

### HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP and partners begin rapid response operations to reach IDPs in South Sudan before they are cut off
- Military offensive in Somalia slows down interest of returnees, as Kenya issues orders to reinforce encampment of refugees
- Regional agro-climatic outlook: mostly normal to near-normal rain and vegetation conditions except in known drought-prone areas
- Flood alerts in river basins and other low-lying areas
- OCHA-IGAD strengthen ties on resilience
- One polio case reported in Ethiopia

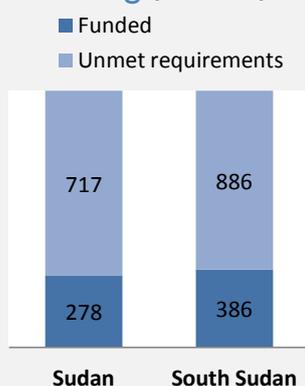
### SOUTH SUDAN

# of IDPs	803,200
# South Sudanese refugees	249,122
Affected pop.	4.9 million

### SUDAN

# of IDPs	196,620
# of Sudanese refugees	213,777
Affected pop.	6 million

### Funding (millions)



Source: fts.unocha.org



Angelina collects her ration from the WFP distribution site at Ganyiel, South Sudan © WFP/George Fominyen

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## Funding shortfalls escalating costs in Sudan and South Sudan

### Nearly 11 million people in need in two countries

OCHA South Sudan [confirms](#) that aid agencies have reached 1 million of an estimated 3.2 million people to be assisted by June 2014 but warns that the current crisis comes on top of already large-scale humanitarian needs. According to [WFP and FAO](#), the three States most affected by the violence, Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile, were the most food insecure prior to the conflict. Overall, 4.9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. However, [South Sudan Crisis Response Plan](#) (January to June 2014) for US\$1.27 billion is only 30 per cent (\$386 million) funded, with large gaps affecting priority sectors, notably protection and WASH.

In Sudan, for two years, [aid](#) has not been delivered to rebel-held areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States where an estimated 800,000 people are in need of assistance. Over two million people are displaced in Darfur and more than 6.1 million people need humanitarian assistance across Sudan. Many people lack access to basic healthcare, education, water and sanitation, yet only \$34 million of a \$995 million [Appeal](#) has been received to fund humanitarian action in 2014. OCHA Chief of Operations, John Ging, [appealed](#) to the international community to rapidly provide funding for humanitarian response. In a separate [meeting](#) with Sudanese authorities, Ging emphasized the need for greater access for humanitarian organizations in affected areas.

### Sudan: New wave of violence wracks Darfur

Aid agencies are warning that a new wave of violence and subsequent displacements are reminiscent of the early years of the Darfur conflict (2003-2005), when tens of thousands of civilians fled their homes and sought safety in makeshift camps, where most have since remained. Since early 2014, hostilities involving Government forces supported by the Rapid Support Force, a Government-affiliated militia, and armed movements in Darfur have expanded. The conflict is now being generalized across much of North and South Darfur, with some spillover effects in Central, West and East Darfur States.

Civilians are bearing the brunt of the insecurity. Since the start of the year, 215,000 people have been displaced in Darfur. While some people have returned to their places of origin, as of 24 March, the number of newly displaced people stood at 196,000. Large areas affected by the new wave of fighting remain inaccessible, and in many instances, the number of affected people can only be estimated, and their needs remain unmet.

*Access to people in need in Darfur is the highest priority for aid agencies*

Overall, some 3.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance across Darfur. Over 2 million people remain displaced, including 380,000 people who were newly displaced in 2013, more than in any single year since the height of the conflict in 2004. Overcrowding has been reported in several IDP camps, placing existing humanitarian services under severe strain.

Resources allocated to addressing the humanitarian needs of people affected by insecurity in Darfur have continued to decline since 2009. Darfur has also seen a corresponding drop in the number of aid workers since this time. As at 30 June 2009, the number of national and international aid workers in Darfur dropped from a pre-expulsion level of 17,700 aid workers to 12,658 aid workers. As of 30 November 2013, only 6,850 aid workers in international organisations remained in Darfur.

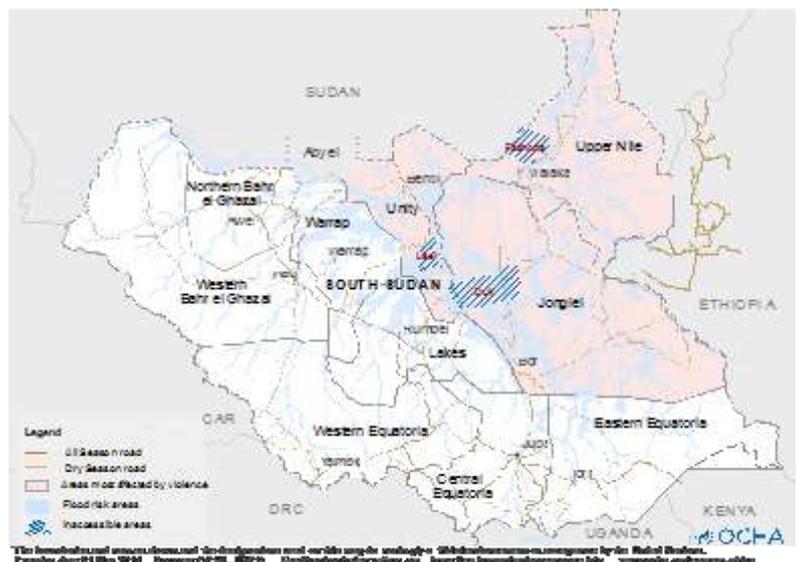
For the latest information on the crisis in Darfur, see <http://unocha.org/sudan/>

*“With the onset of rains in March, the UN is racing against time to deliver aid by road,” warned John Ging, OCHA’s Chief of Operations*

### Ensuring life-saving supplies are safe and accessible

The crises in Sudan and South Sudan have critically coincided with the period for pre-positioning essential relief supplies to ensure provision from June - December. In South Sudan, prepositioning is now being disrupted by conflict, including significant looting of already pre-positioned supplies in some states.

“With the onset of rains in March, the UN is racing against time to deliver aid by road,” warned John Ging, OCHA’s Chief of Operations, during a recent high-level visit to Sudan and South Sudan. Once the roads become impassable, expensive air transport has to be used to deliver life-saving assistance in remote inaccessible areas during the rainy season.



### An appeal within an appeal

WFP and partners have commenced life-saving operations using road convoys along the Ethiopian corridor from Gambella and airdrops of food supplies to sites in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States with the highest concentrations of displaced people. Road convoys from Juba to Bor and Kapoeta are on the move despite reports of fighting in these areas in past days. Once the roads become impassable, expensive air transport has to be used to deliver life-saving assistance in remote inaccessible areas during the rainy season. Humanitarian actors continue to urge the parties to the conflict to end the violence and make it possible for aid to be delivered at the massive and swift scale that is needed.



*Access by road impeded by rains, logistical constraints and insecurity*

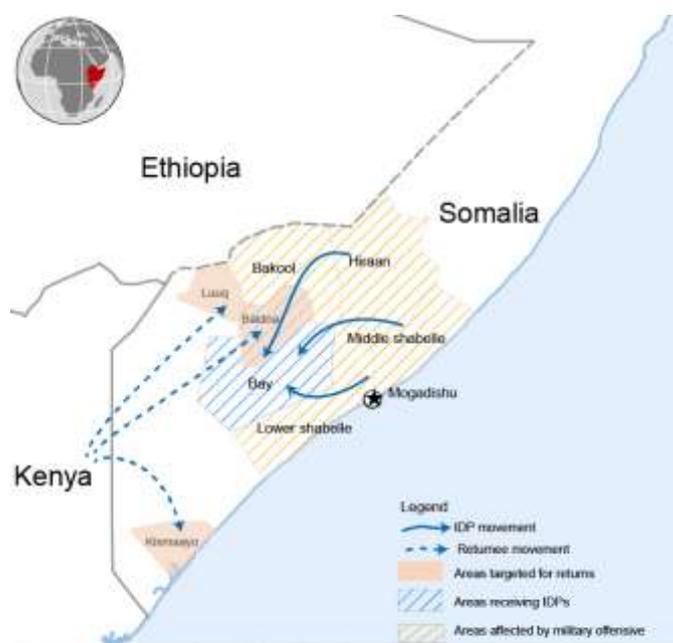
## Refugee returns to Somalia

### Spontaneous returns to Somalia likely to decline due to insecurity

Following the mid-March launch of a military offensive by the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to recover Al Shabaab-controlled areas in southern and central Somalia, humanitarian agencies remain concerned about possible consequences.

Among the 25 districts targeted for the military operation is Baidoa (Bay Region), one of the pilot areas for the spontaneous voluntary return under the [2013 Tripartite Agreement](#) among the Governments of Kenya, Somalia and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Other pilot areas for return include Kismayo (Lower Juba Region) and Luuq (Gedo Region). According to UNHCR, basic infrastructure, including the setting up of way stations in Dobley, Baidoa and Luuq, had been completed in readiness for the spontaneous returns.

As of 25 March, some 2,663 individuals had approached the UNHCR Return Help Desk in Dadaab refugee camp, north-eastern Kenya, and were counseled on the repatriation process. Of these, 89.6 per cent (2,391 people) expressed their willingness to return to Somalia within the next three months. The preferred areas of return for the registered refugees, which are also the areas of origin for 75 per cent of the refugees, are Kismayo (792 people), Baidoa (401 people) and Luuq (128 people). Refugees who do not originate from the three designated areas (1,307 people) or whose area of origin remains unknown (35 people) would not be included in the pilot phase of the spontaneous voluntary return.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 1 April 2014 Sources: UNHCR, OCHA, UNCS, GAUL Feedback: ochakenya@un.org  
 ea.humanitarianresponse.info www.unocha.org/eastern-africa

[OCHA](#) reports that about 12,000 people have been temporarily displaced between 17 and 22 March, with direct impacts in Bakool, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower and Middle Shabelle regions. Thousands of displaced people have moved to Baidoa for assistance and safety. Baidoa is however facing a state of political instability, resulting from disagreement over the establishment of a regional state, adds OCHA. Although UNHCR stands ready to support refugees in the spontaneous return process, OCHA observes that the current security situation and displacements risk a declining interest by registered refugees to undertake return movements.

Kenya is host to an estimated 430,000 Somali refugees, the majority of whom are hosted in Dadaab refugee camp in north-eastern Kenya.

*The preferred areas of return for the registered Somali refugees are Kismayo, Baidoa and Luuq*

*Thousands of people displaced as a result of the military offensive have moved to Baidoa for assistance and protection*

*The encampment policy in Kenya requires refugees to reside in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps*

### Kenya Government orders urban refugees to return to refugee camps

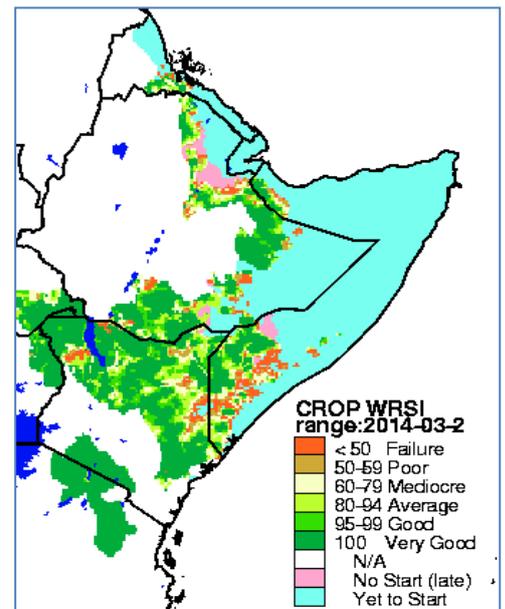
Meanwhile, on 25 March, the Kenyan Government issued an order requiring an estimated 50,000 refugees—believed to be mostly Somalis—residing in urban centres to relocate to either Dadaab or Kakuma refugee camps. This followed a deadly attack by unidentified gunmen at a church in Mombasa resulting in several deaths and injuries. Kenya has in the past few months witnessed an upsurge of insecurity, the majority being attributed to acts of terrorism.

UNHCR [denounced](#) the Government's order arguing that such "a blanket implementation of encampment measures was unreasonable and carried a threat to human dignity," according to a press statement by Adrian Edwards, UNHCR spokesperson in Geneva. The UN Refugee Agency has further urged the Government to reconsider the measures and instead continue to collaborate with the Agency in ensuring that national security concerns are addressed in accordance with international legal norms and practices.

## Regional agro-climatic outlook

### Vegetation conditions improving in spite of delayed start

FEWS NET [reports](#) the delayed February–March rainfall season is gradually getting established across much of the southern *Belg* cropping areas of Ethiopia and equatorial sector of the Greater Horn of Africa. These areas are now experiencing moderate to heavy rains that will lead to improved vegetation conditions, apart from the Afar and Gambella region of Ethiopia, Djibouti and areas surrounding the Lake Victoria basin, especially Uganda. However, much of Uganda, Gambella region of south-western Ethiopia, parts of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya, together with northern Tanzania, are still experiencing extensive areas of drier-than-normal vegetation conditions owing to the prolonged dry season and hotter-than-normal surface temperatures for the past two to three months.



Source: FEWS NET

*Prolonged dry season and hotter-than-normal surface temperatures for the past 2-3 months led to drier-than-normal vegetation conditions in parts of the region*

### Rainy season is cattle rustling season

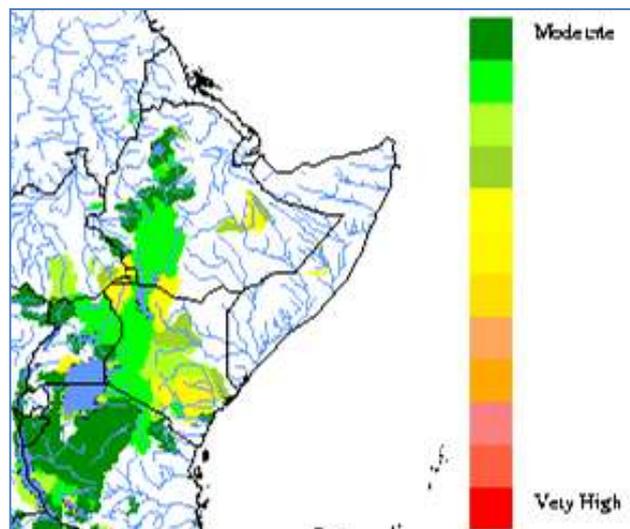
With the gradual establishment of the Long Rains season, rangeland conditions have improved and will improve further in the coming weeks as the seasonal rains spread into eastern Ethiopia and southern and central Somalia. Replenishment of water resources is expected as the season progresses and reaches its peak in April. The expected improved pasture and regenerated water sources may not augur well for some pastoral communities in Kenya. According to a [study](#), more raids are carried out during rainy seasons when there is high grass, dense bush cover and availability of surface water that makes it easier to trek stolen animals. IRIN [reports](#) cattle raiding has increasingly much more to do with organized crime meeting a rising demand for meat, and political violence resulting from a new devolutionary constitution.

*Southern and western sectors of the region are expected to remain fairly wet in early April*

### High risk of flooding in river basin areas

The March FEWS NET flood risk maps and rainfall [seasonal update](#) warn that river catchment areas will require close monitoring due to their current high risk of flooding, and forecast moderate to heavy rains as highlighted in the Basin Excessive Rainfall Map.

The rainfall forecast shows ongoing widespread moderate to very heavy rains across the region, apart from eastern Ethiopia and Somalia, as tropical depression remains active over the Mozambique Channel. These rains are expected to subside slightly over eastern Horn, but the southern and western sectors of the region are expected to remain fairly wet in early April.



Source: FEWS NET

### 2014 Rainfall & Temperature Outlooks

Outlook	April – June	July – September
Average to near average rainfall	For eastern Horn and slightly wetter-than-average conditions for the western sector of the region	Increasing trends for much of the northern sector
Below average rainfall	Tanzania coastal regions into Kenya/Somalia coastal strip	South Sudan and areas bordering Sudan
Warmer/hotter than average temperatures	Over eastern Horn	Across the region

## In Brief

*IGAD Drought Resilience Summit seeks to keep the spotlight on commitments made to end drought emergencies in the region*

### OCHA, IGAD strengthen ties on resilience and humanitarian action

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) [agreed](#) on 26 March to enhance their collaboration in disaster preparedness, coordination of humanitarian aid, and advocacy for the protection of civilians affected by conflict and natural disasters. The Memorandum of Understanding agreed between OCHA and IGAD during the [IGAD Drought Resilience Summit](#) in Kampala, Uganda, also aims to enhance the integration of international humanitarian law and principles on the protection of civilians in crises, particularly in support of IGAD’s role in implementing the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, also known as the [Kampala Convention](#). Stronger advocacy for humanitarian access, humanitarian principles and more effective delivery of assistance is also a key objective.

*218 cases of Wild Polio Virus confirmed in the Horn of Africa region as at the end of March 2014*

Around 65 per cent of the IGAD region, which includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda, receives less than 600 mm in rainfall every year. The devastating drought in 2010-2011 affected more than 13 million people and brought food insecurity to fatal levels in many areas. This year's Summit seeks to keep the spotlight on commitments made to end drought emergencies in the region including IGAD's Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI).



Ms Kyung-wha Kang, UN ASG, Humanitarian Affairs and Mr. Mahboub Maalim, Executive Secretary IGAD, exchange the MoU in Kampala © OCHA/Patrick Lavand'homme

### Polio: Ethiopia battling new case as health experts scale up response

An outbreak of Wild Polio Virus 1 (WPV 1) continued to affect the Horn of Africa region, with the latest case being reported in the Somali region of Ethiopia. This is the first case in the region in 2014. World Health Organization (WHO) attributes the recurrent re-infection of the Polio virus to difficulty in adequately covering mobile pastoralist communities.

As at the end of March, some **218 WPV 1 cases** had been confirmed in the region. The first cases, isolated in Benadir region, Somalia, and Dadaab refugee camp in north-eastern Kenya, were reportedly introduced to the region in April 2013. **Somalia** accounts for 89 per cent of the confirmed cases (194 cases) while Kenya and **Ethiopia** have reported 14 and 10 cases respectively. Following increased immunization and health responses, Somalia has recorded a decline in the outbreak, with no new cases reported from Benadir region, the epicenter of the outbreak, since July 2013.

Country	No. of Cases as of 30 March 2014
Ethiopia	10
Kenya	14
Somalia	194
Total	218

To protect against further spread of WPV 1, **health experts** have recommended mop-up campaigns with oral polio vaccine in the affected areas, combined with a series of large-scale, synchronized supplementary immunization activities across most of the "importation belt" countries, stretching from west Africa to central Africa and the Horn of Africa.

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