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# Global Overview

*Presentation to the*

## **WFP Executive Board**

**2012 Fourth Quarter Operational Briefing**

**David Kaatrud**

Director of Emergencies

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# Occupied Palestinian Territory

## Socio-political situation

- Hostilities resumed between Israel and militant groups in Gaza on 14 November until a ceasefire was reached on 21 November. Despite several minor incidents, the ceasefire is holding.
  - At least 103 Palestinian civilians were killed in the fighting, and a further 1,300 injured. 450 houses were destroyed or severely damaged in Gaza.
  - During the conflict, WFP provided food assistance to 10,000 people who were temporarily displaced. OCHA reports that 3,000 of these individuals remain displaced until now. WFP continues to provide emergency food assistance for an additional caseload of 800 families whose homes were damaged during the conflict. Normal WFP operations continued during the conflict. Prior to this escalation in violence, 80% of the Gazan population was already receiving humanitarian assistance.
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# Occupied Palestinian Territory (cont'd)

## **WFP Operations**

- EMOP 200298 “Emergency Food Assistance for Operation Lifeline Gaza” covers January – December 2012 and targets 285,000 beneficiaries in Gaza. By the end of December, WFP will have distributed 39,559 metric tons of food to Gaza.
- PRRO 200037 “Targeted Food Assistance to Support Destitute and Marginalized Groups and Enhance Livelihoods in the West Bank” from January 2011 – December 2013 intends to reach 454,500 beneficiaries.

## **Food Security and Access Constraints in oPt**

- Estimated 44 percent of households in the Gaza Strip and 17 percent in the West Bank are food insecure.
  - Recent volatility in food and fuel prices, along with a VAT increase threaten both the food security of vulnerable Palestinian families and the ability of WFP to provide humanitarian assistance to families in need. Cash and vouchers are working notably well in the West Bank.
  - Border crossings continue to be a challenge. Recent transportation restrictions from the Israeli authorities with WFP trucks having to offload and re-load on new trucks before entering the West Bank once having passed the Gaza crossing to Israel.
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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 and political instability and is likely to worsen in the coming months.

## **Socio-political situation**

- Political rivalry continues to manifest itself in sporadic factional fighting as attempts by the President to restructure the military are ongoing but are facing resistance by side-lined factions.
- In addition, 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 and malnutrition situation**

WFP's 2012 Comprehensive Food Security Survey (CFSS) highlights 10 million people (44.5% of the population) are food insecure; 5 million of those are severely food insecure (double the number since the last CFSS in 2009).

Chronic malnutrition rates is high with 47% of Yemeni children stunted.

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# Yemen (cont'd)

## **WFP Operations**

WFP has scaled up activities in Yemen and elevated the operations to a Level 2 Emergency

In line with the 2012 CFSS findings, WFP expanded the number of beneficiaries under PRRO 200038 from 2 million to 4 million for the rest of 2012. This scale enables WFP, in addition to the EMOP and CP activities, to assist more than 5 million people.

Moreover, WFP is scaling up the activities geographically to include 5 new governorates (Al-Hodeida, Dhamar, Lahj, Mareb, and Sanaa), which were identified in the CFSS as among the 13 most food-insecure . WFP is already distributing food in the other 8 identified governorates.

In 2013, a new year-long EMOP will focus on three main areas: 1) Food assistance under emergency safety nets activities to 3.4 million food insecure people and cash transfers for 400,000; 2) Food assistance to around 600,000 IDPs; 3) Nutrition support for approximately 405,000 children under five and 157,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers.

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# Afghanistan

## **Political/Security situation**

- Levels of violence remain high, with insecurity spreading in western, central and northern Afghan provinces. Lawlessness is a growing concern nationwide as NATO winds up its operations
  - Escalation of insurgent operations could be further anticipated along with the security transition process as foreign troops prepare to pull out most combat troops by 2014. However, in the immediate future harsh winter conditions are expected to partially limit the Taliban's operations in the country.
  - The US and its allies fighting in Afghanistan are pushing to strike a peace deal with the Taliban before the 2014 withdrawal. But obstacles remain, and it is unclear whether the Taliban even intend to take part in the process, rather than just wait until foreign forces withdraw.
  - The US and Afghanistan are negotiating a bilateral security agreement that will set up a legal framework needed to continue to operate American forces in Afghanistan after the 2014 withdrawal.
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# Afghanistan (cont'd)

## WFP operations

- For the 2012-2013 winter season, WFP will pre-position up to 9,500 mt of food at household levels in high elevation areas that will become inaccessible during the winter. Thus far, WFP has dispatched some 6,500 mt, or nearly 70 percent of the planned support to concerned areas. The pre-positioning will ensure a continued food supply for vulnerable households in remote mountainous communities.
  - A Budget Revision (BR) of the current PRRO has been prepared. The BR foresees the extension of the operation for nine months until the end of 2013 and refocuses the scope of activities. The PRRO will target approximately 2.4 million beneficiaries in 2013 (compared with over 7 million in 2012) through relief and resilience building activities.
  - In response to the foreseen worsening access and security situation, WFP is developing a Remote Management Operation (RMO) that would allow business continuity in case of a deteriorating scenario.
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# Sudan / South Sudan

## **Political Situation**

- Despite a comprehensive cooperation agreement reached on 27 Sept, security issues remain the main point of contention between Sudan and South Sudan.
- Talks between both countries have continued, but were overshadowed by recent allegations of border violation committed by the Sudanese army.
- Sudan and South Sudan have failed to meet an AU-set deadline to reach a deal on the contested Abyei region by 05 December.
- Oil flows from South Sudan have not yet resumed as Sudan insists that South Sudan cut ties and disarm the SPLM/A-North rebels first.

## **Access constraints in Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states**

- Hostilities between SPLM/A-N and the Sudanese army have continued.
  - There is no humanitarian access to 420,000 people affected in the rebel-held areas since fighting broke out in mid-2011.
  - The implementation of an AU/Arab League/UN Tripartite agreement on humanitarian access between the Sudanese Government and SPLM/A-N rebels is stalled.
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# **Sudan / South Sudan (cont'd)**

## **Humanitarian situation along the shared border**

- Continued fighting as well as the lack of humanitarian access to Sudan's South Kordofan and Blue Nile states have resulted in a humanitarian crisis in the border region.
- Over 650,000 people in South Kordofan and Blue Nile and over 187,000 Sudanese refugees currently hosted by South Sudan are in urgent need of food assistance. Yida camp currently houses around 68,000 refugees.

## **WFP Operations/Outlook**

- Following a large refugee influx over the past year, WFP had to use prepositioned food stocks and also needed to resort to airdropping.
  - A new influx of refugees into South Sudan is expected due to the onset of the dry season and increasing military activities in South Kordofan. Several thousand people have already arrived in South Sudan over the past weeks, putting pressure on existing supplies and services.
  - As overall market conditions in South Sudan have improved, WFP continues its contingency and logistics planning for South Sudan. Given the long lead time, urgent pre-positioning of food is needed ahead of next year's rainy season to avoid pipeline breaks.
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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, including their former stronghold Kismayo. However, Al-Shabaab will continue to engage in asymmetric tactics and is reorganizing in the northern Puntland region.
  - The UN Security Council in November extended AMISOM's mandate for four months to allow for a review of operations.
  - The elections of the new parliament and the new President passed without major incidents. A new government was confirmed in November.
  - Humanitarian access in south/central Somalia remains restricted due to insecurity and a ban on humanitarian organisations by al-Shabaab.
  - A relative increase of refugee numbers has been registered in Ethiopia, while refugee numbers in Kenya have remained more or less constant.
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# Somalia (cont'd)

## WFP operations

- Despite a relative improvement of the security situation, programming has continued for over 2 million people in Somalia.
  - WFP has shipped 1,200 mt of food to Kismayo port in early December, a first since the city became accessible to WFP. Assessments found high levels of food insecurity among the Kismayo population. Food distribution is expected to commence in late December / early January 2013.
  - The refugee pipelines for Kenya and Ethiopia remain a main concern and priority. There is a need for early prepositioning in order to avoid possible pipeline breaks.
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# Horn of Africa

## Rainfall performance

- The short rains season across the region (October – December) has generally under-performed. Moisture deficits remain following a mid-season dry spell that occurred in early November and recent drier than average conditions.
- With a shortened recovery period in the next several weeks, this could result in a deterioration of pastoral and agro-pastoral conditions, and possible crop yield reductions by the end of season throughout parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and eastern Tanzania.

## Kenya elections

- WFP has started operational contingency planning for any potential logistics interruption on the Mombasa corridor with regard to the upcoming elections in Kenya in March 2013.
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# DRC

Eastern DRC is facing a deteriorating 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**

- In North Kivu, an insurgency of the March 23 (M23) rebel group culminated in the capture of the provincial capital Goma on 20 November.
  - The M23 insurgency and a recent wave of defections from the DRC army have led to a security vacuum that has been exploited by various other armed groups in eastern DRC.
  - Following the M23's withdrawal from Goma on 01 December, M23 representatives and DRC Government officials on 09 December opened peace talks in Kampala under Ugandan mediation.
  - The UN Security Council is currently discussing several proposed responses to violence in eastern DRC, including the deployment of an AU-led neutral international force.
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# DRC (cont'd)

## Humanitarian Situation

- The humanitarian situation is becoming increasingly critical for populations affected by renewed conflict in eastern DRC.
- Following the most recent wave of violence, an additional 130,000 are newly displaced in and around Goma and another 47,000 newly displaced have arrived in Minova in South Kivu in the past weeks.
- This is on top of an estimated 841,000 people in North Kivu and 878,000 in South Kivu who were already displaced before the recent fighting.
- Access remains challenging due to the volatility of the situation.

## WFP Operations

- WFP has assisted more than 1 million IDPs/host communities in eastern DRC since the beginning of 2012 and is responding to the needs arising from the most recent wave of fighting.
  - WFP has maintained a very flexible posture and has deployed additional staff to increase its operational capacity. Security and the strained pipeline remain major concerns in light of increasing caseloads.
  - With limited resourcing available and low levels of food stocks in the country, additional funding is urgently required to support WFP's response.
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# Southern Africa

- Erratic rainfall during the past seasons have resulted in reduced harvests in many areas of the region. Increasing food prices make food too expensive for the poorest households even when available. WFP is scaling up its efforts to assist more than 3.5 million people in the drought-hit areas, which are now facing the start of the hunger season.
  - In **Lesotho**, 725,000 people (one-third of the population) are at serious risk of food insecurity following consecutive years of poor harvests. WFP has launched an EMOP to address the needs of the most vulnerable (210,000) from Oct 2012 to April 2013 and also provides assistance to school children and through the CP.
  - In **Malawi**, WFP is working with the Government and partners to distribute food to more than 1.8 million people. 100,000 receive cash transfers. In **Zimbabwe**, most of the 1.6 million vulnerable people facing food shortages are being assisted through food distributions. 300,000 receive cash transfers. WFP continues to closely monitor the developments ahead of the 2013 elections.
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# Southern Africa (cont'd)

## Outlook

- Average precipitation is expected over most parts of the region over the next three months. Below average precipitation is expected over localised areas in the east of the region, while rains should be above average in the areas bordering the Atlantic.
  - **El Niño:** As a warm-neutral ENSO pattern is in effect, with a slight trend towards a weak El Niño, seasonal trends are expected to be mostly neutral with a slight bias towards typical El Niño patterns (drier than normal conditions).
  - WFP continues to closely monitor the situation in Southern Africa, also because the region is one of WFP's main sources of food.
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# Philippines

- Typhoon BOPHA reached the intensity of a category 5 storm before making landfall over south-eastern Philippines' Davao Oriental Province on 04 December. BOPHA was somewhat of an unusual event as the main typhoon season in the North-West Pacific Ocean goes from July to November with a peak in late August/early September.
- More than 700 people have been killed, while over 5.4 million people have been affected across Mindanao and Visayas, 116,000 of which are currently housed in 134 evacuation centres.

## **WFP Response**

- WFP plans to assist 400,000 of the most vulnerable individuals in Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and CARAGA region over five months. This will include assistance to 80,000 school-aged children and 60,000 pregnant and nursing mothers over the same period of time.
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## Philippines (cont'd)

- Unlike in the past, WFP will launch a single supply pipeline for food assistance, which will be jointly managed with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to ensure a coordinated response to food needs.
  - To cover the needs of these affected populations, WFP is appealing for US\$21.6 million: US\$19.6 million for food, US\$1.2 million for nutrition activities and US\$800,000 for logistics support.
  - A UN Inter-Agency Flash Appeal for US\$ 65 million was announced on 10 December and clusters have been activated.
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# Storm Seasonal Forecast

## South-West Indian Ocean Cyclone Season (December-March)

- The tropical cyclone season began early this year as tropical Cyclone Anais developed into a category 3 Tropical Storm on 14 October. However, the system weakened significantly when it reached Madagascar and didn't cause serious damage. An average of 10 cyclones develop in this basin every season. The European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) indicates that the 2012/13 cyclone season will be slightly above average.

## South Pacific Ocean/Australian Region Cyclone Season (November-April)

- The South Pacific Ocean is expected to have a slightly below normal cyclone season. Around 8 cyclones develop every year in this region. Tropical cyclone EVAN is currently active in the basin. After affecting Samoa, the cyclone is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rains to Tonga and Fiji in the coming days.
  - An average to above average season is expected in the Australian Region, which includes Australia, Papua New Guinea, western parts of the Solomon Islands, East Timor and southern parts of Indonesia. Around 10 cyclones typically form in this area every season.
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# Storm Seasonal Update

## North West Pacific Typhoon Season (July-November)

- Although the typhoon season for this area officially ended in November, this is the most active basin, with an average of 26 typhoons per year and typhoons are still possible. ECMWF indicates, however, that tropical system development will be at or below normal over the next several months.

## Atlantic and North East Pacific Hurricane Season (June-November)

- The Atlantic and North East Pacific Hurricane Season ended in November.
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# **Thank You**

**Link to the latest WFP Operational Situation Reports:**

**<http://executiveboard.wfp.org/situation-reports>**

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