

### In this issue

- Regional impact of South Sudan crisis P.1
- Regional funding update P.3
- Climate, food security and nutrition update P.4
- Burundi elections and DRC offensive P.5
- Kenya Security Amendment Act P.6
- Kenya coordination structure P.6
- WHS technical meeting P.6

### HIGHLIGHTS

- IPC confirms some 2.5 million people in South Sudan in Emergency and Crisis food insecurity, as economic pressure rises due to conflict.
- UN Secretary-General calls on South Sudan leaders to expeditiously end the conflict.
- Over 12,000 South Sudanese refugees registered in the region in January 2015.
- Humanitarian funding for 2015 is ten times lower than at the same time in 2014.
- Some \$529 million pledged at High Level Event on South Sudan.
- Political tensions and conflict in the Great Lakes region imperils the lives of countless citizens, including displaced populations in Burundi and eastern DRC.



UNHCR trucks loaded with relief items for pre-positioning in Unity and Upper Nile States ahead of the rainy season (UNHCR)

## South Sudan crisis remains a major concern

### Some 2.5 million people on the brink of food insecurity in South Sudan

Food security remains a key concern in the conflict-affected states of South Sudan, especially in the greater Upper Nile region. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) December 2014 [report](#) confirms earlier projections of an estimated 2.5 million people facing Emergency and Crisis food insecurity levels between January and March 2015. The food security situation is likely to worsen as conflict continues to disrupt livestock and crop-based production, resulting in high staple food prices and market distortion. As a result of insecurity, access remains a major constraint in the majority of the counties in Jonglei and Unity states, which are also facing emergency food insecurity levels. Six Protection of Civilian (POCs) and displacement sites across the country are in the Crisis phase and are dependent on humanitarian assistance to avoid slipping into an Emergency phase, according to the IPC report.

Funding for scaling-up of humanitarian assistance and pre-positioning activities remains a priority during the current dry season. US\$600 million is needed by the end of February to pre-position supplies and fix roads and airstrips to reach as many people as possible ahead of the anticipated rainy season.

### Economic development disrupted due to conflict and political impasse

The renewed conflict in South Sudan continues to negatively impact the country's economy. Sustainable development in South Sudan is now virtually at a standstill. The country has recorded a sharp decline in fiscal revenue due to falling oil output and a drop in the global oil price. The Government's decision to halt oil production because of internal political tensions and with Sudan has damaged the economy and spiked inflation. The Government is reportedly unable to pay wages and has instructed the central bank to print money.

Enhanced diplomatic efforts at the political level remain critical to ensure that agreements to cease hostilities are upheld, to avoid conflict escalating further. On 2 February President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar signed a fourth agreement since the beginning of 2014, which outlines arrangements for an interim government. This follows the signing of an agreement on the re-unification of the three factions of the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) on 21 January in Arusha, Tanzania. General elections are scheduled for 30 June 2015, despite sentiments that peace should precede elections.

### FIGURES

IDPs in eastern Africa	6.96 million
Refugees in eastern Africa	2.33 million
South Sudanese refugees in the region	630,000
Food insecure population	11.43 million

### FUNDING

South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan	\$658 million requested
	0 % funded

*30 per cent of the 2.33 million refugees in eastern Africa are from South Sudan*

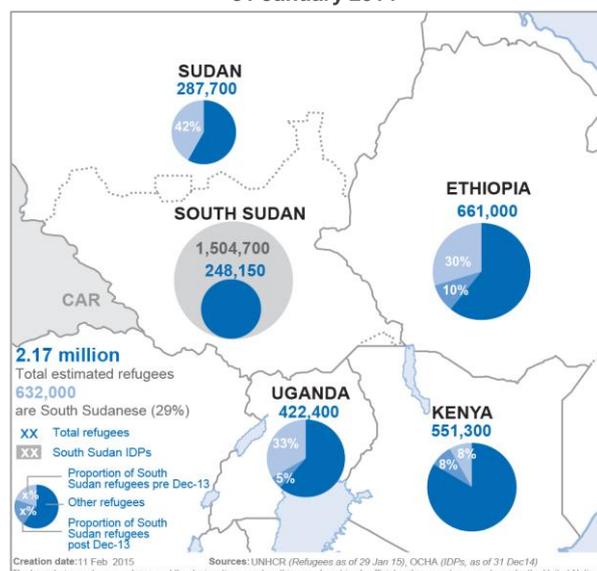
## Population displacement from South Sudan straining under-funded operations and host communities in the region

Population displacement as a result of the crisis in South Sudan continued to increase. As of end January, there were an estimated 1.5 million IDPs in South Sudan and over 632,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. This represents an increase of 13,000 South Sudanese refugees (two per cent) in the region over the last one month, according to UNHCR.

South Sudanese are the second-largest refugee population in the eastern Africa region after Somalia. UNHCR reports that nearly 30 per cent of the estimated 2.33 million refugees in the region are from South Sudan, with Ethiopia now host to the majority of the total.

The continuous inflow of new arrivals has constrained resources for already overburdened and under-funded refugee operations. In Uganda, WFP has announced food ration cuts for refugees who arrived prior to July 2013, although the most vulnerable among these will continue to be fully supported. Due to harsh climatic conditions in the first cropping season, and poor yields in the second season, refugee and host communities in Arua, northern Uganda, may require food assistance in February.

South Sudanese refugee distribution in the region  
31 January 2014



## Trends in South Sudanese refugee influx: Dec 2013 – Jan 2015

Country	South Sudanese refugees pre-crisis (Dec 2013)	South Sudanese new arrivals as at 31 Dec 2014	South Sudanese new arrivals as at 31 Jan 2015	Increase in last one month	% change Dec '14 - Jan '15
Ethiopia	63,341	194,546	196,217	1,671	1%
Kenya	45,239	45,627	44,953	-674	-1%
Sudan	0	119,709	120,401	692	1%
Uganda	22,264	136,595	140,462	3,867	3%
<b>Total (Source: UNHCR)</b>	<b>130,844</b>	<b>496,477</b>	<b>502,033</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>1%</b>

*Sudan to issue identity cards to the more than 400,000 South Sudanese citizens in the country*

The Government of Sudan has initiated registration and issuance of identity cards to South Sudanese citizens in the country. UNHCR reports that the documentation will “grant them the rights to stay, work and move freely in Sudan, as well as have access to civil status documents and other public services available to Sudanese citizens”. Since the outbreak of violence in South Sudan in December 2013, some 120,000 South Sudanese have fled to Sudan, joining an estimated 350,000 people of South Sudanese origin who had been living in Sudan since the 2011 secession.

## Regional Funding Update

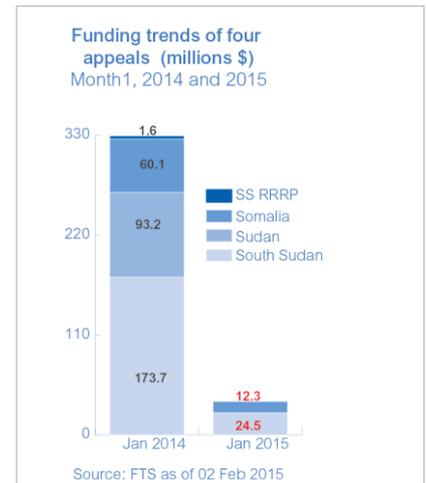
### Current level of funding 10 times lower than at the same time in 2014

Despite rising humanitarian needs in the region year on year, funding requirements for 2015 have not increased substantially compared to 2014. This is due to a constrained global financial environment that has forced humanitarian actors in the region to prioritise humanitarian response plans. Approximately \$37 million had been received by January 2015 for the four funding appeals for Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan and the South Sudan regional refugee appeal.

The funding levels are critically low compared to a year ago, when nearly 10 times (\$329 million) this amount had been received by the end of the first month of 2014. Even allowing fluctuations in donor fiscal schedules, this is a worrying sign for the region as a whole.

The 2014 South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda) for \$658 million was 52 per cent funded by end 2014, while the 2015 plan is yet to report any funding.

Humanitarian actors continue to engage donors to bring forward their commitments to facilitate timely and effective response.



*Funding levels for the four country appeals for the region are ten times lower than the same time in January 2014*

*Some \$529 million was pledged at the high-level event on South Sudan, held in Nairobi on 9 February 2015*

### High-level pledging Conference on South Sudan raises \$529 million

On 9 February, OCHA and IGAD co-chaired, in Nairobi, a High-Level Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan and its Impact in the Region in Nairobi. Some \$529 million was pledged during the event bringing the total funding committed to South Sudan in 2015, to \$618 million. The funding will facilitate prepositioning of supplies and access to more people in the most cost-effective way during the current dry season when road and river access is possible.

Pledges were received from Australia, Brazil, ECHO, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Private sector representation included Kenya Commercial Bank and the Safaricom Foundation Limited. Brazil and Safaricom made in-kind pledges to WFP and the refugee operation in Kenya, respectively. Participants reiterated their continued support for South Sudan and further called on the South Sudanese leadership to take decisive steps towards ending the conflict and the suffering of the citizens in South Sudan.



## Favourable climatic conditions across the region

### Mixed rainfall performance across eastern Africa

*Good rains and improved food security conditions have been reported across the region, with projections of above-average rainfall for the Long Rains seasons in north-eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, which experienced dry conditions*

The regional climatic outlook looks generally more positive than in the previous reporting period, as most countries received normal to above-normal rainfall. The pastoral areas of Turkana (Kenya), Karamoja (Uganda) and East Equatoria (South Sudan), have enjoyed broadly favourable rainfall, alleviating the effects of the drier-than-average previous season, as reported in the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) November 2014 report. South-eastern Ethiopia and Somaliland have also enjoyed a good rainfall season. Satellite data shows above-average vegetation levels in these regions, providing evidence of good water and pasture resources for the coming dry season.

However, the outlook remains concerning in north-eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, which have experienced persistently drier-than-average conditions, including delayed onset of the season in the worst-affected areas, during the last 12 months. Preliminary seasonal forecasts project above-average rainfall for the Long Rains season from February-March 2015, providing possible relief in these areas.

### Food security improving but pockets of concern remain

Compared to the September IPC results, the food security situation in the region has improved overall, but isolated pockets of acute and chronic issues persist, especially in Isiolo, Wajir, and Garissa of Kenya; central Somalia; conflict states of South Sudan, southern Sudan; and some pockets of north-eastern and southern Ethiopia, according to FSNWG.

Ongoing crop assessments in most countries will provide an updated regional food security situation.

The food security situation is likely to deteriorate in affected areas starting from April 2015 due to poor access to food, below-average production and conflict, reports FSNWG.

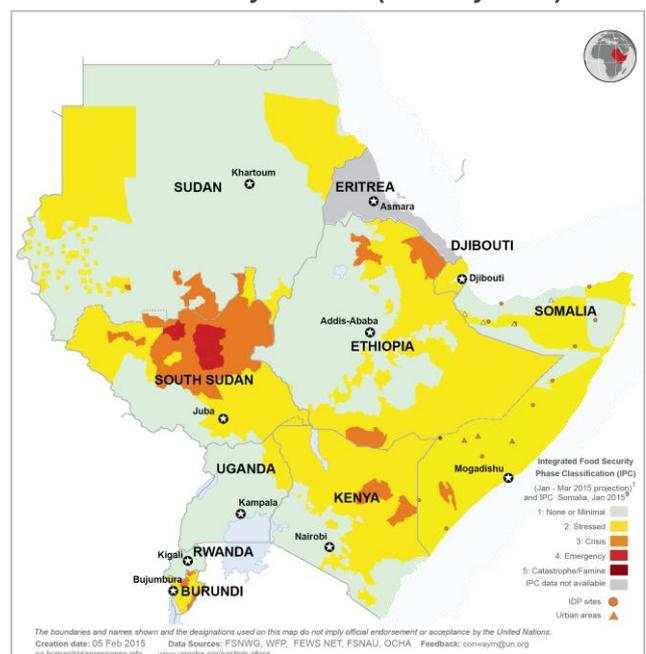
Conflict remains the main driver of acute food insecurity, in addition to shocks such as droughts and dry spells.

### Acute malnutrition rates continue to be reported in the region

Nutrition overall remains a serious concern in the region, with pockets of Emergency/Crisis levels remaining in many countries. Malnutrition is most acute in Djibouti, Kenya, South Sudan and Somalia, according to the FSNWG November 2014 Report. Underlying causes of malnutrition in the affected populations include poor health, WASH, and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. Access constraints (security, flooding, and infrastructure) are also key factors in Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia.

Monitoring and early warning needs to be enhanced over the next quarter to anticipate the need for a scale-up in response, should the overall humanitarian situation deteriorate.

Food security outlook (January 2015)



## In brief

### **Burundi: Tensions ahead of election polls, as humanitarian challenges persist**

One of the most contentious issues related to the presidential election scheduled for 26 June 2015 is whether President Pierre Nkurunziza will run for re-election amidst persisting reports of shrinking political space in the country. In a recent [report](#) by the UN Secretary-General, Ban noted that “if left unchecked, election-related challenges could trigger violence, with potentially devastating consequences for Burundi and the Great Lakes region”.

Burundi contends with multiple challenges, despite the end of conflict a decade ago. While some 90 per cent of its population relies exclusively on agriculture, Burundi is affected by alarming hunger levels, topping the Global hunger index for the past three years in a row.

In addition, the country has an estimated 78,000 internally displaced people, 80,000 returnees from Tanzania, and is host to some 50,000 refugees, mostly from neighbouring DRC. Reintegration of the returnees, who are reliant on humanitarian assistance, continues to be hampered by a lack of access to land.

### **DRC offensive prompts “humanitarian fallout” fears**

The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) have [launched](#) a military operation, code named “Sokola2”, to disarm the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The Security Council authorized the operation following the FDLR decision to ignore a deadline to disarm by 2 January. IRIN [reports](#) that aid agencies are concerned about the risk of increased displacement in areas which are already overwhelmed by the needs of previously displaced people. Some 1.4 million people are currently internally displaced within North and South Kivu Provinces alone.

### **Kenya: Security Law Amendment Act raises concern for refugee protection**

On 2 January, the High Court of Kenya temporarily suspended eight clauses in the Security Laws Amendment Act adopted by Parliament on 18 December 2014. The Act seeks, among other things, to amend the current Kenya Refugee Act (2006) by placing a cap on the number of refugees/asylum seekers permitted to reside in the country to 150,000 individuals, and further compels asylum seekers to reside in camps pending determination of their case.

As of January 2015, Kenya is host to an estimated 600,000 refugees and asylum seekers, according to UNHCR.

Civil society groups and the humanitarian community continue to advocate with the Government to ensure that the provisions of the new law are consistent with the Constitution with regards to freedom of movement and does not contradict Kenya’s international obligations for the protection of asylum seekers and refugees.

### **Government increases leadership for humanitarian coordination in Kenya**

The Government of Kenya, in collaboration with OCHA and humanitarian partners met to review the revised national coordination structure for disaster preparedness and response, and suggest plans to reinforce Government leadership and linkages between humanitarian and the development plans.

OCHA will support the development of a national humanitarian needs overview to inform the development of a humanitarian strategy for Kenya in 2015. The Cabinet reviewed the

draft Disaster Management Policy document and referred it back to the National Disaster Management Authority for comments. The paper outlines the proposed legislative framework and structures for humanitarian coordination in Kenya.

### **World Humanitarian Summit eastern Africa technical review meeting held**

OCHA convened the World Humanitarian Summit eastern Africa Regional Steering Committee meeting on 27 January to take stock of progress in the region since the October 2014 consultations in Pretoria. The meeting is a pre-cursor to a multi-stakeholder technical review meeting to be held on 30-31 March 2015, in Nairobi, to further articulate key challenges facing the eastern Africa region and propose concrete solutions ahead of the global Summit in 2016.

Pete Manfield, Head of Office, [manfield@un.org](mailto:manfield@un.org), Tel: 254 20 762 2148 | Mobile: +254 732 500 020  
Matthew Conway, Public Information Officer, [conwaym@un.org](mailto:conwaym@un.org), Tel: +254 20 762 2156 | Mobile: +254 732 500010  
Kiganzi Nyakato, Humanitarian Affairs Officer/ Reporting, [nyakato@un.org](mailto:nyakato@un.org), Tel: +254 20 7625317 | Mobile: +254 731 932304  
Truphosa Anjichi-Kodumbe, Humanitarian Reporting Officer, [anjichi@un.org](mailto:anjichi@un.org), Tel: +254 20 762 2076 | Mobile: +254 732 500 018