Pakistan controls the northwest portion, India controls the central and southern portion and Ladakh, and China controls the northeastern portion (Aksai Chin and Trans-Karakoram Tract). Although thousands have died as a result of this conflict, the situation has become less deadly in recent years. UNHCR-supported elections in 2008 resulted in the creation of a pro-India Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, which has now formed a state government.

## Security Context

On 23 December, Bodo militants of Songbijit of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDBF), a separatist group seeking to obtain a sovereign Bodoland in Assam, led an attack that killed 75 people, most of them Adivasis, 18 of them children, in Kokrajhar and Sonitpur districts (Times of India, 23/12/2014; AFP, 25/12/2014). Troops were deployed as residents launched retaliatory attacks on Bodo

settlements. More than 2,000 people have fled their homes in Assam, finding shelter in makeshift camps set up by the state government. On 28 December, the Government reported that the situation was returning to normal, as curfews were lifted, and some of the displaced made their way back home (Government, 28/12/2014).

An IED explosion in the northeastern state of Manipur, which borders Myanmar, killed three people and injured four on 21 December. On 15 December, a similar explosion killed one person and injured five others (AFP, 21/12/2014). No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

## Kashmir

On 3 January, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire along the border, killing four people (AFP, 03/01/2015). Local media reported more than 10,000 villagers displaced in Samba and Kathua Districts in Jammu and Kashmir, finding refuge in camps in Hariachak, Hiranagar, Plat, Kanha, Baniyari and Chadwal (Times of India, 07/01/2014). On 27 November, an army patrol was attacked near the border in the town of Arnia, leaving seven dead, including four civilians (AFP, 27/11/2014). As of 8 October, cross-border fire that began in August had claimed 12 lives in India, most of them civilians, and displaced thousands (AFP, 08/10/2014). Further firing was reported at the end of the month (AFP, 29/10/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

## Disasters

## Cold Wave

According to the State Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre, 117 people had died in Uttar Pradesh as of 29 December due to a cold wave and snowfall (Times of India, 18, 25,29/12/2014).

## Cyclone Hudhud

Severe cyclonic storm Hudhud made landfall on 12 October on India's east coast, around the city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Hudhud affected north coastal Andhra Pradesh, south Odisha, and Chattisgarh (IFRC, ECDM, 13/10/2014). As of 20 October, the cyclone had left 45 dead and 135,000 people were in 223 relief camps (OCHA, 20/10/2014). 920,000 people have been affected. 41,200 houses and buildings were damaged, and about 180,000 hectares of agricultural land was inundated. (OCHA, 20/10/2014). This has been the most costly cyclone to have hit India, with total damage estimated at between USD 9.7 and 11 billion (OCHA, 20/10/2014).

## Floods in Assam and Meghalaya

Over 20 September–7 October, flash floods and landslides killed up to 95 people. Over 164,000 people were displaced to 227 camps and temporary shelters; 130,000 houses were destroyed and over 87,000 hectares of crops damaged (OCHA, 07/10/2014, Islamic

Relief, 28/10/2014). Experts calculate that about 1.2 million people might have been affected by the flooding (Islamic Relief, 28/10/2014).

#### Floods in Jammu and Kashmir

1,949,790 people were directly affected by flooding in September, including 543,379 displaced, 67,934 left homeless and 110,000 evacuated (Caritas India, 25/09/2014). On 4 October, Pakistani authorities barred actors from delivering goods intended for flood victims in India-administered Kashmir (AFP, 04/10/2014). This is the worst natural disaster in 100 years in the area, killing 284 people.

As of 10 November, the most affected areas are Rajouri, Shopia, Anantnag, Poonch, Pulwana, Kulgam and Srinagar (IO, 10/11/2014). Around 137 camps in the Kashmir valley were assisting over 100,000 people (OCHA, 15/09/2014). Major parts of Srinagar were completely submerged; the floods swept away the houses of more than 30% of the population living along the river's path. (IFRC, 08/09/2014; SEEDS 08/09/2014). As of mid-December, local and international humanitarian actors were working on repairing houses, interim education support, temporary shelters, health services, capacity-building of local agencies for disaster preparedness, etc. Winter is threatening the status of the affected population (Sphere India, 12/12/2014).

#### Access

Late September, around 10–15 villages were still inaccessible in Assam and Meghalaya, including Lilehar, Goripura, and Bandarpore (Caritas India, 25/09/2014).

#### Food Security

With seasonal snowfall expected soon, displaced and affected populations are facing a precarious food security situation. Although the Jammu and Kashmir state governments have promised six months of free food to those affected, but populations in remote areas or with access difficulties had not received food aid as of mid-November (Reuters, 17/11/2014).

Delayed and erratic monsoon rains are expected to reduce 2014 *kharif* (monsoon) cereal production. Additionally, floods and high food prices in some markets are affecting the food security situation for poor households (FAO, 31/10/2014).

*Updated: 09/01/2015*

## JORDAN DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**5 January:** A major snowstorm has hit the Middle East, including Jordan, posing a serious threat to refugee families living in informal settlements, tents, huts, and half-built buildings (Al Arabiya).

### KEY CONCERNS

- The key concern in Jordan remains the Government of Jordan's increasingly restrictive entry policies, which have effectively closed the border to Syrian refugees and increasing refoulement of Syrian refugees. For months, Syrians have been forced to enter through an informal crossing in the remote eastern desert. (PI 19/11/2014)
- 620,400 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR (07/12/2014); another 38,500 Iraqi refugees (UNHCR, 01/11/2014). The influx of refugees has placed enormous pressure on scarce water resources and public services, which has increased tensions between host communities and refugees.
- Operational and protection concerns are growing as the Government of Jordan is increasingly restricting the approval process for humanitarian projects, and infringing the basic protection of refugees, including their right to seek asylum and freedom of movement.

### Political Context

Jordan has remained politically stable despite spiralling crises in neighbouring Iraq and Syria and fears of infiltration by extremist groups, particularly Islamic State (IS). These concerns have increased since Jordan joined the US-led airstrikes against Islamic State (formerly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL) in late September. Thousands of Jordanians are reportedly fighting for opposition groups with links to Al Qaeda, particularly Al Nusra Front, as well as IS, despite the military's tight control of cross-border movements.

In Jordan, the extremist movement is generally dominated by groups supporting Al Qaeda and there are significant divisions among Jordanians who support IS (Al Jazeera 10/07/2014, AFP, 23/06/2014). In June, however, a small group demonstrated in Ma'an, southern Jordan, praising IS victories in Iraq, and arrests of alleged IS supporters have increased (Petra News 22/09/2014).

Tensions between refugees and host communities remain a key concern and have manifested in localised protests, particularly around Za'atari refugee camp and the neighbouring town of Mafraq, as well as regular reports of discrimination and harassment of refugees. Key sources of tension include access to affordable housing and employment (REACH 09/2014)

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

The influx of Syrian refugees has overwhelmed public services, particularly health and education, and placed major stress on Jordan's scarce water supplies.

**A major snowstorm has hit the Middle East, including Jordan, since 5 January, posing a serious threat to refugee families living in informal settlements, tents, huts and half-built buildings (Al Arabiya, 07/01/2015).**

#### Access

Since mid-2013, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation has required aid agencies to include Jordanians as 30% of the beneficiary list of all aid programmes targeting Syrian refugees. More recently, aid agency projects have faced pressure to increase the proportion of Jordanians targeted for assistance to 50% (PI 06/2014). The requirement is viewed as an attempt to pressure international donors to channel more resources through government systems and institutions.

### Displacement

Throughout most of its history, Jordan has been host to vast numbers of refugees, beginning with the 1948 influx of Palestinian refugees and again in 1967. Today over 600,000 Syrian refugees are in Jordan.

#### *Syrian Refugees*

Jordan hosts the third largest number of Syrian refugees, after Lebanon and Turkey. **As of 7 December, about 620,440 Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in Jordan (UNHCR, 07/12/2014). Over 85% live in local communities, with the remainder in camps (Government, 17/12/2014).**

The key concern in Jordan remains the Government's increasingly restrictive entry policies, which have effectively closed the border to Syrian refugees. The Syrian refugee influx peaked with about 1,700 arriving each day in early 2013, but has since seen a number of sudden reductions. In 2014, Syrian refugees were no longer allowed to use the informal border crossings near Ramtha, and were forced to enter through another informal crossing in the remote eastern desert. Since the beginning of November, UNHCR has registered no new arrivals coming across this border.

According to trusted sources, in early November an estimated 2,700–4,000 Syrians were waiting to enter Jordan on the eastern border with Syria. Women, children, and the elderly are thought to make up around 80%. Some refugees who were allowed to enter reported that conditions on the Syrian side of the border were poor. Due to a lack of food availability, a black market has developed, with extremely high prices. Lack of latrines is forcing women to walk into the desert. There have been protests to be allowed to enter Jordan (NYT 19/11/2014, PI 08/10/2014).

Local media reported that the Government of Jordan allowed a few hundred refugees to cross the border in late November (Jordan Times 22/11/2014). The situation on the border is still unclear, and it is unknown if the new arrivals will be permitted to stay.

#### *Non-Syrian Refugees*

The number of Iraqi refugees continues to grow, with about 35,000 registered with UNHCR as of September, stretching registration and assistance capacities. UNHCR estimates that it is seeing about 100–150 new refugees each day, nearly matching the number of Syrian arrivals. As of 6 September, about 10,000 Iraqis have registered with UNHCR in 2014, about double the number registered throughout 2013. Like the earlier refugees, the majority of arrivals originate from Baghdad, although an increasing number are coming from IS-controlled areas of northern Iraq. Over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Sudan, Somalia and other countries currently live in Jordan.

#### *Refugees in Host Communities*

Over 80% of Syrian refugees living outside camps are in the northern governorates of Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, and Zarqa. The priority need among refugees in host communities is consistently for cash to pay rent. Work permits are cost-prohibitive for refugees, although many Syrians, including children, work in agriculture and construction, despite protection risks that include arrest and detention.

About 20% of Syrians in northern governorates live in substandard accommodation, including garages, basements, chicken houses, and tents. Housing has become increasingly overcrowded as resources are depleted. In Mafraq, one of the poorest governorates, rental costs have quadrupled; refugees now outnumber local residents.

Over 15,000 refugees were residing in informal tented settlements in September, according to REACH/UNICEF assessments, representing a more than threefold increase since December 2013. Many of the refugees had left Za'atari camp due to conflicts in the camp with powerholders from Syria's Dar'a governorate. While there is a threat of mass evictions, reliable sources indicate that the Jordanian authorities will refrain from a major crackdown due to the logistical challenges and negative attention. When residents of informal settlements were asked if they are willing to go back to camps voluntarily due to the evictions, the majority said no, and said that they rather return to Syria. (REACH/UNICEF 21/10/2014)

#### *Camps*

Azraq camp in Zarqa governorate opened on 30 April. As of 29 September, nearly 15,000 refugees were registered by UNHCR in the camp. However, it is believed that only about half this number remains due to the harsh, hot, and windy climate, long distances to reach services, lack of electricity, and the camp's isolation from livelihood opportunities. At full capacity, Azraq camp will be able to accommodate 130,000 refugees.

Za'atari is the second largest refugee camp in the world with about 80,000 residents, and the equivalent of a new city in Jordan. The number of refugees returning from urban areas to Za'atari camp still increasing. 1,081 of 1,136 people transferred to Za'atari camp 25–31 October, were from urban areas (UNHCR 04/11/2014). It is likely that the onset of cold weather is contributing to this trend – an increase in returns to the camp was also seen at the same time in 2013 – however the food assistance cuts in urban areas may also be contributing to refugees' decision to return to the camp.

The lack of security in certain parts of Za'atari camp impedes access to services, particularly for women and girls. Security incidents and protests are frequent. Since the camp was established in 2012, at least 200,000 refugees have left for other urban centres through both official and unofficial channels. However, authorities have cracked down on unofficial departures in 2014.

About 4,000 Syrians live in the Emirates Jordan Camp (EJC), which has high living standards and extensive support, primarily from the UAE Red Crescent. Despite the improved living standards, a significant number of refugees have also left EJC camp for urban areas or to return to Syria.

About 14,500 Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS) have been recorded by UNRWA, which provides cash assistance for vulnerable PRS, who make up the vast majority of the PRS population in Jordan. About 200 PRS are held in the Cyber City facility, a former industrial complex, and are subject to heavy restrictions on movement (UNRWA 03/10/2014, HRW 04/07/2012).

Since late 2012, the Government has explicitly stated that it would not allow PRS to enter Jordan. Those who do enter are subject to a number of protection issues, including refoulement, the confiscation of documents and, for those with Jordanian citizenship, de-nationalisation (HRW 05/2014, HRW 04/07/2012).

### Food Security

After suspending food assistance to Syrian refugees due to a funding shortfall, WFP announced that it would reinstate assistance for December at its full previous value (WFP, 09/12/2014). In 2015 the programme plans to standardise the value of its food vouchers across host countries, which will result in a small permanent reduction in the value to Jordanian beneficiaries – from USD 33.60 to USD 28.00/person/month. It is not yet clear if the programme will have sufficient funds to distribute the full amount in January, but WFP officials have assured humanitarian actors that a substantial portion of the voucher value will be met (WFP 11/12/2014).

Jordan is the fourth most water-scarce country in the world and was already struggling to cope with the demands of its growing population prior to the Syrian crisis. The 2013/14 rains were only 77% of the long-term annual average, leading to a reduction in underground water reserves and a marked increase in underground water salinity in some well fields. The situation is expected to result in increased stress on existing water resources (UNICEF/REACH, 31/04/2014).

### Education

**There are around 200,000 school-age Syrian refugee children in Jordan; almost 90,000 of them are currently out of school. 98 schools are operating on the double-shift system in order to be able to enrol Syrian students (UNICEF/Government, 16/12/2014).**

### Protection

Trusted sources reported that there was an increase in refoulements of Syrian refugees in September by Jordanian authorities. Those with invalid documentation appeared to be targeted, including those found to be working without legal permission in host communities. The re-verification process conducted in Za'atari camp in early 2013, which aimed to ensure that complete biometric data is recorded for all registered refugees, also led to cases of refoulement by Jordanian authorities (PI 09/2014).

Patrols by Jordanian authorities continue to target informal tented settlements (ITS) in Jordan's northern region. Syrians in ITS were advised to relocate, typically within 48 hours, or face eviction (PI 16/12/2014). Between 2 and 8 December, three ITS were

dismantled without warning, and the inhabitants transferred to camps by police and military forces (UNHCR 02/08/2014).

### Evictions and Encampment

Since early 2014, the Government appears to be implementing a more rigorous approach to its encampment policy of Syrian refugees. On 14 July, Jordanian authorities notified UNHCR that it is not permitted to register refugees in urban areas if they have left camps unofficially, outside of the 'bailout' process. An estimated 200,000 Syrian refugees have left the camps unofficially, and without official documentation, refugees are unable to access public services or receive WFP food vouchers. In recent months, UNHCR has reported an increase in the number of refugees forcibly returned to Za'atari camp from host communities (CCCM 16/09/2014).

### Women and Girls

The proportion of early marriages of Syrian girls (between 15 and 17 years of age) among all registered Syrian marriages increased from 12% in 2011 to 25% in 2013, according to Jordan's sharia courts, which are responsible for legally registering marriages. In the first quarter of 2014, about 32% of all registered Syrian marriages were classified as early marriages. Both UNICEF and SCI reports found that early marriage was perceived as a form of security among Syrian refugees, given financial difficulties and the general sense of insecurity. Both agencies also reported that some Syrians used early marriage to circumnavigate government restrictions, such as the bailout rules in the camps (which require a close relative for sponsorship), as well as those which bar single males from entering Jordan. (UNICEF 07/2014)

An estimated 3,800 defectors from the Syrian armed forces are being held at military premises in Mafraq with no freedom of movement. The Government has not permitted UNHCR to conduct status determination for these people, although the ICRC has had access. (AI Monitor 08/2013)

*Updated: 07/01/2015*

## NEPAL FLOODS, LANDSLIDES

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No new developments reported this week, 09/01/2015. Last update: 16/12/2014.

### KEY CONCERNS

- 125,000 people affected by landslides and massive flooding in August caused by heavy monsoon rains in 21 districts (IFRC, 08/09/2014)

### Security Context



Madhesis, who constitute a third of the Nepali population, are stateless, and subject to discrimination and rights abuses. Recent protests in the south of the country, asking for repairs to crumbling infrastructure, have led to violent police crackdowns and incarcerations (Al Jazeera, 19/11/2014). In September, the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) in Nepal and local media reported daily protests involving students (UNRC, 01/10/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Disasters

#### Cold Wave

Children, elderly people and poor populations have been most affected by falling temperatures in Lahan, Siraha and different parts of Terai. As of 14 December, two people have died (Nepal News, 15/12/2014). The impact of insufficient heating, winter clothing and heating is putting a larger amount of people at risk of extreme temperatures.

#### Floods

The monsoon season had a normal start until early August, when heavy rains created massive landslides in Sindhupalchowk district, killing 134 people. Mid-August rains caused further severe flooding and several landslides in 23 districts, the majority in the mid-west. 225,000 people were affected, but the number decreased to 125,000 as waters receded (IFRC, 08/09/2014, 24/11/2014). The death toll stands at 202, with 248 confirmed missing. More than 35,000 houses were either fully or partially destroyed (IFRC, 24/11/2014).

*Reviewed: 09/01/2015*

## PHILIPPINES **CONFLICT, FLOODS, TYPHOON**

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**3 January:** Rebels from the separatist group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters raided a camp in Sultan Kudarat province on 3 January, killing one soldier and injuring three (AFP).

**29 December:** Tropical Storm Jangmi made landfall in Hinatuan affecting about 486,900 people across seven regions, killing 54 and injuring 40 (OCHA).

### KEY CONCERNS

- Over 26,000 people remain displaced ten months after Typhoon Haiyan struck and more than two million lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014).
- Thousands of people who fled fighting in Zamboanga in September 2013 are still displaced and being temporarily moved to the Masempla transition site, where minimum standards for WASH and basic services are currently unmet (OCHA, 01/10/2014).

- The Philippines is one of the most hazard-prone countries in the world, experiencing several large-scale natural hazards a year.

### OVERVIEW

A series of natural disasters, most significantly Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, has caused widespread damage across the Philippines and affected millions. The overall political situation is relatively stable, and the Philippine authorities are finalising a peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). However, various breakaway armed groups continue the insurgency.

### Political Context

The disarmament process for Philippine Muslim opposition groups started on 27 September, with the decommissioning of a first batch of firearms expected by end of 2014 (AFP, 28/09/2014).

Since October 2012, the Government has been engaged in finalising a lengthy peace process with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the country's largest Muslim separatist group. Draft legislation for the 2014 March Comprehensive Agreement on Bangsamoro, which gives MILF ruling of a new autonomous region to replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as a political group, was submitted to Congress in September (AFP, 10/09/2014). The deal excludes important stakeholders, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), Abu Sayyaf, and Khalifa Islmiah Mindanao.

### Security Context

Splinter groups on Mindanao and smaller neighbouring islands continue their violent opposition to the Government. Increased violence between the Government and opposition groups has been reported in November as a consequence of government efforts to capture outlaws.

**Rebels from the separatist group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters raided a camp in Sultan Kudarat province on 3 January, killing one soldier and injuring three. The raids aimed at sabotaging peace talks between the country's main Muslim rebel group and the government (AFP, 03/01/2015).**

Abu Sayyaf

Abu Sayyaf has about 300 armed fighters, split into several factions. On 28 July, 21 people were killed and 11 wounded by Abu Sayyaf militants in Talipao on Jolo island. On 14 November, heavy fighting between government forces and Abu Sayyaf in Sulu in ARMM (AFP, 16/11/2014). Abu Sayyaf holds about 13 hostages, including three foreigners (AFP, 16/11/2014).

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF)

Two people were killed by a BIFF mortar attack in Pikit on 14 November (AFP, 16/11/2014). Four BIFF gunmen attacked a hospital in Sharif Aguak in Maguindanao on 23 October, killing two soldiers guarding the facility (Missionary International Service News Agency, 23/10/2014). Around 2,300 people (500 families) were evacuated to a school after alleged BIFF members set houses on fire in Sitio Balibet, Cotabato province, during the first week of October (Government, 30/10/2014). On 11 September, two soldiers and an unknown number of BIFF fighters were killed during clashes in North Cotabato (AFP, 11/09/2014).

BIFF split from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in 2008. Thousands have been displaced by fighting between the Philippine army and BIFF in 2014 (IRIN, 22/07/2014; OCHA).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

### Access

Insecurity in parts of Mindanao and nearby areas is limiting humanitarian access. Concurrent natural disasters have hampered further aid delivery to affected populations.

### Disasters

#### Tropical Storm Jangmi

**Tropical Storm Jangmi made landfall in Hinatuan on 29 December, affecting about 486,900 people across seven regions, killing 54 and injuring 40. Around 77,400 people have find refuge in 187 evacuation centres. 390 houses were destroyed (OCHA, 05/01/2015).**

#### Typhoon Hagupit

Category 5 Typhoon Hagupit, locally known as Ruby, made landfall on the evening of 6 December over the town of Dolores in Eastern Samar province (Eastern Philippines), packing winds of up to 215 km/h, and predicted to bring storm surges, floods and landslides (GDACS, 06/12/2014). By 14 December, international humanitarian actors on the ground report that around 3.8 million people have been affected across nine regions (WFP, 15/12/2014). 156,900 people remain in 463 evacuation centres. Around 38,100 houses have been destroyed and 203,600 have been partially damaged (OCHA, 15/12/2014). The official death toll stands at 18, although national and international media have reported 27 (OCHA, Government, BBC, 15/12/2014). Priority needs have been identified as emergency shelter, food, WASH, and logistics.

#### Tropical Depression Queenie

On 26 November, Tropical Depression Queenie made landfall (Government, 26/11/2014). As of 30 November, 47,000 people were Southern Tagalog, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao and Caraga; 1,400 are in evacuation centres. Almost 3,000 houses have been damaged and 2,600 partially damaged (OCHA, 01/12/2014).

#### October Rains

19,640 people (4,676 families) have been affected following heavy rains in Midsayap, Cotabato province on 28 October (Government, 11/11/2014).

Flooding in Capiz province on 19–20 October affected 66 villages and submerged rice fields (Government, 20/10/2014).

At 18 October, rains since 7 October had affected 83,895 people (16,730 families) in Zamboanga city and in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur provinces, ARMM. 940 people (225 families) were in nine evacuation centres. Four people have died and two are missing (Government, 18/10/2014).

Another 41,400 were affected in Sultan Kudarat municipality in SOCCSKSARGEN (OCHA, 13/10/2014).

#### Mayon Volcano

Alert Level 3 was declared on 15 September over a possible eruption of the Mayon volcano, as well as an extended high-risk zone of over a 6–8km radius, covering Legazpi, Ligao, and Tabaco cities of Albay province (OCHA, 01/10/2014). As of 15 December, the volcano's condition remains unstable due to slow but sustained ground deformation caused by subsurface magma (Government, 15/12/20214). 11,700 people out of 60,545 affected remained in 12 evacuation centres at 30 November (Government, 19/11/2014; OCHA, 30/11/2014). There are concerns over camp management, coordination, WASH, and education (OCHA, 29/09/2014).

### Displacement

#### IDPs in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

By late August more than 5,000 people were displaced in Sultan Sa Baronguis Mangui in Maguindanao, as a result of violent confrontations between two MILF armed groups (Government, 01/09/2014). In July and early August, 2,875 people were affected by conflict between an armed group and government forces in Maguindanao, of whom 1,150 were living in one evacuation centre (Government 09/08/2014).

As of 14 November, security operations have displaced 1,720 people in Talipao municipality in Sulu and Sumisip municipality in Basilan. Humanitarian actors have noted difficulties in reporting as fighting continues to intensify, and the number of displaced is expected to rise (OCHA, OCD, 30/11/2014).

#### Zamboanga

As of 30 November, 22,400 people remain displaced in evacuation centres and transitional sites, with an additional 15,200 who are staying with relatives, one year after fighting between an MNLF faction and the army in Zamboanga (OCHA, 30/11/2014). Initial displacement figures included 120,000 people.

Disease outbreaks in the camps have left some 160 evacuees dead; sanitary conditions are a major concern (OCHA, 09/09/2014). As two of the largest camps will be closed, people are being temporarily moved to the Masempla transit site, until the construction of

permanent housing is complete. As of 30 November, 1,900 had been relocated (OCHA, 30/11/2014). Protection concerns remain critical, where women and children in particular are at risk of abuse and exploitation (OCHA, 01/10/2014). Refugees International reported in mid-December that transit sites lack water, health, education, and livelihood opportunities (Refugees International, 14/12/2014).

#### Typhoon Haiyan

Resettlement has begun for families in Tacloban still living in tents. Nearly 300 families (1,500 people) have moved to relocation sites, according to local officials and 550 more are scheduled to move by end November. A further 200 families living in tents in Tanauan municipality are also being relocated (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Ten months after typhoon Haiyan struck, more than two million people lack adequate shelter or housing (FAO, 09/10/2014). Some 456,000 people (95,000 families) live in unsafe or inadequate emergency or makeshift shelters, sometimes in flood-prone coastal areas (Government, 31/08/2014), and solutions are needed for 20,000 people still living in 56 displacement sites and requiring shelter, WASH and protection support (UNHCR, 07/11/2014).

With 89% of affected households still reporting varying levels of typhoon-related damage, longer-term assistance such as supporting self-recovery, assisting households in no-build zones, helping with safer reconstruction, and enabling access to health care, schools, public transportation, and livelihood opportunities is required (UNHCR, 30/09/2014).

#### Bohol earthquake

In Bohol, extensive shelter needs and repair of health and school facilities are required following the October 2013 earthquake (IFRC, 13/10/2014). All evacuation centres have now been closed and families are housed in 885 transitional shelters (UNICEF, 10/10/2014).

#### Food Security

High prices of main staple rice lead to food security concerns. A 4.7% increase on the September 2013 Consumer Price Index was witnessed in September (FAO, 10/10/14).

As of July, flooding had affected 45% of the planted area in Maguindanao, affecting over 5,000 farmers (OCHA, 07/07/2014). Agriculture, fisheries, and agricultural infrastructure were affected by July's Typhoon Rammasun.

#### Health and Nutrition

##### Measles

By October, 117 cases of measles had been confirmed, mostly in Benguet, Baguio and Kalinga provinces, compared to 60 during the same period last year, with a reported death in Baguio city in Benguet province (Government, 20/10/2014).

#### WASH

26% of the population (25 million people) lacks access to improved sanitation facilities, including 8% still practicing open defecation (UNICEF, 01/05/2014).

#### Education

In 2014 in Mindanao, ten attacks on schools have been reported, affecting over 3,500 school children (UNICEF, 10/10/2014).

#### Protection

BIFF continues to actively recruit and train child soldiers.

*Updated: 09/01/2015*

## SRI LANKA INTERNAL UNREST, DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**5 January:** Three opposition party supporters were shot at a rally in Kahawatte on the last day of campaigning for the presidential election. One was killed and two were wounded (05/01/2015).

**19 December:** Severe flooding and landslides, caused by heavy rains and high winds, affected 22 out of 25 districts (ECHO, 02/01/2015). The Government opened sluice gates for dams and reservoirs in affected areas. Four people reportedly drowned in the resulting floods (ECHO, 22/12/2014; (AFP, 26/12/2014).

### KEY CONCERNS

- An estimated 770,000 people are food insecure due to consecutive droughts and floods (WFP, 01/10/2014).

### Political Context

The presidential election will be held on 8 January 2015, two years ahead of schedule (ICG, 09/12/2014). Presidential terms limits were removed in 2010, and opposition figures have argued this will lead to *de facto* dictatorship (The Diplomat, 30/10/2014). However, polls suggest President Rajapaksa may not have the two-thirds majority required to win the election (ICG, 09/12/2014).

**There has been a surge in violence during the campaigning period, including at least 237 “major incidents” of assaults, intimidation or damage to property (Amnesty 06/01/2015). On 5 January, three opposition supporters were shot at an opposition rally in the southern town of Kahawatte on the last day of campaigning. One was killed and two were wounded (Al Jazeera, 06/01/2015: AFP, 07/01/2015).**

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

## Displacement

### IDPs

Government statistics compiled by UNHCR show 820,882 people are estimated to be displaced as of early 2014, living with host families (GIEWS, 04/11/2014). These are attributed to protracted displacement since the violence of 2009; people who cannot return owing to housing, land, or property issues (UNHCR).

### Refugees

As of 30 June, there were 308 refugees and 1,562 asylum seekers in Sri Lanka, a 700% increase on 2013 numbers.

On 15 August a Sri Lankan court ordered authorities to stop deporting Pakistani asylum seekers without properly assessing their claims (Reuters, 15/10/2014).

Since early June, national authorities have arrested and detained 328 refugees and asylum-seekers, and deported 183 to Pakistan and Afghanistan (UNHCR, 12/09/2014). Some 157 asylum seekers, including 84 Pakistanis, 71 Afghans, and two Iranians, remain in detention. UNHCR has requested that the Government stop deportations immediately and grant access to asylum seekers in detention to enable protection assistance (UNHCR 12/08/2014).

## Disasters

### Floods

**Severe flooding started on 19 December, caused by heavy rains and high winds, affecting 22 out of 25 districts. Central, North Central, Uva, and Eastern provinces are worst affected (ECHO 30/12/2014). Rains began to abate around the end of December, and the situation is gradually being normalised. People have begun returning home (OCHA, 05/01/2014).**

**According to the Sri Lankan Disaster Management Centre (DMC), fewer than 100,000 people were affected as of 6 January and 5,700 were in evacuation centres (DMC, 06/01/2015). 18,700 people were affected in Central province, almost 70,000 in North-Central, and 6,100 in Uva (DMC, 06/01/2015). This came after a OCHA report on 5 January stating that 1.1 million people were affected, and 30,000 people were hosted in 230 evacuation centres (OCHA, 05/01/2014). Differences in numbers may be due to differing definitions of 'affected'. As of 2 January 39 people had been killed (ECHO, 02/01/2015).**

**3,000 hectares of farmland have been severely damaged and 25,000 hectares partially damaged as of 7 January (Department of Irrigation, 07/01/2015). 660 houses have been severely damaged and over 3,500 houses partially damaged (Government, 06/01/2014).**

**On 21 December, the Government opened sluice gates in the affected provinces, as**

**hundreds of water reservoirs (300 in Anuradhapura district alone) had exceeded their danger levels (ECHO, 22/12/2014). Opening the sluice gates has aggravated the inundation (Local Media, 20/12/2014)**

**4,970 people affected by floods in October were still in evacuation centres at the time of the latest flooding (Government, 20/12/2014).**

## Landslides

A mudslide occurred on 29 October in Haldummulla area, Badulla, central Sri Lanka. 4,460 people were displaced to 28 welfare centres in Badulla. 37 people died (OCHA, 17/11/2014). Deaths and damages are being blamed on a faulty early-warning system (Reuters, 06/11/2014). WASH, NFI and mobility equipment were identified as the most pressing needs (OCHA, 03/11/2014).

### Drought

The 11-month drought following the delayed December–February northeast monsoon *maha* has affected more than 1.2 million people across 13 districts in six provinces, including 900,000 people in the Northern and Eastern provinces, regions that are generally poor, dependent on agriculture, and lack strong coping mechanisms or infrastructure to withstand the impact of natural disasters (Inter Press Service, 29/09/2014; Government, 21/10/2014; 29/08/2014). Families are suffering from shortages of water for domestic and agricultural use in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota, Puttalam, Mannar, Vavuniya, Moneragala, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Killinochchi, Jaffna, Kurunegala, and Ampara districts.

The southwest monsoon rains, from May to September, have also been below average (Economic Times, 30/06/2014).

## Food Security

770,000 drought-affected people are food insecure (WFP, 01/10/2014), mainly in Ampara and Moneragala in the east (WFP, 04/2014 and FAO, 05/2014).

### Agriculture and Markets

Overall, crop production has decreased by 42% compared to 2013 (Government, 05/08/2014). Aggregate rice production dropped by 22% compared to 2013, and was 12% below the previous five-year average (FAO, 02/10/2014). The 2014 *yala* rice output, accounting for 35% of annual production, was 30% lower than last year's, due to a 29% contraction in area planted and dry weather at the start of the cropping season, particularly in key north-central and eastern producing areas. About one-third of the paddy harvest was also lost by drought conditions in the country (WFP, 01/10/2014).

Rice prices have increased by 33% compared to 2013, due to the sharp contraction in this year's production. Fresh fish and vegetable prices have also risen as a consequence of adverse weather (WFP, 14/10/2014; FAO, 02/10/2014).

*Updated: 07/01/2015*

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA **FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC**

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week 07/01/2015. Last update: 30/11/2014

No current data on child mortality, food security, food price levels, or the general magnitude of humanitarian needs is available. Therefore, DPRK is not included in the Global Overview prioritisation.

### KEY CONCERNS

- Massive human rights infringements, including against prisoners in prison camps who face starvation and torture, continue to be reported. Humanitarian access remains extremely limited (UN).
- Information on the food security situation remains limited. As of August, an estimated 16 million people (almost 65% of DPRK's population) are chronically food insecure and an estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA).
- As of August, malnutrition rates, particularly in the northwest, were extremely high with global chronic malnutrition (stunting) at almost 28% and global acute malnutrition (wasting) at 4% among children under five (OCHA).
- DPRK is disaster prone, regularly experiencing seasonal flooding that, for instance, affected over 800,000 people in summer 2013 (OCHA).

### Political Context

On 18 November, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution condemning DPRK for human rights abuses and recommending the prosecution of its leaders for crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court (international media, 19/11/2014). In response, DPRK threatened to conduct a nuclear test (BBC, 20/11/2014).

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had urged world powers to refer DPRK to the International Criminal Court in February; a UN report documented evidence of widespread and systematic human rights violations and crimes against humanity and recommended targeted UN sanctions. China dismissed a March resolution by the Human Rights Council condemning DPRK for human rights violations as unfounded. DPRK announced in August that would publish a human rights report to counters the claims in the UN report (international media, 08/2014).

### Security Context

#### DPRK–South Korea

On 12 February, Seoul and Pyongyang held their first high-level talks in seven years, in

the Panmunjom truce village. However relations subsequently deteriorated. In April, South Korean officials said that DPRK had completed all steps required prior to a potential nuclear test, as Pyongyang conducted a scheduled military exercise near the border.

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Access

Humanitarian access is extremely limited. On 1 May, the UN Human Rights Council's recommendations to the Government as part of the Universal Periodic Review included unrestricted access to prisons and prison camps for humanitarian organisations, and close collaboration with humanitarian organisations to ensure the transparent distribution of aid.

#### Food Security

Information on food security remains limited. An estimated 16 million people, of a total population of 24.6 million, are chronically food insecure. An estimated 2.4 million people need food assistance (OCHA, 11/09/2014).

WFP reports that 45% of households have borderline and 30% poor food consumption. People in central mountainous areas do not have access to sufficient food from the public distribution centre and have to rely on planting risky hillside crops to supplement their daily diet, despite poor seed quality, shallow soil, accelerated erosion, low yield expectations, and the fact that most of the hillside cultivators do not necessarily have an agricultural background (US State Department, 22/09/2014). Poor rainfall has been reported in parts of the country (WFP, 10/2014).

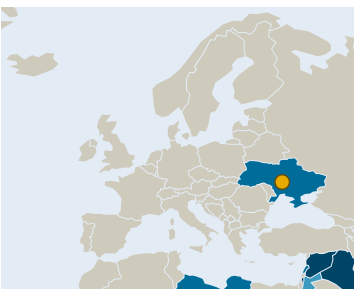
OCHA reports that although the humanitarian situation has improved slightly since 2013, the structural causes of vulnerability persist and external assistance is needed, notably in the northeastern provinces. The food system in DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist, particularly in the production of protein-rich crops.

### Health and Nutrition

#### Malnutrition

Chronic child malnutrition and poor dietary diversity among children, women, and households remain the main concern. Super cereal, biscuits, pulses and oil are needed to supplement the poor dietary intake among target vulnerable groups (WFP 06/2014).

*Reviewed: 07/01/2015*



# EUROPE

## UKRAINE CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**9 January:** The Government decided to halt public transportation in areas controlled by armed groups, hampering humanitarian access (OCHA).

**9 January:** Hostilities have reportedly intensified in Donetsk and Luhansk, with six casualties on 9 January in an attack around Donetsk airport (OCHA, AFP).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 5.2 million people in need of protection. Need for humanitarian aid is still important, especially with the winter season (OCHA, 09/01/2015).

- Bureaucratic, security and financial restrictions are impeding response (OCHA, 26/12/2014).

- The health sector has reported that the national pharmaceutical supply is "on the verge of collapse" (OCHA, 24/10/2014). 1.37 million people are in need of healthcare, as they are unable to purchase out-of-pocket health services (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

### OVERVIEW

About 633,520 people have been displaced internally and over 593,600 externally, while continued fighting and lack of transportation make it difficult for civilians to escape contested areas. The affected populations, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, are in most urgent need of shelter, healthcare and protection. There is a critical need of winterised shelter. Medical supplies are lacking and health services are extremely limited. Infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed. The human rights situation is deteriorating.

### Political Context

On 23 December, the Ukrainian Parliament officially dropped its status of neutrality

towards NATO (international media, 24/12/2014).

As of 1 December, allocations from the state budget to areas controlled by the armed groups have been halted, including for social payments (UN, 15/12/2014). On 15 November, Ukraine's President ordered the withdrawal of all state services from the eastern regions held by armed groups, as well as the evacuation of state workers. All banking services could be withdrawn (international media, 15/11/2014).

On 26 October, parliamentary elections were held. Voters in Crimea and in eastern Luhansk and Donetsk provinces – about five million of Ukraine's 36.5 million electorate – were unable to vote, so 27 of 450 parliamentary seats are empty (AFP, 26/10/2014). On 2 November, opposition groups held elections, and Alexander Zakharchenko was announced head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic. Russia was the only state to support the elections (AFP, 03/11/2014; international media, 03/11/2014).

## Security Context

**As of 6 January, at least 4,808 people had been killed and 10,468 people wounded by the conflict (OCHA, 09/01/2015).** The death toll could be significantly higher, according to the UN, since access to conflict-affected areas is restricted (OCHA, 13/09/2014; UN, 08/09/2014).

Ukraine forces and Russian generals agreed a temporary ceasefire around the airport in Donetsk, effective 5 December. (AFP, 02/12/2014). **But hostilities have reportedly intensified since January in Donetsk and Luhansk, with an attack around Donetsk airport on 9 January causing six casualties (AFP, 09/01/2015; OCHA, 09/01/2015).**

More than 100 Russian vehicles have crossed into Ukraine since October. Some were presumably to deliver humanitarian assistance, some were identified as military trucks (OSCE, 16/11/2014; 12/12/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

5.2 million people live in areas directly affected by the conflict and are in need of protection (INGOs, 31/12/2014). An estimate 1.4 million people are highly vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance (INGOs, 31/12/2014). Humanitarian needs are significant and growing, and there is a serious lack of response capacity on the ground (OCHA, 14/11/2014; 28/11/2014).

### Access

On 6 November, the Ukrainian President established obligatory passport controls for anyone crossing the lines separating opposition-controlled areas (AFP, 06/11/2014).

The safety and security of health workers remains a major concern in conflict areas.

### Security Constraints

The presence of humanitarian actors is increasing, but bureaucratic, security and financial restrictions are impeding response at the scale required (OCHA, 19/09/2014; 28/11/2014).



Armed groups have reportedly blocked aid entering territories controlled by the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (Amnesty International, 23/12/2014). Checkpoints continue to hamper any increase in the provision of assistance across the frontline (OCHA, 26/12/2014).

## Logistical Constraints

**The Government has decided to halt public transportation in areas controlled by armed groups, hampering humanitarian access (OCHA, 09/01/2015).** Months of conflict have severely damaged Donetsk international airport (international media, 01/12/2014). Limited rail transport to the region continues to impede humanitarian access (OCHA, 28/11/2014).

**Since 26 December, train and bus connections to Crimea have been suspended (OCHA, 09/01/2015).** international shipping has been prohibited from the ports of Evpatoria, Kerch, Sevastopol, Theodosia, and Yalta, on the Crimea peninsula, since 15 July (GARD, 17/07/2014).

## Displacement

### IDPs

**As of 8 January, about 633,520 IDPs had been registered in Ukraine since March; more than half displaced since September (OCHA, 09/01/2015).** Unofficial estimates suggest that the number of IDPs could be higher (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

118,000 IDPs are in Kharkiv region, 76,000 in Donetsk region, 30,000 in Luhansk, 51,000 in Zaporozhzhia, and 48,000 in Dnipropetrovsk. 27% of IDPs are children, 21% elderly or disabled, and 65% women (UNHCR, 05/12/2014).

IDPs in private accommodation constitute the majority of the displaced (90–95%) and are often not supported by the humanitarian community (OCHA, 12/12/2014). The absorption capacity within host communities has been weakening and tensions are rising (IOM, 22/10/2014).

### Returnees

Back and forth movements continue to be reported (OCHA, 08/12/2014). Some IDPs are reportedly returning to conflict despite insecurity due to exhausted coping mechanisms and rising rent prices (OCHA, 31/10/2014, 14/11/2014). According to the Minister of Social Policy, as of 26 October, about 135,000 people had returned to their homes on territory back under government control (OHCHR, 15/11/2014). Many were facing challenges due to damage to infrastructure, housing, businesses, industries (OCHA, 28/09/2014).

### Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

**As of 9 January, about 593,600 people have fled to neighbouring countries,** around 490,000 of whom have crossed into Russia since the beginning of the year (**OCHA, 09/01/2015**). However, the UN and Russian authorities estimate that 875,000 Ukrainians

have actually fled to Russia as of end October. Little humanitarian assistance is provided in Russia, despite signs of a long-term population shift (international media, 03/10/2014). Since July, Russian authorities have prevented Ukrainians from obtaining refugee status in several regions, including border areas and major cities such as Moscow. Most asylum seekers have been unable to collect the required documents and access refugee status (international organisation, 09/12/2014).

In addition, an estimated 19,000 people are estimated to be displaced within Crimea (IDMC, 31/10/2014).

## Food Security

1.1 million people are in need of food (OCHA, 08/12/2014). Eastern Ukraine's food reserves are fully depleted and infrastructure is partly destroyed (FAO, 14/11/2014). The most pressing needs are in Zaporizhzhia region, Donetsk region, and in Luhansk region (WFP, 08/12/2014).

The price of the minimum food basket in Donetsk and Luhansk is higher than the national average by 6.3% and 12.5%, respectively (WFP, 01/12/2014; OCHA, 08/12/2014). **Lack of cash and exhausted savings appear to be major issues in some of the areas where food is available but buying capacity does not exist (OCHA, 09/01/2015).** Preliminary results from the WFP food security assessment indicate that at least 20% of the population living in the five regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia have limited access to markets, due to increased food prices, disrupted transport systems, high insecurity, remoteness and lack of hard currency. Negative household coping mechanisms have been observed, with over 80% of interviewed households reported to be relying on less-preferred and less-expensive food and missing one meal a day (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

## Livelihoods

1.2 million people are in need of a livelihood (OCHA, 08/12/2014). Around 650,000 pensioners have not received any pensions since August (AFP, 28/11/2014). Many IDPs can no longer afford to pay the rent (UNHCR, 17/10/2014). As of 10 October, nearly 40,000 small and medium businesses in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have ceased activity (OCHA, 10/10/2014). Unemployment is a key concern for IDPs (OCHA, 26/12/2014).

Industrial production had declined 60% in Donetsk region and 85% in Luhansk by September (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

## Health and Nutrition

The safety and security of health workers remains a major concern in conflict areas, preventing access to emergency and primary health services in Shchastia, Snizhne, Yasinovataya (OCHA, 26/12/2014; **09/01/2015**). Targeted attacks on ambulances have been reported (OCHA, 17/10/2014).

There are concerns that civilians may have less access to inpatient healthcare than military actors (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

1.37 million people are in need of healthcare, as they are unable to purchase out-of-pocket health services (OCHA, 08/12/2014). The health sector has reported that the national pharmaceutical supply is “on the verge of collapse” and **prices of medicines are constantly increasing (OCHA, 09/01/2015)**. Only 40% of required healthcare provision has been funded in government-controlled areas (USAID, 25/11/2014). As of 31 October, only 25% of required medication had been purchased (OHCHR, 15/11/2014). There are no extra-budgetary resources allocated for IDP health services, overstressing the health system in areas of displacement (OCHA, 08/12/2014).

At least 45 hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk regions have been destroyed or damaged (OHCHR, 15/11/2014). **Lack of fuel in conflict areas has resulted in a 20% fewer ambulances operating (OCHA, 09/01/2015)**. Conflict-affected areas are lacking about 20–30% of doctors, 20–50% of nurses, and 50–70% of paramedics (OCHA, 14/11/2014; **09/01/2015**).

There are critical supply shortages and access to specialist care remains very limited for rural populations in Donetsk and Luhansk (OHCHR, 15/11/2014; 31/10/2014; OCHA, 26/12/2014). Most urgent health needs are in Stanychno-Luhanskyi district of Luhansk region, and Makiivka and Novoazovskiy districts of Donetsk region (WHO, 08/12/2014).

## HIV/AIDS

Almost 60,000 HIV-infected patients are in urgent need of antiretroviral drugs; the current stock of antiretroviral drugs is sufficient until December, and provision of health products for HIV testing is critical (OHCHR, 15/11/2014; OCHA, 10/10/2014). However, insecurity is obstructing the delivery of supplies (UNICEF, 14/11/2014).

## Polio

Extreme vaccine shortages, a low rate of vaccination – reported to be 50% – an already weak surveillance system disintegrating, armed conflict, and displacement have all aggravated the risk of polio transmission (Global Polio Eradication Initiative, 02/10/2014; UNICEF, 20/10/2014).

## Tuberculosis

Doctors are warning of a worsening tuberculosis epidemic in eastern Ukraine. 48,000 people are registered with the disease; however, one in four people with TB are not officially registered, according to WHO (AFP, 18/08/2014).

Ukraine has not be able to cover needs for TB drugs for 2015 (**OCHA, 09/01/2015**). 11,600 multidrug-resistant TB cases also urgently need drugs (OHCHR, 15/11/2014).

## Shelter and NFIs

850,000 people are estimated to be in urgent need of shelter and NFIs (OCHA, 08/12/2014). Most urgent needs are in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions (UNHCR, 08/12/2014). Winterisation is an urgent priority, including the provision of warm blankets and winter clothes for IDPs (**OCHA, 09/01/2015**). Lack of coal and wood is a pressing

issue (OCHA, 26/12/2014). The lack of reliable energy supply over the winter is a serious concern (OCHA, 28/09/2014). 20% of electricity needs are covered in Luhansk (OCHA, 03/10/2014). Supply of electricity in some parts of Donetsk region has been interrupted (UNICEF, 14/11/2014).

According to estimates, more than 33,000 families living in the non-government-controlled areas need emergency shelter solutions or repairs. In the Donbas region, there is need for NFIs, especially for the 20% of the population previously receiving social service support (Shelter and NFI Cluster, 29/12/2014). More than 12,000 facilities have been damaged or destroyed as a result of the conflict (OCHA, 28/11/2014).

Concerns remain about how to fund the temporary accommodation of IDPs (UNHCR, 23/09/2014; OCHA, 28/11/2014). Due to lack of financial resources and facilities, Government coordination agencies often refuse free accommodation to IDPs (OCHA, 13/09/2014). IDPs renting accommodation seem to be excluded from any humanitarian assistance, and in a worse situation compared to those staying in collective centres (OCHA, 14/11/2014).

## WASH

Water is now available in most areas of government-controlled territory; however, the quality of water is of major concern. People are either buying bottled water or boiling it before they drink (OCHA, 24/10/2014).

750,000 people are estimated to be in need of WASH, most vulnerable people are in Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Luhansk regions (OCHA, 08/12/2014; UNICEF, 08/12/2014). The delivery of drinking water and hygiene supplies in opposition-controlled areas remains a huge challenge for the humanitarian community (UNICEF, 12/12/2014).

In Donetsk region, damage to critical infrastructure has left approximately 30% of inhabitants without a central water and gas supply (UNICEF, 20/10/2014; OCHA, 08/12/2014). **The water system in six major towns was disrupted for 86 days and there is now need for water purification plants (UNICEF, 09/01/2015)**. Diesel generators are needed to power water pumps and treatment units (OCHA, 28/09/2014).

In Donetsk and Luhansk regions, temporary latrines and disinfection materials are urgently required (UNICEF, 12/12/2014; **09/01/2015**).

## Education

600,000 people in Donetsk and Luhansk need education (OCHA, 08/12/2014). 147 schools have closed in Donetsk region (UNICEF, 19/12/2014). **Lack of transportation is preventing children from attending school (OCHA, 09/01/2015)**. 260,000 children were not able to resume their studies on 1 September (OHCHR, 15/11/2014).

## Protection

Approximately 100,000 children and adults are estimated to need psychosocial support (INGOs, 31/12/2014).

Human rights abuses committed by armed groups continued to be reported, including abduction, torture/ill-treatment, unlawful detention, execution and forced mobilisation of civilians, as well as the seizure and occupation of public buildings (OHCHR, 15/11/2014).

## IDPs

An increasing number of unlawful refusals of registration and financial assistance, violations of employment rights, and limited access to social benefits is being reported. There are still long waits for IDPs to register with the Department of Social Protection in regions near the conflict zone (OCHA, 12/12/2014). IDPs are often unable to access employment (OCHA, 31/10/2014). UNHCR has reported a pattern of discrimination and stigmatisation against IDPs from the east on political grounds (IOM, 22/10/2014).

## Mines and ERW

Evidence of widespread use of cluster munitions in some 12 locations has been documented by Human Rights Watch. While it was not possible to determine conclusively responsibility for all attacks, evidence indicated that Ukrainian government forces were responsible for several cluster munition attacks on Donetsk city in early October (Cluster Munition Coalition, 22/10/2014).

Mines and unexploded ordnance have been increasingly reported in areas of Donetsk and Luhansk, with civilian deaths (UNICEF, 22/10/2014).

## Minorities

An estimated 260,000 Roma live in Ukraine. In August, OCHA reported that the Roma population displaced from Donbas experiences access restrictions to government health and social services: 40% do not have documentation, and many fear registration as IDPs, preventing access to humanitarian assistance. Being registered as Roma may lead to persecution upon return (UNHCR, 17/10/2014).

In Crimea, Crimean Tatars and other pro-Ukraine figures have been forcibly disappeared or gone missing since May (HRW, 07/10/2014).

## Vulnerable Groups

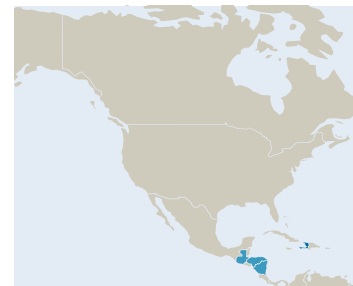
The situation of people in institutional care is a major concern. Disabled people, orphans, older people and people in psychiatric hospitals are in particular need of immediate protection (UNHCR, 20/10/2014; OCHA, 12/12/2014). There are indications that 50% of state and municipal institutions for the care and guardianship of minors in Donetsk and Luhansk regions are not functioning (international media, 07/10/2014). **People with special needs are facing problems accessing services and transportation in areas re-taken by the Government (OCHA, 09/01/2015).**

## Women

Women face prohibition from leaving conflict zones by their partners; rape; forced

domestic labour by insurgents; and violence in collective centres (OCHA, 19/09/2014). An increasing number of cases of gender-based violence are being reported in conflict-affected areas (OCHA, 31/10/2014).

Updated: 13/01/2015



# NORTH AMERICA

## HAITI FOOD INSECURITY, EPIDEMIC, HURRICANE

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 08/01/2015. Last update: 17/12/2014.

### KEY CONCERNS

- Ongoing severe dryness, particularly in the southern peninsula and the Central Plateau, and likely below-average rainfall through December, is likely to result in the second consecutive below-average harvest to increase food insecurity (FEWSNET, 18/12/2014).
- Despite a progressive decrease of cholera cases since January, weekly cases have significantly increased since the rainy season mid-September (PAHO, 02/12/2014).
- 800,000 people rely on humanitarian assistance in 2014 (UN, 27/10/2014).
- 85,430 IDPs (22,741 households) remain in 123 camps as of September as a result of the 2010 earthquake (OCHA, 04/10/2014).
- The resilience of the population and its capacity to cope with new crises are generally weak.

### OVERVIEW

An estimated three million Haitians have both chronic and acute humanitarian needs,

and are facing displacement, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Haiti's political and economic situation is extremely fragile, and the country is vulnerable to natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and droughts. The resilience of the population is extremely low.

## Political Context

**A new Prime Minister was designated by President Martelly on 26 December**, almost two weeks after the resignation of Laurent Lamothe following weeks of opposition protests in Port-au-Prince (AFP, 26/12/014; 14/12/2014).

The indefinite postponement of parliamentary and national elections since 2011 has contributed to a polarised political climate. While the UN stabilisation mission, MINUSTAH, maintains police in regions, the Haitian National Police are not yet fully capable of dealing with civil unrest (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

## Humanitarian Context and Needs

So far in 2014, 800,000 people are relying on international humanitarian assistance (UN, 27/10/2014).

### Disasters

36,270 Haitians have been affected after heavy floods hit northern and western departments between 31 October and 6 November. 6,000 were evacuated to temporary shelters – including in Cap Haitien and Fort Liberté. Five people were killed and 14,000 houses damaged (IOM, 11/11/2014; local media, 07/11/2014).

### Displacement

#### IDPs

85,430 IDPs (22,741 households) remain in 123 camps as of September following the 2010 earthquake, a 17.5% decrease on June numbers (OCHA, 04/10/2014); they are expected to be 69,602 by the end of 2014 (ECHO, 15/12/2014). Delmas (38%), Port-au-Prince (27%) and Croix-des-Bouquets (10%) account for 75% of displaced households (CCCM, 08/10/2014). Port-au-Prince has the highest number of IDP sites (37% of sites), followed by Delmas and Carrefour (IOM 07/07/2014). Priority needs include the provision of minimum basic services, protection monitoring and response, and promotion of durable solutions (OCHA, 03/11/2014).

Population numbers in open camps grew over the first six months of 2014, as other camps closed, and insecurity elsewhere has increased (OHCHR, MINUSTAH, Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014). 60 families supposed to be transferred from camp KID in Christ-Roi on 3 December were dissatisfied by the lack of relocation support from local authorities (GARR, 04/12/2014).

Basic services in camps have declined faster than the pace of return or relocation. Only one-third of camps have access to water and access to healthcare is problematic due to

lack of infrastructure and funding (OCHA, 31/07/2014).

#### Returnees

As of October, 1,448 Haitians in the Dominican Republic had been forced to return to their home country (local organisation, 15/10/2014).

### Food Security

As of July, 2.6 million Haitians continue to be affected by food insecurity, including 200,000 severely food insecure (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

In October, populations in Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est, and Nippes departments faced Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food security levels (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Parts of Sud, Sud-Est, and Nippes departments are likely to enter Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by March 2015 (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014). Below-average food stocks due to the prolonged drought are expected to result in higher food prices between March and April 2015 (AlterPress, 21/10/2014).

#### Agricultural Outlook

Heavy rainfall at the beginning of November affected agricultural output, with 62% and 29% losses in breeding production in the north and northeast, respectively. The North and Nippes also saw 76% and 18% livestock losses (Government, 20/11/2014).

**In contrast, significantly below-average rainfall during much of the August–December rainy season, particularly in the southern peninsula, is expected to result in the second consecutive below-average harvest (FEWSNET, 18/12/2014).** Drought during January–March had led to a 30% loss of seasonal harvests (OCHA, 04/10/2014). Around 67,500 people (16,000 families) are reportedly affected by the drop in cereal production in Central Plateau, Nord-Ouest, Sud-Est, and Ouest departments (FAO, 02/12/2014).

### Health and Nutrition

*Five million Haitians (half of the total population) lack access to basic health services (UN, 27/10/2014).*

#### Cholera

At 31 October, 14,869 suspected cases of cholera and 132 deaths had been recorded in 2014, a 69% decrease compared to the same period in 2013 (UN, 27/11/2014).

**The number of cases fell in December compared to November, with 1,797 cases and 17 deaths over 1–23 December and 7,097 cases and 61 deaths in November (AlterPress, 26/12/2014).** Weekly reported cases began rising when the rainy season began in mid-September, to an average of 918, compared to 250–290 between January and September. The departments of Artibonite, Centre, Ouest, and Nord are most affected (PAHO, 02/12/2014).

Overall, nearly 717,203 suspected cholera cases and 8,721 deaths have been reported by the Ministry of Health since the start of the epidemic in October 2010 (PAHO, 02/12/2014).

#### Nutrition

100,000 children under five suffer acute malnutrition, 20,000 of whom are severely malnourished. Ten communes have above 10% GAM (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

Malnutrition rates in IDP camps are of great concern. At May, GAM rates in 20 camps stood at 12.5% (OCHA, 20/08/2014).

#### WASH

More than 3.4 million Haitians lack access to safe water (one-third of the total population and 47% of the rural population) (UN, 30/09/2014). 38% do not have access to improved water sources and 69% lack access to improved sanitation (World Bank, 30/09/2014). As of June, 50% of camps lack adequate sanitation facilities; only one-third have a water point. 60% of schools have no toilets and more than three-quarters lack access to water (HRW, 08/10/2014).

Waterborne diseases are one of the main causes of infant mortality (World Bank, 09/10/2014).

#### Shelter

94% of people left homeless by the 2010 earthquake have been relocated outside camps. Their living conditions are poorer than before the earthquake (UN, 27/10/2014). IDPs living in informal settlements are at risk of eviction (OCHA, 20/08/2014). 5,966 IDP families are at risk of eviction from camps; few are targeted by a return programme (OCHA, 25/11/2014).

#### Education

17% of IDPs in camps surveyed in 2014 have not received any education services (OHCHR, MINUSTAH and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

#### Protection

**Five years since the 2008 earthquake, many children still show signs of emotional and psychological stress and remain in need of protection; minors in camps are particularly at risk of exploitation, with sexual violence against minors commonplace (Save the Children, 08/01/2015).**

IDPs in 22 camps are considered at risk of forced eviction, as landowners seek to reclaim their lands (ECHO, 15/12/2014).

The number of rapes reported in the first half of 2014 is double that of the same period in 2013. More than two-thirds of the rapes reported involved minors (OHCHR and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

Gender-based violence continues to be of great concern in IDP camps, where most cases

of sexual aggression are reported among women (OHCHR, MINUSTAH and Protection Cluster, 30/06/2014).

*Reviewed: 08/01/2015*

## GUATEMALA DROUGHT, FLOODS, FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**18 December:** 1.4 million people are still affected by the September 2014 drought (WFP, 18/12/2014).

### KEY CONCERNS

- 1.5 million people have been affected by drought (SESAN MAGA quoted by WHO, 07/11/2014).
- 12,200 cases of acute malnutrition have been recorded among under-fives in Guatemala in 2014, as of 12 October (Government, 12/10/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Disasters

##### Drought

1.5 million people have been affected by drought (SESAN MAGA quoted by WFP, 07/11/2014; UNHCR, 12/12/2014). 944,000 people in the Dry Corridor are particularly affected, being highly dependent on subsistence farming (ACT Alliance, 15/10/2014). **The Government declared a State of Public Calamity due to drought in August 2014 in 16 departments: Jutiapa, Chiquimula, Santa Rosa, Quiché, El Progreso, Huehuetenango, Baja Verapaz, Zacapa, Retalhuleu, Solola, Totonicapán, Chimaltenango, San Marcos, Guatemala, Suchitepequez and Jalapa. In October the decree was extended for 30 days (OCHA, 10/12/2014).**

73% of the country's territory was affected as of end of August (UN Country Team, 28/08/2014). The Government appealed for international help to deal with the loss of crops in early December (FAO, 11/12/2014). 98% of harvests have been lost in Chiquimula, El Progreso, and Zacapa (Government, 28/08/2014). 56% of affected communities were left with no possibility of planting, and 99,600 people with no income opportunities (ACTED, 28/08/2014; Government, 11/09/2014).

The current crisis is preceded by two years of bad harvests and aggravated by the impact of reduced employment in the coffee bean sector, caused by the coffee leaf rust epidemic of the last two harvests (UN Country Team, 28/08/2014).

The drought is regional. Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador are also affected (Oxfam, 28/08/2014).



## Earthquake

**On 5 December, the state of calamity following the 7 July earthquake was prolonged for 30 days in order to monitor the consequences (Government, 06/12/2014).** By 25 July, 63,280 people had been affected, 9,885 homes damaged, and 6,730 people evacuated (UN, 25/07/2014). Needs are mainly for housing reconstruction and rehabilitation (IFRC, 07/11/2014).

## Floods

Heavy rains over the May–December season affected 655,200 people and damaged 9,610 houses. 9,978 people were evacuated, 4,423 to shelters, two people disappeared, 25 were injured, and 29 died (local media, 03/12/2014). Zapaca department was the most affected: at least 12,000 people from 54 communities were cut off from the departmental capital (Siglo XXI, 19/10/2014).

As of 11 December, 1,568 people in Quiché department were affected by flooding from the Chixoy River, in the municipalities of San Jorge, Tres Lagunas I, Nueva Máquina, Tres Ríos, and Tres Lagunas II and III. Families lost all their harvests (local media, 04/12/2014; 11/12/2014).

As of 28 November, heavy rains and strong winds affected more than 2,200 people in the northern regions of the country. Approximately 1,600 people were affected in Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz, where 335 houses were flooded. The remaining 600 affected people were in Petén department, where 300 houses were flooded (local media, 28/11/2014).

## Cold Wave

**3,322 people sought shelter in four shelters opened in the states of Huehuetenango, Jalapa, and Solola, due to cold waves (Government, 22/12/2014). As of 16 December, 2,206 people were in temporary shelters due to a cold wave in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, Sacatepéquez, San Marcos, and Totonicapán (local media, 17/12/2014).**

## Food Security

**As of 10 December, 150,000 people (30,000 families) had finished their food stocks and were implementing survival strategies (OCHA, 10/12/2014). 1.5 million people are affected by food insecurity (OCHA, 10/12/2014).** Exhaustion of food stocks and reduced income will deteriorate food security to Crisis levels (IPC Phase 3) in January–March 2015 (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

The coffee leaf rust epidemic, which began in 2012, is affecting the entire Central America region (International Coffee Organization). In Guatemala, some 70% of crops have been affected, corresponding to a loss of 100,000 jobs and a 15% drop in coffee output over the past two years (Save the Children, 29/09/2014).

## Agricultural Outlook

70% of small-scale and subsistence farmers have suffered losses due to the drought. 47%

of households affected depend on basic crop production (WFP, 07/11/2014). Over 70% crops have been lost in some affected areas of the Highlands (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

The Dry Corridor normally provides 20% of national maize production, and recent estimates predict a 9% drop in national *primera* maize production compared to last year (FAO, 19/09/2014). **About 75% of maize and beans harvests have been lost (OCHA, 10/12/2014).**

*Primera* and *postrera* harvests will not cover the food consumption deficits of households suffering crop failures for the last two years and reduced incomes due to coffee leaf rust (FEWSNET, 05/2014).

**Households most affected by drought decided not to plant crops in the second planting season, and in eight of the 16 affected departments, producers are only growing maize. For these subsistence farmers who decided not to plant for second season, the scenario is very uncertain, not only for this year but until the next harvest in August 2015 (OCHA, 10/12/2014).**

## Health and Nutrition

Provision of primary healthcare has been interrupted in rural areas of several municipalities due to budget limitations (Government, 12/10/2014). Compulsory vaccination programmes, nutritional vigilance, and specific care for pregnant women and malnourished children have been interrupted (Acción contra la hambre, 30/09/2014).

## Chikungunya

**As of 2 January, 21,859 suspected cases of chikungunya have been reported and 198 cases confirmed (local media, 17/12/2014; WHO, 29/12/2014).**

## Nutrition

116 children have died from malnutrition in 2014. Between January and November, 14,731 children were reported to be malnourished, **which represents a 16% reduction compared to last year** (Prensa Latina, 17/12/2014). **The highest rate of acute malnutrition was identified in the eastern part of the country with 5.4%. Overall, 4.7% presented total acute malnutrition and 2.5% presented severe acute malnutrition in girls (OCHA, 10/12/2014).**

## WASH

7,000 people were left without running water in Zapaca following heavy rains and drainage collapse (Prensa Libre, 22/10/2014).

23% of households in drought-affected areas are estimated not to have access to safe drinkable water (SESAN quoted by OCHA, 03/11/2014).

Updated: 07/01/2015

## HONDURAS DROUGHT, FOOD INSECURITY



## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

**18 December:** 1.9 million people are still affected by the drought of September 2014 (WFP, 18/12/2014).

## KEY CONCERNS

- 930,000 people were affected by drought as of September, including 372,000 small-scale and subsistence farmers and labourers considered to be in need of humanitarian assistance (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014). Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibuca and Lempira departments are the most affected (EU, 20/08/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Disasters

##### Drought

**Drought has affected 1.9 million people – up by almost a million since September (WFP, 15/12/2014).** 372,000 small-scale and subsistence farmers and labourers were considered to be in need of humanitarian assistance as of 27 October (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014).

The most affected departments are Choluteca, Valle, El Paraíso, Francisco Morazán, Intibuca, and Lempira (EU, 20/08/2014). The Government declared a state of emergency in the Dry Corridor on 5 August (Government, 05/08/2014).

##### Floods

As of 3 December, rainfall continues to cause damage in several departments. In the north, severe storms have caused damage and the death of four people; several communities have been cut off (PAHO, 03/12/2014). On 1 December, a red alert – mandatory evacuation – was imposed by national authorities in the department of Atlantida due to expected continuation of heavy rains, and a precautionary yellow alert for the departments of Cortes, Bay Islands and Colon, and northern part of the Yoro department (local media; OCHA, 01/12/2014).

On 19 November, 300 people were evacuated from flooding in Villanueva municipality, Cortés department (La Tribuna, 21/11/2014).

Repeated flooding in Valle department between end September and October affected over 14,000 people (La Tribuna, 13/10/2014; El Herald, 29/09/2014; La Prensa, 05/10/2014)

#### Food Security

One million people are affected by food insecurity (OCHA, 11/12/2014). Vulnerable households in parts of southern Honduras will experience Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels of

food insecurity October 2014–March 2015 due to below-average 2014 *primera* harvests, reduced income from coffee sector employment and sales, and above-average basic food prices (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

**It is projected that the southwestern region of Honduras will be in Crisis food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) from March due to severe damage to the grain harvest and coffee rust (FEWSNET, 20/12/2014).**

#### Agriculture and Markets

**Secondary season production is not expected to offset crop production losses (WFP, 12/2014).** Delayed *postrera* sowing due to moisture deficits in August will result in stepped production. In addition, crops are at risk of being affected by lack of rainfall through November–December (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014).

**43% of national maize and 48% of national bean production has been lost due to drought (WFP, 15/12/2014).** Estimates point to a 25% drop in maize production during the *primera* season compared to last year, and losses of over 8,000 metric tons of beans (FAO, 19/09/2014). Fish farms have been affected by the depletion of fish stocks (EU, 20/08/2014).

Maize prices increased by 23% and bean prices by 17% over the third quarter of 2014 (WFP, 27/10/2014).

The coffee leaf rust epidemic, affecting the entire Central American region, is further affecting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and day labourers. In Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, 655,000 people are estimated to be food insecure due to the coffee leaf rust infestation (WFP, 15/10/2014).

#### Health and Nutrition

**Limited access to water due to drought is having a negative impact on hygiene, in turn increasing health risks, especially acute diarrhoeal diseases. Health services in rural areas do not have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the affected population and there is a 50% shortage of medicine stocks (OCHA, 10/12/2014).**

##### Dengue

**At the end of December, nine cases of chikungunya were recorded, and 4,072 cases suspected for 2014 (WHO, 29/12/2014).** As of 2 December, 38,600 cases of dengue have been recorded (local media, 16/12/2014).

#### Nutrition

**3.4% of children under five are suffering from acute malnutrition, with a greater impact on girls (5.6%). At least 19,559 children are malnourished as a direct consequence of the drought (OCHA, 10/12/2014).**

#### WASH

The drought has affected access to safe drinking water in the most affected areas (La Prensa, 10/08/2014). 27,300 people are considered to be in need of house disinfection, health education and access to safe water according to a joint assessment between the Ministry of Health and the Water and Sanitation working group (Humanitarian Country Team, 27/10/2014).

Updated: 7/01/2015

## NICARAGUA FOOD INSECURITY

### LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

No significant developments this week, 07/01/2015. Last update 26/11/2014.

### KEY CONCERNS

- About 400,000 people are estimated to be affected by drought (OCHA, 03/11/2014), 100,000 of whom are in dire need of assistance (ACT Alliance, 31/10/2014).
- Vulnerable communities will face Stressed (IPC Phase 2) Food Insecurity from October to December (FEWSNET, 01/09/2014).

### Humanitarian Context and Needs

#### Disasters

##### Drought

About 400,000 people are estimated to be affected by drought, 100,000 of whom are in dire need of assistance (OCHA, 03/11/2014, ACT Alliance, 31/10/2014). It is estimated that 112 of the country's 156 municipalities have reported damage or loss of crops due to the drought. Nearly 75% of the *primera* maize crop has been lost (OCHA, 09/08/2014). Latest official assessments have revised estimated losses upward, to 77,000 metric tons of maize and 45,000 metric tons of rice. The most affected areas are the northern departments of Nueva Segovia, Madriz, and Estelí, bordering Honduras.

The drought, which began in late July, has been the worst in more than 30 years. Nicaragua requested aid from humanitarian and development actors in the country (OCHA, 29/08/2014).

##### Floods and Rains

Heavy rains affected more than 64,360 people from mid-October to mid-November (Government quoted by local media, 18/11/2014). As of 13 November, heavy rains continued throughout the country (Government, 06/11/2014; 29/10/2014). 74 municipalities have been affected in 15 departments and two autonomous regions; 12 of these departments suffered severe damage and three minor damage (Government, 10/11/2014). More than 4,500 houses have been destroyed in 134 communities (ECHO, 19/10/2014).

7,000 people remained evacuated to 25 official shelters and 82 informal shelters as of 10 November (Government, 10/11/2014).

#### Food Security

Bean prices increased by 29% and maize prices by 26% over the third quarter of 2014 (WFP, 27/10/2014). The provision of assistance will improve food security through October–December.

Poor households in northwestern areas will be in Stressed levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 2) January–March 2015 due to production losses, price rises for basic food products and reduced income opportunities (FEWSNET, 18/11/2014).

#### Agricultural Outlook

In Estelí, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Matagalpa, León and Chinandega departments, farmers waited until the end of September to sow *postrera* seeds due to insufficient rainfall, which will result in stepped production. In addition, crops are at risk of being affected by lack of rainfall through November–December (FEWSNET, 31/10/2014).

**The coffee leaf rust epidemic, affecting the entire Central American region, is further affecting the livelihoods of small-scale farmers and day labourers, though it is expected to be less harsh than in previous years (Government, 05/01/2015).**

#### Health

##### Chikungunya

**As of 29 December, 1,918 cases of chikungunya have been reported, and another 1,598 suspected cases for 2014 (Government, 15/12/2014; WHO, 29/12/2014).**

Updated: 07/01/2015

## Introduction to the Global Emergency Overview Update

The Global Emergency Overview is a weekly update that provides a snapshot of current humanitarian priorities and recent events. The Global Emergency Overview collates information from a wide range of sources, including Reliefweb and media sources, and displays this information in a manner that allows for quick comparison of different humanitarian crises. The primary objective of the Global Emergency Overview is to rapidly inform humanitarian decision makers by presenting a summary of major humanitarian crises, both recent and protracted. It is designed to provide answers to four questions:

1. Which humanitarian crises currently exist? (World map)
2. What has happened in the last seven days? (Highlights and Snapshot)
3. What is the situation in the country affected by a crisis? (Highlights Box and Narrative)
4. Which countries could be prioritised in terms of humanitarian response? (Prioritisation)

### The Global Emergency Overview consists of three main sections:

First, the **world map** provides an overview of how the countries are prioritised, indicated by different shades of blue. The countries are subdivided by four **priority levels**: "on watch", "situation of concern", "humanitarian crisis", and "severe humanitarian crisis".

The priority levels are assigned on the basis of:

- the number of people affected by recent disasters
- the level of access to the affected population
- the <5 mortality rate
- the level of development of the country
- the number of protracted IDPs and refugees.

If a country experienced a disaster in the seven days prior to an update or witnessed an escalation of an on-going crisis, a country is **highlighted** by a yellow dot on the map.

Second, the **snapshot** briefly describes what has happened in the last seven days from the date of publication, by outlining the crises that have occurred in the different highlighted countries.

Third, **narratives** for each country included in the Global Emergency Overview reflect major developments and underlying vulnerabilities of a country over the last months. Narratives are written based on secondary data. For each country, a specific **highlights box** is also added to put emphasis on the major developments that happened over the past 10 days.

### The Global Emergency Overview is a mobile application.

To download the mobile application for Android phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acaps.acaps>

To download the mobile application for iOS phones [click here](#).

Or go here: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/global-emergency-overview/id567382309?mt=8>

## Update

The Global Emergency Overview will be updated once a week and the results will be available every Tuesday before midday (Central European Time/Central European Summer Time). In case of major new humanitarian events or an escalation of an on-going crisis which triggers a change of prioritisation, the Global Overview will be updated on an ad-hoc basis.

## Disclaimer

While ACAPS has defined a methodology striving to ensure accuracy, the information provided is indicative and should not be used in isolation from alternate sources of information for any decision making. ACAPS is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information presented on this website.