



Humanitarian Flash

An OCFA Early Warning Service

Issue: March 2011
 For OCFA's Strategic Partners (For Internal Use)

The monthly Humanitarian Flash report is a tool of OCFA's Early Warning Service aiming to update UAE Actors with current humanitarian issues worldwide. It includes 2 portfolio on:

- Thematic Issues (e.g. looming food crisis, hunger, etc.)
- Natural Disasters (e.g. earthquakes, floods, cyclones, etc.)

Disclaimer : The information contained in this document has been collected from published sources. While every effort has been made to cross-check facts from more than one source, the information has not been independently verified by OCFA, and does not constitute an expression of opinion by OCFA or the UAE Government.

Thematic Issues of Concerns



Country Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (the) (estimated population 6.5 million)

Issue One month after the armed violence broke out in Libya, the fighting continues and is now spreading to the country's most populated area.

- Overview**
- Of the total US\$ 160 million requested to the Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis, US\$ 107 million (67.4%) had been funded. (Source: [Financial Tracking System](#))
 - World Food Programme (WFP) had airlifted six prefabricated warehouses, six mobile offices and other supplies from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Brindisi, Italy, to Alexandria, Egypt. They arrived 21 March 2011 and will be prepositioned in Salloum on the Libyan border as part of contingency planning for establishing logistics hubs inside Libya. (Source: [World Food Programme, 22 March 2011](#))
 - Over 17,000 who fled Libya were crowded into a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported transit camp at the Tunisian border, many awaiting help to return to their home countries. As of 18 March 2011, only 6,500 people remain stranded in Tunisia, 2,500 in Egypt and 1,500 in Algeria and Niger. Most will be evacuated by International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR flights this weekend creating a more manageable situation in the border areas as new groups of people continue to flee Libya. (Source: [UNHCR, 18 March 2011](#))
 - The United Nations (UN) yesterday appealed to the UAE Government to help rescue people stranded on the Libyan borders. The UN also asked the Government to increase humanitarian assistance to people affected by the Libyan crisis, days after the UAE and Turkey sent 700 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to Benghazi. "We have sent an appeal to the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help evacuees on the Libyan border," said Brigitte Khair Mountain, the Head of Office and Senior Adviser at the UNHCR. (Source: [The National, 18 March 2011](#))



Country Cote d' Ivoire (estimated population 21,571 million)

Issue There recently has been an intensification of urban violence and serious military clashes in provincial areas. The result of the presidency following November's election has reached dangerous levels. After a period during which President-elect Alassane Ouattara appeared to be losing ground in the face of incumbent Laurent Gbagbo's intransigence and fracturing African diplomatic support, the renewal of confrontation on the streets and recent military developments have shifted momentum slightly back in Ouattara's favour.

- Overview**
- Continuous exodus-up to one million people estimated displaced in and around Abidjan and access to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Côte d'Ivoire remains a major concern. Some 100,000 refugees were registered in Liberia. (Source: [UNHCR, 25 March 2011](#))

ALERT LEVEL:

Likelihood for need of international humanitarian intervention

- Green (Low)
- Orange (Medium)
- Red (High)

LEGEND:

Issues

- Agriculture
- Drought
- Education
- Epidemic
- Food Security
- Health
- Nutrition
- Security
- Conflict
- IDP/ Refugee Camp

Natural Disasters

- Cyclone/Tropical Storm
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Volcanic Eruption
- Storm
- Tornado
- Tsunami

- The crisis has resulted in months of instability and a steep increase in violent clashes in the past week. As well as rising political and military tensions, many banks remain closed, prices of basic goods are rocketing and more than 500,000 people have lost their jobs. (Source: [OXFAM, 7 March 2011](#))
- In Abidjan, the estimated number of displaced people now exceeds 200,000 – most of these are people who have fled the fighting in Abobo. Many are staying with friends or relatives, but large numbers – possibly a quarter of the displaced – are staying in temporary locations around the city, including in churches and other communal places. These groups are in urgent need of humanitarian help. (Source: [UNHCR, 4 March 2011](#)), ([UNHCR 2011 operation profile](#))



Country Yemen (estimated population 24.3 million)

Issue Even before the popular wave from Tunisia and Egypt reached Yemen, President Saleh's regime faced daunting challenges. In the north, it is battling the Huthi rebellion, in the south, an ever-growing secessionist movement. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is showing mounting signs of activism. Sanaa's political class is locked in a two-year battle over electoral and constitutional reforms; behind the scenes, a fierce competition for post-Saleh spoils is underway. Economic conditions for average Yemenis are dire and worsening. There is fear the protest movement could push the country to the brink and unleash broad civil strife, but it also could be a catalyst for swift, far-reaching reforms leading to genuine power-sharing and accountable, representative institutions.

- Overview**
- Only "bold reforms" in Yemen will meet the expectations of the country's people, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urging authorities to immediately start as broad a dialogue as possible with the political opposition, youth groups and other elements of civil society. (Source: [United Nations News Centre, 22 March 2011](#))
 - Gunmen on rooftops shot dead up to 42 protesters at an anti-government rally in Sana'a after Muslim prayers on Friday (18 March), enraging the opposition and prompting President Ali Abdullah Saleh to declare a state of emergency. (Source: [Reuters, 18 March 2011](#))
 - Mr. Saleh has ruled Yemen for over three decades. With 35% unemployment rate and prevalent corruption, discontent has been festering in the republic for years. He sought support from tribal and military leaders but lost some key allies because some protesters have been killed by government supporters or security forces. (Source: [The Wall Street Journal, 1 March 2011](#))

Natural Disasters



Alert Level/ Date	Description	Situational Update
24 March 2011	Country/Region: Myanmar , Shan State Province Disaster: Earthquake Magnitude: 6.8 Depth: 10.7 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earthquake struck in Myanmar, Shan State Province region and it happened in an area of low resilience for natural disasters. (Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS))
21 March 2011	Country/Region: Afghanistan , Badakhshan Province Disaster: Earthquake Magnitude: 5.8 Depth: 196.7 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earthquake struck in the Afghanistan , Badakhshan Province and it happened in an area of low resilience. (Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS))



Alert Level/ Date	Description	Situational Update
14 March 2011	Country/Region: Brazil Disaster: Floods Area of affected region: 124,445.34 km ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floods in southern and southeastern Brazil which had forced about 31,000 people to leave their homes. Civil defense officials said more than 14,000 people have been affected in Santa Catarina state, while about 10,000 have left flooded homes in neighboring Parana state. The Parana State Civil Defense department said that three people died on landslides and one person remained missing. (Source: CBS News, 14 March 2011)
	Country/Region: Sri Lanka Disaster: Floods Area of affected region: 19,891 km ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With rains abating since the beginning of March, agencies are wrapping up humanitarian relief and focusing on early recovery assistance. (Source: OCHA Situational Report No. 16, 22 March 2011)



Alert Level/ Date	Description	Situational Update
11 March 2011	Country/Region: Japan , Tohoku Province Disaster: Earthquake Magnitude: 9.0 Depth: 24.4 km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A massive earthquake of magnitude of 9.0 occurred on 11 March 2011, off the Pacific coast of the northeastern part of the Japanese main land (Tohoku Region), unleashing a 30 metre (100 feet) tsunami waves that crashed into Japan's eastern coast of Honshu causing devastating damages. The Japan Meteorological Agency named this earthquake "The 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake." (Source: Japan Meteorological Agency) • An estimated 244,000 people are still taking shelter in some 1,900 evacuation centres mostly in northeastern and eastern Japan. More than 27,500 people have been confirmed dead or remain unaccounted for so far - 10,066 deaths and 17,443 missing. The temperature is dropping to minus 6 degrees Celsius overnight and authorities in Miyagi Prefecture say the lack of fuel means they cannot use heaters. 210,000 households (516,600 people) do not have electricity and one million people are without gas. (Source: OCHA Situational Report No. 13, 25 March 2011) • According to the World Bank, the rebuilding will cost US\$ 232 billion and it will take Japan at least five years to reconstruct its affected regions. (Source: OCHA Situational Report No. 10, 21 March 2011)

Terms of Definitions

Earthquake Magnitude: is a number that characterizes the relative size of an earthquake. Magnitude is based on measurement of the maximum motion recorded by a seismograph. Several scales have been defined, but the most commonly used are (1) local magnitude (ML), commonly referred to as "Richter magnitude," (2) surface-wave magnitude (Ms), (3) body-wave magnitude (Mb), and (4) moment magnitude (Mw). (U.S. Geological Survey).

Depth of Earthquake: Earthquakes can occur anywhere between the Earth's surface and about 700 kilometers below the surface. For scientific purposes, this earthquake depth range of 0 - 700 km is divided into three zones: shallow, intermediate, and deep. Shallow earthquakes are between 0 and 70 km deep; intermediate earthquakes, 70 - 300 km deep; and deep earthquakes, 300 - 700 km deep. (U.S. Geological Survey)

Contacts

UAE Office for the Coordination of Foreign Aid (OCFA)

Field Support Unit (FSU)
Tel: 00971-2-654-4415
Fax: 00971-2-654-4443
Email: fsu@ocfa.gov.ae

Frederic Vigneau
FSU Manager
Dir: 00971-2-654-4455

Sarah Humaid
Humanitarian Affairs Officer
Dir: 00971-2-654-4415