
Global Overview

Presentation to the

WFP Executive Board

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Contents

- Yemen
 - South Sudan / Sudan
 - DRC
 - Horn of Africa / Somalia
 - Security issues: Kenya, CAR, Madagascar, Guinea, Nepal
 - Natural Hazards: Southern Africa
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Yemen

Yemen is facing a deteriorating humanitarian crisis with high food and fuel prices, rising poverty, a breakdown of social services, diminishing resources, internal conflict, low donor interest, and political instability and is likely to worsen in the coming months.

Socio-political situation

- Tension and potential for unrest are elevated in the run up to the 2014 Presidential election, including before the 18 March National Dialogue.
- Yemen continues to face three significant security challenges threatening the stability of its central government: Al-Qaeda affiliated militants throughout large portions of the country, particularly in the south; Al-Houthi militants in the north, and Southern secessionists.

Food Security situation

WFP's Yemen Food Security Monitoring System Bulletin from February 2013 highlights that food security levels have remained the same – as per the WFP's 2012 Comprehensive Food Security Survey – or slightly improved during the course of 2012. Some 27 percent of households are severely food insecure in the 11 governorates covered; 47 percent of all children under five are chronically malnourished and 13 percent suffer from acute malnutrition.

Yemen (cont'd)

WFP Operations

WFP has scaled up activities in Yemen in line with the Level 2 Emergency.

Begun in January 2013, a new year-long EMOP, valued at USD 242 million, focuses on three main areas: 1) Food assistance under emergency safety nets activities to 3.5 million food insecure people and cash transfers for 400,000; 2) Food assistance to around 600,000 IDPs; 3) Nutrition support for approximately 400,000 children under five and 157,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers.

Unfortunately, in February, WFP was forced to temporarily reduce rations for 300,000 IDPs due to lack of funding. The reductions will remain until more funding is received.

Nutrition activities are ongoing in five governorates through the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) – Hajja, Hodeida, Amran, Al-Bayda and Hadramout. During February and March, WFP has targeted around 202,000 beneficiaries (38,000 pregnant and lactating women, 119,000 children between 6 and 23 months under the preventive approach, and 45,000 children 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition).

South Sudan and Sudan

Socio-political situation

- AU-mediated talks on the timeline and modalities of implementing the comprehensive cooperation agreement of 27 September are ongoing. Security issues and the status of Abyei remain the most contentious issues. Recent political agreements on the establishment of a safe demilitarized border zone and the resumption of oil flows still need to be implemented.
- Both countries accuse each other of conducting cross-border raids and building up troops along their common border.
- Clashes between the Sudanese army and SPLM/A-North rebels have continued in Blue Nile, South Kordofan and Darfur (Sudan).
- The South Sudanese army has launched a military campaign against Yau Yau rebels in Jonglei (South Sudan).

Access restrictions

- In Sudan, access to South Kordofan and Blue Nile remains restricted; a Tripartite initiative on access to these areas remains stalled.
 - Significant security challenges in South Sudan are threatening the ability of humanitarian agencies to provide assistance to some communities in need (including in the border region and Jonglei state).
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South Sudan and Sudan (cont'd)

Humanitarian situation

- **Sudan:** About 3.5 million people in Sudan face stressed and crisis levels of food insecurity, with 80 percent of the food insecure population in areas of Darfur, South Kordofan, Blue Nile, and the disputed Abyei area (Jan 2013).
- **South Sudan:** 4.1 million people still face food insecurity (1 million severely food insecure) despite increased food production (WFP/FAO, Feb 2013). South Sudan hosts over 217,900 refugees (191,992 from Sudan). WFP is preparing for up to 150,000 additional refugees from Sudan.

WFP operations

- **Sudan:** WFP plans to assist over 3.6 million beneficiaries, mainly in Darfur, central and eastern Sudan. In Darfur, WFP provides aid to IDPs and vulnerable households through: i) general food distributions; ii) supplementary rations for children; and iii) school feeding.
 - **South Sudan:** WFP plans to reach 2.86 million beneficiaries in 2013 through emergency and recovery orientated activities (2012: 2.7 million reached). Prepositioning and funding remain challenging. WFP urgently requires USD 90 million (56,000 mt) for immediate distribution and prepositioning needs ahead of the next rainy season starting in May.
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DRC

Eastern DRC continues to face a humanitarian crisis. Since March 2012, the eastern provinces of DRC have seen an upsurge in violence, involving more than 30 different armed groups.

Socio-political situation

- Negotiations between the DRC Government and M23 Movement in North Kivu have continued, but were complicated by a recent split of the M23.
 - Clashes between various rebel groups and the DRC army have led to massive displacement in many areas in eastern DRC, creating “hot spots” of food insecurity (North and South Kivu, Maniema & Katanga provinces).
 - A regional agreement to bring peace to eastern DRC was signed by 11 African countries – including DRC, Rwanda & Uganda - in February.
 - The UN Security Council is discussing the deployment of an international peace enforcement brigade to eastern DRC.
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DRC (cont'd)

Humanitarian situation

- Food security: 6.4 million people remain in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis. However, early harvests had positive impacts on food availability and a reduction in food prices for most of the country (IPC analysis and Food Security cluster, Dec 2012/Jan 2013).
- Displacement: About 2.6 million people are internally displaced in DRC (OCHA, 31 Jan 2013). The continued movement of Congolese refugees into neighbouring countries (Uganda, Rwanda) also remains a significant concern. 26,000 people have sought refuge in DRC from fighting in CAR.

WFP Operations

- WFP provided food assistance to 3.6 million people in DRC in 2012 and plans to reach 4.8 million beneficiaries by June 2013 under PRRO 200167 (3.6 million targeted) and EMOP 200480 (1.2 million targeted).
 - In cooperation with FAO, WFP plans to feed 550,000 IDPs and returnees in eastern DRC over the first three months of 2013.
 - Overall shortfall: USD 77.6 million for the next six months.
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Horn of Africa

Outlook for the long rains season (March-May)

- Conditions are expected to remain ENSO neutral, which will result in generally average precipitation, with a tendency towards below average.
 - Due to the varied distribution of rainfall, drought will be possible in some regions, while flash floods and mudslides will be likely elsewhere.
 - The period from March to May constitutes an important rainfall season over the equatorial parts of the Greater Horn of Africa.
 - Food security: Across the region, consecutive good seasons have transformed food security conditions from the low point in 2011. Prices are generally stable or reduced from 2012 (FSNWG, Feb 2013). The current situation offers opportunities to address some structural issues through resilience programming.
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Somalia

Political/Security situation

- AMISOM and Somali Government forces continue to push al-Shabaab out of urban areas in central and southern Somalia. Al-Shabaab continue to engage in asymmetric tactics and is reorganizing in the Puntland region.
- The UN Security Council in March extended AMISOM's mandate for another year and set out the terms for a reconfiguration of the UN's presence in Somalia.

Humanitarian situation

- Access: While humanitarian access in some parts of southern Somalia has improved, many areas remain inaccessible due to conflict and insecurity.
 - Food security: The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has halved to 1.05 million since August 2012, but malnutrition rates remain among the highest in the world (FSNAU, 2013).
 - Displacement: Over 1 million Somali refugees are currently hosted by neighbouring countries (8,000 new arrivals in 2013). Thousands of refugees have returned to Somalia due to growing insecurity in Dadaab.
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Somalia (cont'd)

WFP operations

- In 2013, WFP is targeting 1.56 million vulnerable Somalis in food insecure areas through nutrition, livelihood, relief and social safety net programmes. WFP launched a PRRO in Somalia, shifting from emergency response to recovery in line with the joint FAO/WFP/UNICEF resilience strategy.
 - Food distributions resumed in Kismayo for the first time since May 2008 under wet feeding and TSFP programmes. The resumption of humanitarian operations follows a successful assessment mission to Kismayo which found high levels of food insecurity amongst the population.
 - WFP established a permanent presence of international staff in Dolow in January to roll out resilience-based interventions in Dolow district.
 - The refugee pipelines for neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya) remain fragile.
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Security Issues

Kenya: General elections on 04 March passed without large-scale violence. While the camp of presidential runner-up Odinga has contested the results and alleged vote rigging, Odinga seem to be willing to challenge the results through legal channels, limiting the potential for violence. WFP continues to update its preparedness plans (especially for the Mombasa corridor), taking into account recent developments.

CAR: Despite the formation of a unity Government, the political and security situation remains fluid and unpredictable with rebels occupying half of the country and occasionally launching attacks in northeast and south.

Madagascar: Despite recent progress, further complications and delays in the SADC roadmap to end the political crisis are likely ahead of the first round of Presidential elections scheduled in July, resulting in further instability.

Security Issues (cont'd)

Guinea: The opposition continues to criticise the preparations for the 12 May 2013 legislative elections that have been delayed since 2007. Protests this month have left nine people dead and ethnic as well as political tensions remain high. A political solution is being sought but could prove difficult.

Nepal: On 14 March, Supreme Court Chief Justice Khilraj Regmi was named head of an interim government that will hold elections by 21 June. The assembly to be elected in June is to write a constitution and double as the country's parliament.

Egypt: WFP is monitoring the ongoing political situation and developments.

Natural Hazards: Southern Africa

Flooding in January/February

- Flooding in southern **Mozambique** in early 2013 affected up to 240,000 people (185,000 temporarily displaced), mainly in Gaza province.
- Under the leadership of the Government and in close cooperation with UN and NGO partners, WFP reached a peak of 200,000 people with food assistance in the immediate aftermath of the disaster (current caseload: 153,000 beneficiaries). Joint FAO/WFP assessments on impact on the medium–term food security situation are ongoing.
- No international assistance has been solicited so far for Zambezia province, where 33,600 people were affected.
- Following recent flooding in **Malawi**, WFP assists 79,000 people in need of food assistance for up to three months.

South-West Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclone Season

- No major emergencies have occurred as the season is drawing to a close.
 - Following the passage of Tropical Cyclone Haruna through southwest **Madagascar** on 22 February, WFP has provided relief assistance to almost 15,000 beneficiaries. Early recovery activities target 14,000 people. TC Haruna has compounded the locust situation. An EMOP was adopted.
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Natural Hazards: Southern Africa (cont'd)

- 30-day rainfall deficits indicate a growing drying trend across parts of the region. Impact on actual crop production still needs to be verified. For the more marginal areas and livestock based livelihoods (Namibia, S Angola, S Zimbabwe and Botswana), impact will definitely be felt (VAM, Mar 2013). WFP collaborates with SADC on the Vulnerability Assessment Committee.
- In response to the food crisis due to consecutive droughts in **Lesotho**, WFP continues to address the needs of the most vulnerable (210,000) through EMOP 200499, currently under extension up until Dec 2013. In **Malawi**, WFP is working with the Government and partners to distribute food to close to 2 million people. 125,000 people receive cash transfers. In **Zimbabwe**, 1.42 million of the 1.6 million vulnerable people are being assisted through WFP food distributions, but pipeline breaks could compromise response. WFP continues to closely monitor developments ahead of the 2013 elections.

Outlook

- The rainy season will be drawing to a close by April, with drier than normal conditions expected across southern Africa for the next six months. Conditions are expected to worsen in regions with precipitation deficits.
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