

HIGHLIGHTS

- Heightened risk of epidemics due to overcrowding and poor hygiene in IDP and refugee populations.
- Normal to near-normal March to May rainfall predicted for most parts of the region, but dry spells to continue in some areas.
- Flooding deaths in Burundi could have been avoided.
- More than 12,000 Somali returnees from Saudi Arabia are stranded in already stretched and insecure Mogadishu.
- South Sudan urgently requires funds to preposition critical supplies before the rainy season in April. Food Security and Livelihood Sectors largely underfunded.



Vaccination campaign at Kakuma Refugee Camp (Credit: IRC)

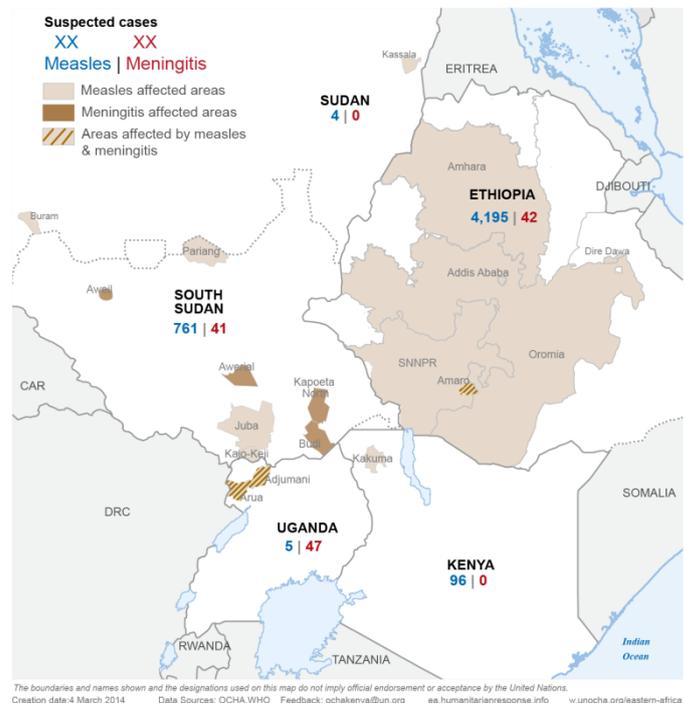
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Regional Health Update

Refugees and IDPs at high risk of disease outbreaks across region

The eastern Africa region remains prone to disease outbreaks and epidemics. Refugees and IDPs remain at high risk of communicable diseases due to overcrowding in settlements and camps, poor sanitation and lack of access to clean water. Humanitarian actors in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda continue to appeal for assistance in responding to reported outbreaks of measles, polio and meningitis. With the advent of rains and ongoing population movements, there are concerns that the health situation will deteriorate. Improved immunization coverage is underway across the region to prevent additional infections and deaths, reports the World Health Organization (WHO).



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 4 March 2014. Date Sources: OCHA, WHO. Feedback: ocha@kenya@un.org, ea.humanitarianresponse.info, w.unocha.org/eastern-africa

SOUTH SUDAN FUNDING UPDATE



Source: FTS as of 05 March 2014

Health experts concerned by measles infection of vaccinated children

In **South Sudan**, some 761 suspected measles cases resulting in 80 deaths had been reported from the IDP camps as of 26 February. Following improvement in hygiene practices and a scale-up in routine vaccinations, WHO has reported a significant decline in new suspected measles cases. Reports for the last week of February indicated 71 cases with no deaths, compared to 172 cases and nine deaths during the previous week. According to WHO, 80 per cent of the suspected cases are children, with some having been vaccinated against measles previously. The outbreak is related to a lack of routine immunizations in the past, worsened by exposure to poor hygiene and sanitation conditions in IDP sites, especially in Tomping, which accounts for 54 per cent (409 cases) of the suspected measles cases and over 30 deaths. Yida camp, which is host to some 71,000 refugees from South Kordofan, has recorded 42 suspected measles cases.

Insecurity remains a major hindrance for health workers in South Sudan, where health facilities and hospitals were reportedly looted during a clash on 18 February

A measles vaccination campaign was completed in various parts of the country. Some 11,373 children aged six months to 15 years have been vaccinated in Walgak (Jonglei), Nimule, Twic, Minkaman, Tomping and Juba, according to WHO.

Effective health responses in South Sudan continue to be hindered by insecurity. On 18 February, violent clashes in Malakal paralysed the delivery of health services, especially for persons outside protected areas, as health facilities and hospitals were reportedly looted. WHO, in collaboration with the State Ministry, is coordinating the response.

In **Sudan**, a suspected measles outbreak has been reported in Buram locality in South Darfur with increased spread among children of all ages. Four suspected cases of measles were also reported in Kassala and Rural Kassala localities in mid-February. Results of the investigation are still pending. In January, the Ministry of Health in Kassala State also received notification of 14 suspected cases of haemorrhagic fever, with one death, mainly from the localities of Kassala, Rural Kassala, Wad Alhelaiu and Rural Aroma. Surveillance systems for the outbreak have been alerted and a vector control campaign is ongoing with support from state and locality authorities.

Country	Suspected/Confirmed Measles cases as of 26 February 2014		Suspected/Confirmed Meningitis cases as of 26 February 2014	
	No.	Affected areas	No.	Affected areas
Ethiopia	4,195	Addis Ababa, Oromiya, Dire Dawa, Amhara and SNNP	42	SNNPR (Amaro woreda of Segen People's zone)
South Sudan	761	Tomping Yida-South Kordofan Boram-South Kordofan	41	Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatorial, and Lakes County
Uganda	5	Arua and Ajumani Districts	47	Adjumani, Arua districts (West Nile)
Kenya	96	Kakuma; Turkana West sub-county; Turkana County	No recent reports	
Sudan	4	Kassala & Rural Kassala		
Source: WHO reports				

Mass measles vaccination campaigns initiated across all affected areas, targeting children aged 6 months to 15 years

In **Ethiopia**, a measles outbreak continued to be reported in 23 districts of Addis Ababa, Oromiya, Dire Dawa, Amhara and SNNP regions in Ethiopia. According to WHO, some 4,195 confirmed measles cases were reported since 2013, of which 251 were recorded in February 2014. The majority of the confirmed cases (3,018) were reported in SNNP region. WHO is mobilizing funds for a planned measles vaccination campaign targeting 6.8 million children under-15 in Oromia, SNNP and Somali regions. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health, WHO, and health partners will conduct an in-depth investigation into the recurrence of the measles outbreaks despite regular mass immunization activities around the country.

In **Kenya**, an outbreak of measles in Kakuma refugee camps and surrounding host communities in Turkana West sub-county commenced in mid-January 2014 with the influx of refugees from South Sudan. As at 24 February, 96 cases had been confirmed in the camp. A measles vaccination campaign targeting 50,000 children of 6 months to 15 years was conducted in the refugee camp from 12-18 February, reports UNICEF. A total of 70,423 children aged 6 months to 15 years were vaccinated against measles. The vaccination campaign in the host communities with a target population of 70,000 children under age 5 began on 22 February.

In **Uganda**, UNHCR began a mass immunization campaign in northern Uganda to prevent the spread of measles among South Sudanese refugees. This followed a confirmation by the Ugandan Ministry of Health of an outbreak among the more than 59,000 South Sudanese refugees who had arrived in the country as of 24 January 2014. Five cases were registered and samples taken to the Uganda Virus Research Institute. The immunization campaign covered refugee and Ugandan children below 15 years of age in the Arua and Adjumani districts, with subsequent new arrivals being systematically screened to ensure they are protected.

WHO continues to appeal for increased stocks of meningitis vaccine

In **South Sudan**, 41 suspected meningitis cases have been reported in 2014, mainly in Northern Bahr El Ghazal (Aweil town), Eastern Equatoria (Kapoeta North and Budi Counties), Central Equatorial (Kajo Keji County) and Lakes (Awerial County), reports WHO. There has been significant reduction in the number of new suspected cases, with five cases reported as of 26 February compared to 11 cases in the previous week. Preparations are ongoing for a meningitis vaccination campaign in several locations to prevent further spread of the outbreak.

In **Ethiopia**, OCHA reports that some two million people reside in areas that are high risk for meningitis and require vaccination. Since mid-December, some 42 suspected cases and three deaths of meningitis have been reported in SNNPR. The majority of the reported cases are between the ages of 15 and 44. At present, WHO reports an inadequate stock of meningitis vaccine in Ethiopia to reach the identified at-risk population.

Country	Meningitis cases in 2014
Ethiopia	42 cases, 3 deaths
South Sudan	41, 0 deaths
Uganda	47, 0 deaths

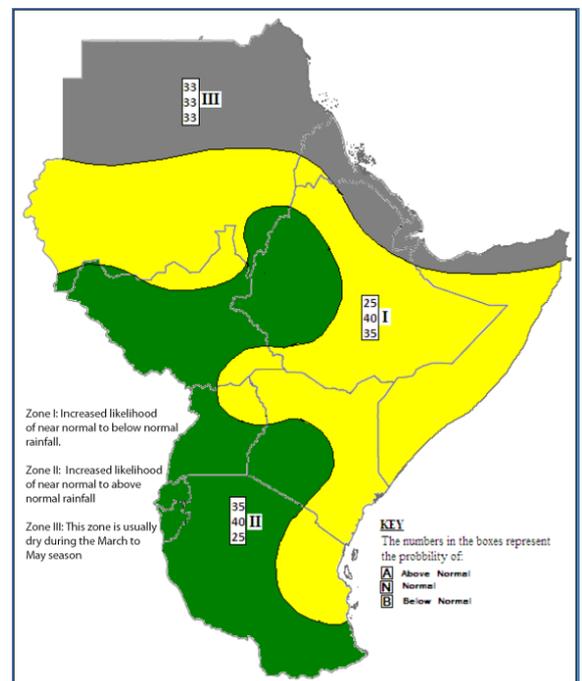
In **Uganda**, Government health authorities have confirmed a meningitis outbreak. As of 15 February, 47 cumulative suspected and confirmed cases of meningitis had been reported in Adjumani and Arua districts (West Nile). The affected areas in Adjumani are host to a large number of South Sudanese refugees, hence likelihood of further spread across the border with South Sudan. The Ministry of Health is working to get vaccines into the country and plans to carry out immunization in two sub counties of Adjumani.

Some two million Ethiopians residing in areas considered to be high risk for meningitis require urgent vaccination

March to May 2014 climate outlook

ICPAC predicts normal climatic conditions for the region

The Thirty-sixth Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum was convened from 26-28 February in Uganda by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC). The objective was to formulate a consensus climate outlook for the March to May 2014 rainfall season over the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) region and to discuss building resilience through disaster risk reduction. The regional consensus climate outlook for the March to May rainfall season indicates an increased likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall over northern, western and southern Tanzania; Burundi, Rwanda; much of Uganda; western Kenya; western Ethiopia and much of South Sudan. Increased likelihood of near normal to below normal rainfall is indicated over much of the northern, eastern and coastal areas of the GHA region.



Dry spells may occur in areas with increased likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall, reports ICPAC

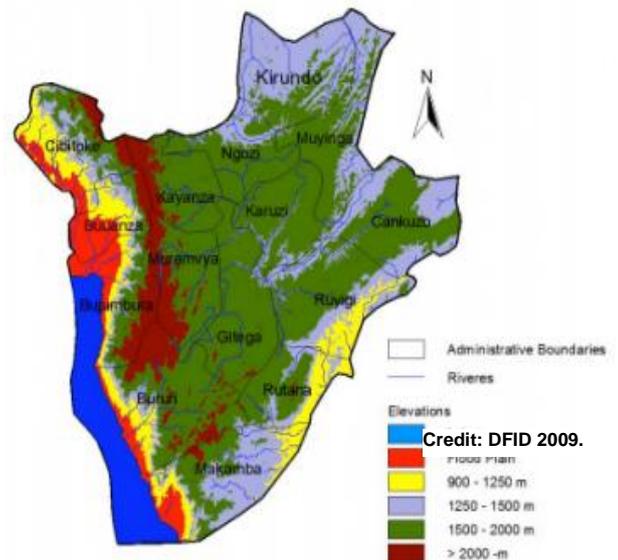
Local and month-to-month variations might occur in areas with increased likelihood of near normal to below normal rainfall. Dry spells may occur in areas with increased likelihood of near normal to above normal rainfall. ICPAC will provide regional updates while the national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) will disseminate details at national and sub-national levels.

Burundi

Nearly 20,000 people displaced and 69 others killed by floods in February

69 people, many of them children, reportedly died, while nearly 20,000 others were displaced, and close to 2,200 families have been left homeless following the floods

Torrential rains hit Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, and the five communes of Kamenge, Kinama, Buterere, Ngagara and Kanyosha on 9 February. Kinyinya and Kijaga in Mutumbuzi commune were also reportedly affected. The Burundi Red Cross Society (BRCS) confirmed 69 people, many of them children, died and nearly 20,000 people were displaced by the floods; close to 2,200 families were left homeless. Two bridges were swept away and roads and power supplies damaged. The floods also swept away rice, cassava, maize, beans, groundnuts and small domestic animals.



“Building and planning code violations were largely to blame for the deaths, amid torrential rain,” Bernard Sindayihebura, a leading urban planning expert, told IRIN. He noted that numerous reports had provided early warning signs of such an eventuality. Furthermore, areas prone to flooding are also impoverished, heavily populated and known for their poor drainage and infrastructure. During an earlier flood disaster in 2008, Jean Marie Sabushimike, a professor of geography at the University of Burundi, called for “an urgent plan for preventing such natural hazards”, and made recommendations for “enforcement of building and planning codes, digging of appropriate size drainage channels and the construction of bridges.”

Urban planning experts note that violation of building and planning codes were largely to blame for the deaths, arising from torrential rains in Burundi

The Government is leading the emergency response through its National Platform for Disaster Management, and has set up five emergency sites for the displaced. BRCS reports the Government has pledged to waive medical fees for the injured, pay mortuary fees for the dead and provide iron sheets for reconstruction of damaged houses. BRCS and partners are implementing an emergency action plan in which BRCS is setting up temporary shelters and conducting hygiene promotion, cholera and malaria prevention campaigns. In collaboration with BRCS, UNICEF is providing safe water and appropriate sanitation facilities. WFP is planning food distributions in the affected areas. Anglican Church of Burundi is providing charcoal. Transcultural Psychology Organisation and Terres des hommes are providing psychosocial support services and hygiene education, especially for children. The Governments of China and Japan have made cash and pledged NFI donations respectively, while BRCS continues to fundraise locally to support the affected population.

A joint rapid assessment conducted by the National Platform for Disaster Management and UN agencies in three of the most affected municipalities of Kinama, Buterere, Kamenge, identified the need for latrines, shelters/tents for about 5,000 IDPs, food and non-food items (clothes, mosquito nets, blankets, mattresses, soaps, bladders, cans and kitchen sets), communication means, rehabilitation of access roads, repair of damaged bridges and enhanced security of affected areas to prevent theft. Inaccessibility of some areas remains a concern. BRCS plans to conduct more assessments as areas become accessible.

To prevent cholera outbreaks, UNICEF and partners disinfected affected households by pulverization the first day following the flooding. According to FEWS NET, household stocks will be depleted by early March and market prices for staple foods in areas affected by poor Season A harvest and plant diseases will continue to be high, notably in the flood-

prone provinces of Kayanza and Muramvya. FEWS NET reports that March to May rainfall is expected to be near normal.

In Brief

More than 12,000 deported Somalis are stranded in Mogadishu

Due to changes in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's foreign workers legislation and subsequent crackdown on irregular migrants, IOM reports that over 12,000 returnees have been deported to Mogadishu since December 2013. The Somali Ministry of Interior estimates 30,000 Somalis still remain to be repatriated. Many of the returnees were arrested and held in substandard detention centres before deportation. IOM reports a significant number being subjected to gender-based violence. The Federal Government of Somalia has requested help amid concerns that the deported migrants might exacerbate the already dire situation in Mogadishu, hosting over 30,000 internally displaced people. IOM plans to provide the returnees with reception and integration services, basic food and onward transportation. Vulnerable cases are being provided with accommodation and protection support. Limited funding and security concerns in Mogadishu are a major operational challenge.

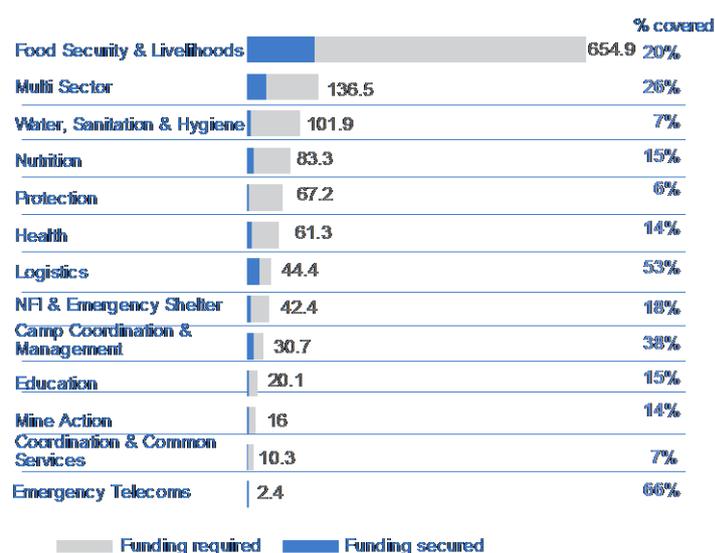
Some 30,000 Somalis await repatriation, according to the Somalia Ministry of Interior

South Sudan appeals for prepositioning before onset of April rains

The US\$1.27 billion South Sudan Crisis Response Plan is currently 21 per cent funded. Six clusters (Coordination and Common Services, Health, Mine Action, Nutrition, Protection, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) are less than 15 per cent funded. Over half of the outstanding requirements are for critically needed prepositioning of supplies in deep-field locations. This will ensure continuity of the aid operation during the rainy season, which starts in April. Aid workers are appealing for urgent funding of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster.

Only 21 per cent of the US\$1.27 billion has been funded. Critical gaps in all sectors that require funding before the rainy season in April

Requirements and funding by clusters in South Sudan (millions \$)



Source: FTS as of 05 March 2014

Return intention survey launched in Kenya's Dadaab refugee camp

IOM and UNHCR have begun a comprehensive four-month return intention survey of Somali refugees living in the Dadaab refugee complex of north-eastern Kenya.

Under the framework of the tripartite agreement signed in November 2013 among the Kenya and Somali Governments and UNHCR, IOM and UNHCR agreed to carry out the survey to ensure that refugees' views and concerns were taken into consideration in the planning process for their voluntary repatriation. The survey will gather information on the previous situation in Somalia in terms of livelihoods, property, what forced the families to move from Somalia, current living conditions, skills and occupation, the reason why they may choose to return, and their expectations with regard to access to services, security, employment and housing in Somalia.

The survey will provide the estimated number of families that voice an intention to return to their place of origin or elsewhere in Somalia. Participation in the survey is voluntary and anonymous.

Great Lakes: Special Envoys mark 1st anniversary of “Framework of Hope”

Marking the first anniversary of the 24 February 2013 signing of the Peace, Security and Coordination Framework, aiming to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the region, Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General to the Great Lakes Region; Martin Kobler, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in the DRC and the Head of MONUSCO; Boubacar Diarra, AU Special Representative for the Great Lakes; Russell Feingold, US Special Envoy for the Great Lakes and the DRC; and Koen Vervaeke, EU Senior Coordinator to the Great Lakes Region, issued a [statement](#) hailing “undeniable” progress made to date. In particular, they noted the defeat of the M23 rebel movement and a subsequent peace process that was concluded with the DRC Government.

Nevertheless, they did note that “significant work remains” – a view made painfully clear by a new [report](#) from the humanitarian relief agency MSF, which, through medical data and the testimonies of patients and staff, documents “the true extent of the medical and humanitarian emergency lived through every day” by the people of DRC, in particular those who reside in the conflict-affected eastern provinces. MSF notes that although country-wide data for 2013 was still being consolidated and analysed, it thus far showed no significant change from previous years. “Much of this human suffering could be prevented,” the report states. “There are a number of measures that, if taken, would have a real impact on reducing the number of unnecessary deaths and improving the daily lives of people in eastern DRC.”

In one particularly horrific development, MONUSCO received reports in mid-February about several gross human rights violations, including a summary execution of over 70 men and women committed in Nyamaboko villages I and II, Masisi territory, North Kivu Province. The reports suggested that the executions were allegedly committed mainly by armed groups to spread terror among the population. The majority of the victims were killed with machete. A MONUSCO mission was dispatched to verify the allegations.

Burundi: UN mission extended until December 2014

The UN Security Council on 13 February [renewed](#) until the end of the year the UN mission helping Burundi recover from decades of ethnic war, despite the central African country's request to end it earlier, as it moves towards crucial elections amid political violence and intra-party tensions. In a unanimous resolution, the 15-member body welcomed the continued progress that Burundi had made towards stability, but endorsed Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recommendation not to wrap up the UN Office in Burundi (BNUB) by mid-2014 as the Government requested. The Council did however note the Government's request for a UN electoral observer mission before, during and after the 2015 elections in Burundi, and requested the Secretary-General “to establish such a mission to follow and report on the electoral process in Burundi immediately at the end of BNUB's mandate.”

MONUSCO received reports of over 70 civilians executed in Masisi territory, North Kivu Province, DRC

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