

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 11 million people are living as refugees or IDPs in the eastern Africa region.
- Upsurge in fighting and displacement in the Kivus and Katanga region.
- ICPAC predicts more flooding in December 2014.
- Chronic crisis with pockets of acute to emergency food and nutrition insecurity in region.
- Internal displacement dramatic increase mainly in South Sudan and Sudan.
- Scale up in response needs substantial new aid flows to be adequate.
- Two more massacres in Mandera County, Kenya, 60 people killed.
- World Humanitarian Summit consultations in Pretoria.
- IGAD launches its Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) in Nairobi.
- HDX, a humanitarian information exchange platform, also launched in Nairobi.

FIGURES

Regional displacement as of September 2014

# of IDPs	8.9 million
# of refugees	2.4 million



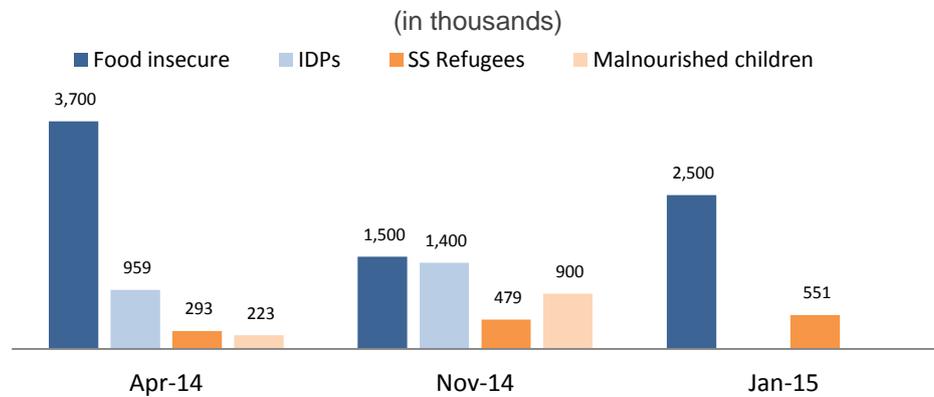
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Dire predictions for South Sudan

There are currently 1.4 million internally displaced people and humanitarian partners report increasing gaps in humanitarian response, including protection. The living conditions in flooded Mingkaman and Bentiu Protection of Civilians (PoC) sites are particularly dire, while tensions remain high in Malakal PoC. The September Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis projected 1.5 million people remain in crisis and emergency phases of food insecurity despite harvests starting in late August. The number will likely increase to 2.5 million people projected to be in crisis or emergency from January to March 2015 and over 900,000 children remain malnourished and are in need of urgent help.¹

Trends in affected populations in South Sudan



The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), supported by the African Union and the UN, is leading the mediation between South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and opposition leader, Dr. Riak Machar. A signed 23 January Cessation of Hostilities (COH) has been broken four times and three deadlines for the formation of a Government of National Unity have passed. The two Principals in the conflict are yet to agree on the formation of an inclusive government. The Government conducted internal consultations on 24 November to resolve the contentious issues in the negotiations, including executive power sharing and the status of rebel forces. Fighting has continued in Upper Nile, Jonglei, and Unity States as government troops and opposition forces reportedly try to retake or defend territory in key strategic areas. No date has been set for the renewal of

¹ OCHA South Sudan, Monthly Bulletin, October 2014.

Over 900K children remained malnourished in need of urgent help.

the peace talks although political consultations by SPLM-IO commenced in Pagak, on Thursday 4 December.

Insecurity continues to adversely affect operations and hamper protection response in conflict-affected states. Partners report the need to strengthen the networks for monitoring and reporting on grave violations to children. Access by road is expected to improve in December when roads begin to dry out. Aid agencies are using the advent of the dry season to reach more people with life-saving aid and to preposition supplies in deep-field locations. However, this movement could be hampered by intensification of the conflict as armed forces also take advantage of the improved access and mobility.

Humanitarian actors in South Sudan stress the need to urgently start the prepositioning of humanitarian assistance now through till the end of the dry season (April-May 2015) and sustain the aid operation till the end of the year.

UNHCR plans to launch a regional South Sudan refugee response plan mid-December to address the needs of refugees who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. By mid-November 2014, there were a total of 605,325 South Sudanese refugees who had sought refuge in neighbouring countries, an increase of 153,880 refugees since mid-September.

Aid agencies are asking for \$600m of the \$1.8 billion requirement by February 2015 to take advantage of seasonality.

Despite gains, Great Lakes region remains precarious

“Katanga needs greater, sustained attention,” said Moustapha Soumaré, Humanitarian Coordinator.

Despite some gains, the situation in the Great Lakes region – eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in particular – remains precarious, with an upsurge in insecurity and displacement occurring in the provinces of North and South Kivu and Katanga. Particularly egregious has been a spate of civilian massacres around the town of Beni, in North Kivu Province, attributed to the militia group Allied Democratic Forces (ADF NALU) by default. Condemning those massacres, the Team of Special Envoys to the Great Lakes region stressed the strategic importance of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) Framework agreement for the DRC and the region, and called on all signatories to deliver on their commitments. This flare-up of insecurity renews the risk of population displacement along the border of Uganda.

Meanwhile, three years after a cycle of violence started displacing and affecting the livelihoods of over half a million people in the DRC’s mineral-rich Katanga Province, there is an urgent need for greater attention to its humanitarian crisis. “Katanga needs greater, sustained attention in order to find immediate solutions to the complex humanitarian needs that have been affecting civilians,” Humanitarian Coordinator Moustapha Soumaré said in a statement. Over the past three years, the number of people displaced has jumped from some 55,000 in late November 2011 to over 582,000 today. The violence has forced thousands of children out of schools and disrupted economic activities of families. Since the beginning of the year, over 14,000 protection incidents have been recorded, a seven-fold increase in comparison to 2013.

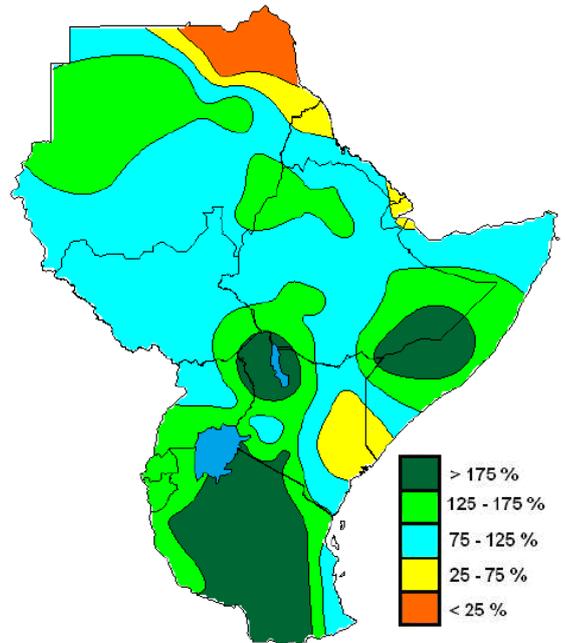
The 2 January 2015 deadline for the voluntary disarmament and surrender of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) is a key date to watch in preparation for any possible humanitarian fallout, should a potential joint military offensive action by the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) Integrated Brigade be undertaken against the group. Past joint military operations against FDLR have had mixed outcomes, which could mean displacement and broader humanitarian impacts are sustained. It is therefore imperative to ensure that risks

to civilian women, men and children during and after military operations are effectively mitigated. Planning discussions to this effect are ongoing between MONUSCO and the humanitarian community.

Amid this persistent crisis, funding for the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for the DRC stood at only 40 percent (US\$333 million of \$832 million required) as of the first week of December, jeopardizing efforts by humanitarian actors to deliver life-saving assistance.

More floods predicted

During the August – October period, western and eastern Sudan, northwestern, southwestern and southeastern Ethiopia, central Somali, western half of Kenya, southern half of Uganda, much of Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania, received 125v- 175 per cent of the long-term average rainfall. This led to improved crop, pasture and foliage conditions as well as improvement in water resources. Localised flooding and landslides were also observed. There are concerns for northeastern Sudan, northern Eritrea, eastern Djibouti, and eastern Kenya and on the Kenya-Somalia border, which received less than 75 per cent of the long-term Aug-Oct rainfall.



ICPAC rainfall anomalies Aug-Oct 2014.

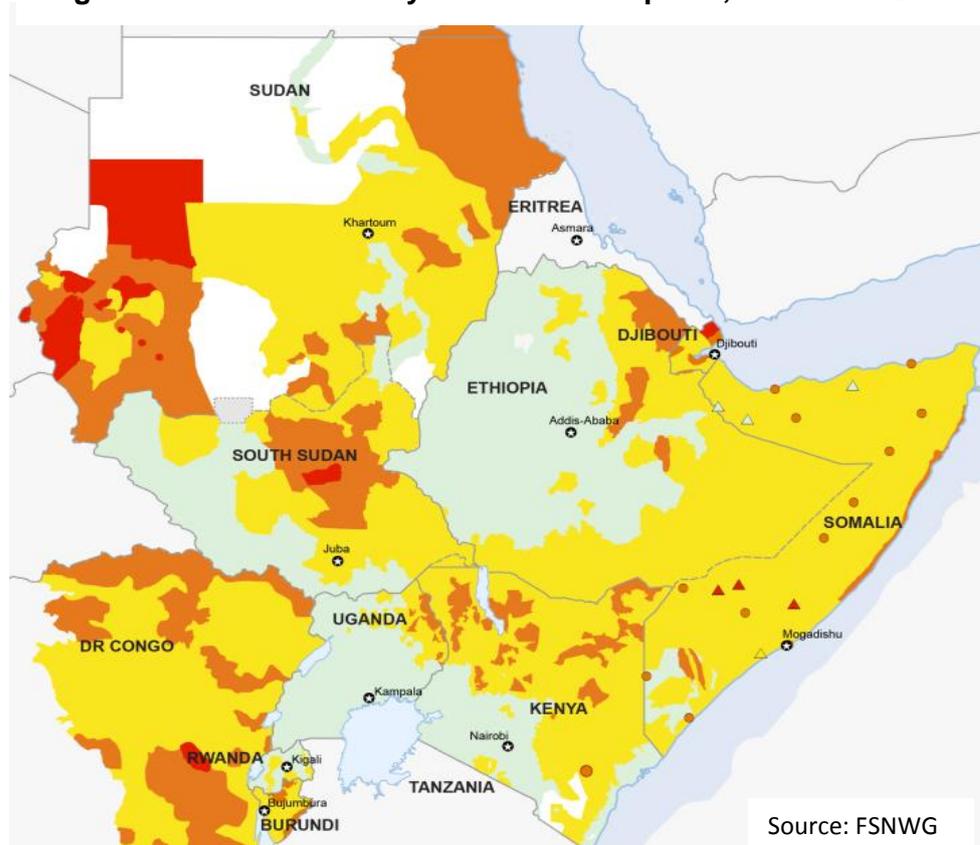
The ICPAC Climate Outlook for December 2014 indicates that much of central and northern Kenya, western and southern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, eastern Tanzania, southern South Sudan and northern Uganda, are likely to receive normal to below normal rainfall. Furthermore, the rest of the region is expected to remain generally dry during December 2014. Close monitoring and contingency measures are necessary for the areas that have remained persistently dry since August 2014. If dry conditions persist within agricultural areas, this could lead to significant water stress conditions, have negative impact on water reservoirs and result in pasture, crop and livestock losses.

Urgent food and nutrition security situation

The 2014 food security and nutrition situation in the region is not an acute regional food and nutrition crisis (as in 2011) and yet the situation is urgent, with all eight countries (including South Sudan) in a state of chronic crisis with pockets of acute food insecurity and emergency-level malnutrition. Deeply embedded vulnerability, with chronic long-term food-insecure and malnourished populations continues to be the dominant factor. Across the region, more than 12 million people are in 'emergency' or 'crisis' food security situations (IPC Phase 3 and 4).

ICPAC warns of more flooding in December 2014.

Regional IPC Food Security and Nutrition Update, November 2014



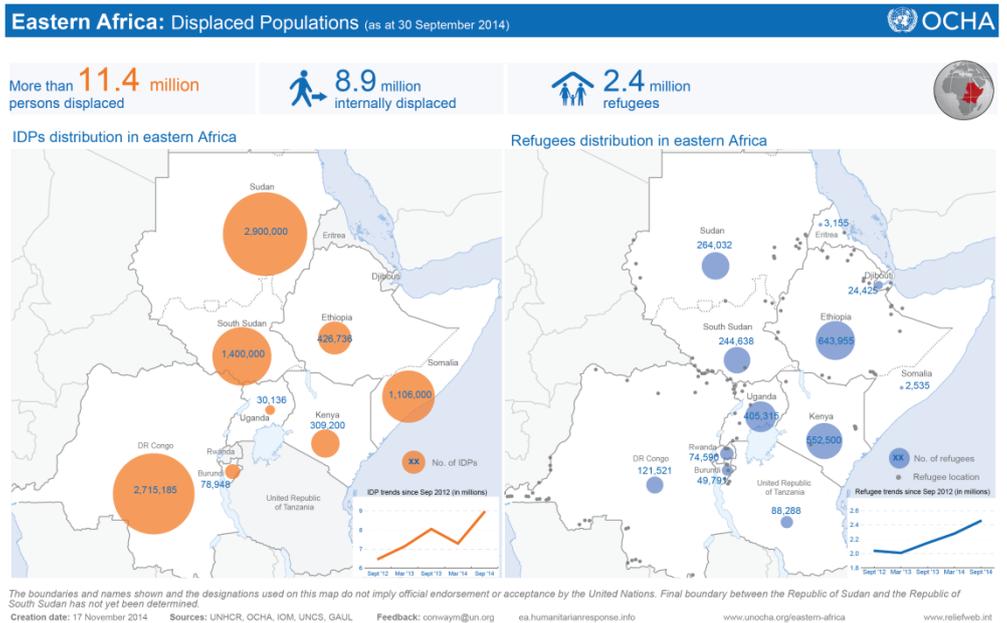
Chronic crisis with pockets of acute food insecurity and emergency-level malnutrition.

Present harvests and forecasted normal to above normal rainfall has led to an improved food security situation in some parts of the region. However, food security remains a concern in northern Kenya, central Somalia, conflict states of South Sudan, Karamoja region of Uganda, western Sudan, Obock region of Djibouti and north-eastern and southern Ethiopia. Overall, the food security situation is likely to deteriorate in the affected areas starting from January 2015 due to factors including poor food access, below average production, deterioration in pasture that affects livestock production, conflict, livestock disease, etc. Sizeable refugee (nearly 2.5 million) and displaced populations contribute to the food insecurity and nutritional vulnerability situation across the region.

The malnutrition situation seems to be in a more fragile state than food security as there are systemic and multi sectoral issues that needs to be addressed. UNICEF, WFP, FAO and UNHCR are jointly finalising a Regional FSN Response plan with following key priority areas: Early warning/Early Action, quality and scale up in joint FSN action planning, mechanisms for regional refugee support and funding.

1.4 million displaced in the last six months

OCHA Eastern Africa reports a dramatic increase in the number of internally displaced people in South Sudan (596,800 people) and Sudan (400,000 people) in addition to a steadily increasing number of South Sudanese refugees (610,217 people) who fled into neighbouring countries over the last six months. Tanzania makes refugee history by handing over more than 162,156 citizenship certificates to former Burundian refugees, marking the largest group in UNHCR's history to which naturalisation has been offered by a country of first asylum as a solution to decades in exile.² This sets a positive precedent for elsewhere in the region.

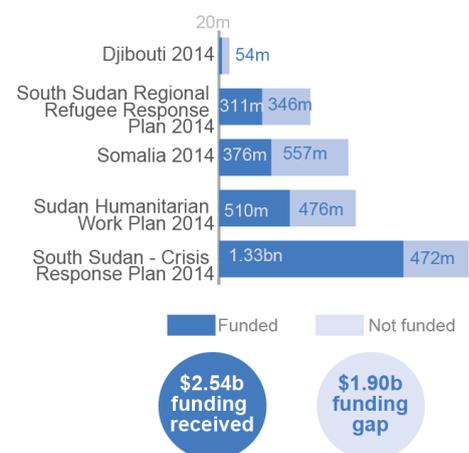


610,217 South Sudanese refugees had fled into neighbouring countries by end November 2014.

Despite historical highs, funding proves a major challenge

Despite global humanitarian funding being at its historical highest (US\$8.2 billion), this represents only 44 per cent of the 2014 funding requirements. While some additional funding is likely to be allocated by donors before year end, it is unlikely this will represent substantial new flows to the eastern Africa region sufficient to support an adequate scale up in response. As all current "Level Three" crises are conflict-driven with little chance that comprehensive political solutions will

The funding outlook for 2015 is quite worrisome.



² UNHCR Tanzania, Briefing Note, October 2014.

be found in the near future, the funding outlook for 2015 is quite worrisome.

The “Horn of Africa Initiative” was launched by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim during a joint mission to the eastern Africa region from 29-31 October. Development partners (World Bank, the EU, the African Development Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank) pledged an estimated US\$8 billion aimed at boosting economic growth, reducing poverty and spurring business activity across eight countries to promote stability and development in the region.

Summary of pledges

World Bank	\$ 1.8bn		Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda	Boost economic growth and opportunity, reduce poverty, and spur business activity
EU	\$ 3.7bn	By 2020	Horn of Africa	10% for cross border programmes
African Development Bank	\$ 1.8 bn	2015-17	Horn of Africa	Development assistance package
Islamic Development Bank	\$1 bn	Next three years	Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.	

Government and development agencies to address high chronic needs through nationally-led frameworks.

The Initiative is an opportunity to collectively influence the harmonisation of humanitarian, resilience and development action at both country and regional levels, particularly for collective action in geographic humanitarian hotspots, for sector/thematic alignment of programming (for example, life-saving food and nutrition security interventions with augmented social safety net programmes) and cross-border/inter-country cooperation on programmes (for example, ‘One UN’ initiative between Kenya and Uganda, Karamoja Cluster programmes and the Moyale initiative on the border of Somalia and Kenya supported by the two UN country teams).

Nevertheless, all humanitarian strategies in the region should remain cognizant of the weak global funding forecast for 2015 and the potential loss of credibility that consistently underfunded appeals may yield. Renewed focus is needed to increase the role that government and development agencies play in meeting high chronic needs through nationally-led framework, rather than relying on humanitarian appeals/strategies.

In briefs

Mandera County massacre

Following two recent massacres of over 60 civilians in Mandera County of north-eastern Kenya, humanitarian concerns (in addition to security concerns) are rising, as a reduction of access to vulnerable people and reduction of services due to departure of non-local workers in the region is being reported. This is particularly true for the education and health sectors – 50 per cent of whom are non-locals – which would be significantly impacted should non-local civil servants relocate permanently due to insecurity. Mandera County has struggled in the past to recruit civil servants due to poor development and general insecurity.

Previously, such attacks were directed at government buildings and officials. However, these attacks were directed at non-Muslim Kenyans, making all non-local Kenyans potential targets. The attacks have heightened concerns of an increasing cycle of violence, further deterioration of the security and humanitarian situations, potential radicalization of youth and inter-faith conflict.

Mandera has been prone to the inter-communal clashes caused by competition over natural resources, revenge attacks, a porous Kenya-Somalia border (allowing assailants freedom of movement), and a national lack of capacity to control such a large area. The attacks have occurred in a context of inter-communal conflicts in various regions

Heightened concerns of an increasing cycle of violence in Mandera and in Kenya.

nationwide that have displaced over 200,000 people in Kenya since the beginning of 2014.

WHS Regional Consultation held

The Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Consultation for the World Humanitarian Summit took place in Pretoria, South Africa on 27-29 October. The Regional Consultation, which was co-chaired by IGAD and SADC, was preceded by preparatory stakeholder consultations with an estimated 3,286 individuals representing wider constituencies of affected communities, civil society organizations, government, private sector and the UN system in 23 countries in eastern and southern Africa. The consultation aimed to develop stronger partnerships and seek innovative solutions to persistent and new challenges. The consultation and follow-up activities are part of a global initiative by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to address future humanitarian challenges, culminating in the Summit itself, to be held in Istanbul in May 2016, hosted by Turkey.

In a related development, on 27-29 November, the African Union (AU) held its Annual Humanitarian Symposium 2014 in Nairobi on the theme “Globalization and Humanitarian Effectiveness in Africa”. The Symposium, among other topics, provided an opportunity to engage a multi-stakeholder debate on the Common African Position on the WHS, emphasizing the need to supplement technical consultations with a political process involving AU Member states. The political process will aim at strengthening the ownership and leadership of the AU on the humanitarian agenda and securing bold commitments to implementation.

IGAD resilience measurement

In a move to help policymakers improve the design and effectiveness of interventions in reducing vulnerabilities in the region, IGAD recently launched a regional Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) hub in Nairobi, Kenya. The RAU is an IGAD/FAO technical partnership, funded by the EU, with support from UNICEF, UNDP and WFP whose overall objective is to build member state capacity and ensure strategic cross-sectoral and cross-country knowledge on resilience measurement and analysis.

Humanitarian Data Exchange launched in Nairobi

The Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) is a new platform to connect humanitarian information for analysis and visualization. The goal of the HDX project, led by UNOCHA, is to make humanitarian data easy to find and use for analysis.

To provide data services to partners and to build a community around data sharing among humanitarian actors in the eastern Africa region, an HDX Data Lab has been established in Nairobi. There are currently 79 organizations sharing datasets. The Nairobi Data Lab serves as a frontline, in-person service to the HDX platform and strives to create a neutral, physical space for humanitarian partners, government officials, technologists, university students and international stakeholders to collaborate on all things data.

An HDX animation illustrates the [project](#).

Stronger partnerships and new innovations to persistent challenges.

A neutral, physical space for all humanitarian stakeholders to collaborate.

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