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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**The climate loss and damage mechanism: whys and why nots?**

For poor countries "loss and damage" incurred as a result of a changing climate - with citizens being forced to relocate, give up on their land, cultural identity and their right to human dignity are crucial issues. There is no agreed-upon definition for "loss and damage", but the phrase broadly refers to a range of harms incurred as a result of climate change, which cannot be avoided either through mitigation or adaptation. The issue became a major sticking point at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) talks in Warsaw, which concluded on 23 November. Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which deals with adaptation, is expected to address loss and damage in its fifth assessment report in 2014.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99224/the-climate-loss-and-damage-mechanism-whys-and-why-nots**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99224/the-climate-loss-and-damage-mechanism-whys-and-why-nots)

**Spike in AIDS-related adolescent deaths raises alarm**

The life of a teenager is difficult enough without the added burden of living with HIV, keeping it hidden from friends and sticking to antiretroviral treatment. But new data has revealed that while AIDS-related deaths globally have fallen in the general population over the last seven years, deaths among adolescents rose by 50 percent in the same period and UN agencies are raising the alarm. WHO blames the high number of deaths on the "poor prioritization" of teenagers in national HIV plans; inadequate HIV services, and lack of support for adolescents to remain in care and stick to antiretroviral therapy (ART). According to WHO, only 10 percent of young men and 15 percent of young women between 15 and 24 years in sub-Saharan Africa know their HIV status, while access to HIV testing and counselling in other regions is consistently reported as being very low. In addition, adolescents born with HIV are often being diagnosed late, and start treatment only when they are already very ill.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99217/spike-in-aids-related-adolescent-deaths-raises-alarm**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99217/spike-in-aids-related-adolescent-deaths-raises-alarm)

**Raise water spending, get $1 trillion benefits**

Sharply higher spending on water supplies, twinned with a crackdown on corruption, would yield more than a trillion dollars a year in economic, health and environmental benefits, a UN-backed study said. The study said investments of $840 billion to $1.8 trillion a year, or up to about 2.2% of world gross domestic product, would be needed over 20 years to provide universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation and to improve other services such as irrigation and hydro power. That would mark a sharp rise from the current $500 billion invested each year but yield benefits of at least $3.0 trillion a year, or more than $1.0 trillion above the highest projected spending, it said. Benefits would include "direct economic return, livelihood creation, health system savings, and the preservation of nature's ecosystem services", according to the study, which said it was the first long-term estimate for water costs. Almost 2.5 billion of the world's 7 billion people lack access to sanitation, and about 770 million lack safe drinking water, UN data show.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131127143747-qax9z/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131127143747-qax9z/?source=hptop)

CEE/CIS

**Bulgaria**

**Squalid camps, bleak prospects greet Syrians at EU's door**

As the first winter snows fell on Bulgaria this week, thousands of refugees crammed into makeshift camps -- many of them Syrians fleeing fighting in their country -- are rueing that Europe is not the haven they had hoped. "If they keep us living in this tent in the snow, I'd rather go back to the war," Abd Al Jalil Bonja fumed at the Harmanli refugee camp in southeastern Bulgaria. "We thought Bulgaria was the European Union, a normal country like Germany, France, Italy," he complained as his wife and four children huddled around a stove in a leaking military tent they shared with another family of five. "If we knew what we would find, we never would have come here." Over 11,100 refugees, most of them Syrians, have entered Bulgaria illegally this year, crossing the porous 274km border with Turkey.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hC2zB0lYfjTgjc9Hefsz61sQbLlA?docId=dd0fc9e6-e640-4dd8-a451-**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hC2zB0lYfjTgjc9Hefsz61sQbLlA?docId=dd0fc9e6-e640-4dd8-a451-)

**Turkey**

**Five dead as boat carrying immigrants sinks off coast**

At least five people, including a child, drowned on 29 November after a boat carrying illegal immigrants trying to reach Greece capsized off western Turkey, the coastguard said. "Acting on a tip-off the coastguard seized the boat and recovered five bodies," a coastguard safety official reported. Eight people were rescued and taken to a nearby hospital after the sinking in the Aegean Sea, he said, adding that a search was continuing for one missing person. The nationalities of those on the boat were not immediately known but media reports said they were believed to be Syrians.

**AFP -** [**http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-128322-Five-dead-as-boat-carrying-immigrants-sinks-off-Turkey**](http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-128322-Five-dead-as-boat-carrying-immigrants-sinks-off-Turkey)

**Ukraine**

**EU summit shows no sign of reviving Ukraine deal**

European leaders appear to have made no progress on reviving a far-reaching association agreement with Ukraine at an EU summit in Vilnius. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych abruptly froze plans to sign the trade and reform deal last week, under pressure from Russia. The Ukraine agreement, the summit's centrepiece, would have been a major step towards eventual integration. But progress was made with two other ex-Soviet states, Georgia and Moldova. Both initialled association agreements on Friday, the closing day of the summit, with diplomats hopeful that these can be signed next year. Another ex-Soviet state, Azerbaijan, signed an agreement to simplify procedures for certain categories of visa. Pro-EU protests are continuing in Ukrainian cities against the government's decision to back out of the agreement. President Yanukovych defended his refusal to sign, by saying the EU was not offering adequate financial aid to upgrade Ukraine's economy.

**BBC-** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25134682**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25134682)

EAPRO

**DPR Korea**

**Mothers, babies lack proper diet**

North Korea's production of staple foods has increased for the third year running, but mothers and babies still lack sufficient vitamins, fat and protein, leaving many children stunted, WFP's North Korean representative said Thursday. Dierk Stegen said the government has focused on producing cereals, but that it needs a more diverse food supply. He said about 80% of North Korean households lack the appropriate amount of vitamins, minerals, fats and proteins in their diets. "The government has already strengthened all means to produce more food in the fields, but this is cereals and not real diversified food and that's what is lacking for babies and their mothers," he said in an interview in Beijing. Stegen said North Korea still has a high rate of stunted growth in children, but did not provide figures for this.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/wfp-nkorea-mothers-babies-lack-proper-diet-21038869**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/wfp-nkorea-mothers-babies-lack-proper-diet-21038869)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128154005-l621q/?source=hpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128154005-l621q/?source=hpagehead)

**Philippines**

**Government says Super Typhoon Haiyan, other storms curb growth**

The Philippines' economy expanded 7.0% year-on-year in the third quarter, but a series of storms curbed growth and a devastating typhoon this month will slow momentum further, the government said on 28 November. One of Asia's best performing economies had been on track for growth well above 7.0% for the full year, but the government said Super Typhoon Haiyan was expected to cut up to 0.8% points from the final quarter. Nevertheless, the Filipino President's administration said the economy remained well placed, pointing out the third quarter was the fifth straight three-month period in which growth was at 7.0% or above. "This solid growth demonstrates the continuing resilience of the economy in the face of global economic challenges and natural calamities," said the Finance Secretary. One of the worst-performing sectors in the third quarter was agriculture, which grew by just 0.3% year-on-year. The National Statistical Coordination Board secretary general said this was partly due to damage to farms from 10 typhoons and tropical storms that struck the country during those three months. The Philippines endures an average of 20 typhoons or tropical storms annually, many of them deadly. Most strike in the second half of the year and often cause flood damage to rice and other crops.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iKchTuHbWs3Rv9cVA8cY1VXsfTRg?docId=31009b4c-40d7-4e2e-8685-2734ccaa84ff&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iKchTuHbWs3Rv9cVA8cY1VXsfTRg?docId=31009b4c-40d7-4e2e-8685-2734ccaa84ff&hl=en)

**Thailand**

**Protesters target army, ruling party headquarters**

Protesters in Thailand have forced their way into the army headquarters, as anti-government rallies entered a sixth day. More protesters gathered outside ruling party headquarters, as part of efforts to force the government to step down. The Thai Prime Minister urged demonstrators to end the street protests, after surviving a no-confidence vote in parliament. But protest leader has rejected her appeal. At the army headquarters in Bangkok, some protesters climbed over gates to enter the compound, a Reuters report said. Meanwhile security was tightened around the ruling Pheu Thai party building.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-25149480**](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-25149480)

ESARO

**Angola**

**Police on standby as hundreds attend activist's funeral**

Angolan police mobilized water cannons and helicopters to try to stop the funeral of an opposition activist killed by security services at the weekend, an Agence France Presse journalist saw. Nearly 1,000 mourners, mostly supporters of the opposition Casa party, converged in downtown Luanda for a funeral procession to a cemetery on the outskirts of the capital. But after walking for 15 minutes, police armed with two water cannons and backed by two helicopters briefly stopped the procession, before finally letting it proceed. The funeral is the first big opposition gathering since the August 2012 general elections and is seen as a show of growing opposition to the administration of the Angolan President.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/27/us-angola-opposition-idUSBRE9AQ0V120131127**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/27/us-angola-opposition-idUSBRE9AQ0V120131127)

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/107522-angola-police-on-standby-as-hundreds-attend-activist-s-funeral**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/107522-angola-police-on-standby-as-hundreds-attend-activist-s-funeral)

**Kenya**

**Law would block aid for HIV drugs, rape and torture victims-agencies**

Kenyan government plans to cap foreign donor funding would cut off services to the most vulnerable people – those living with HIV/AIDS, victims of rape and torture and prisoners who cannot afford legal representation, NGOs and aid agencies said on Thursday. The Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2013, published on 30 October, will, if passed, cap the foreign funding of NGOs at 15% of their budgets. Critics of the bill say the government is using it to silence human rights groups which have collected evidence from victims of Kenya’s 2007/08 post-election violence. The bill received its second reading in parliament on Wednesday and will be debated by a parliamentary committee on Friday. Parliament could pass the bill into law before it goes into recess on 5 December, agencies said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128162343-3hosi/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128162343-3hosi/?source=hptop)

**Mozambique**

**Police fire tear gas at anti-conscription protest**

Police fired tear gas to disperse youths rioting in central Mozambique after reports of forced conscription as the military battles a revived rebel group, a rights group and residents said. Security forces clashed with protesters in central city Beira, according to the Human Rights League (LDH). "There is a revolt on the part of the population. The police have been using tear gas," the LDH representative reported. There were "many injuries and arrests", he added. Local newspapers reported that the military was going from door to door forcibly conscripting youngsters to fight against a revived Renamo insurgency elsewhere in the central Sofala province. Some Beira residents reported that the conscription was a "fact", and that the military used "kidnappings" to increase its numbers. "The population is furious. They want to burn any car that passes through the city," said a student. Three neighbourhoods were believed to have been affected.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mozambique-police-fire-tear-gas-anti-conscription-protest-194101724.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mozambique-police-fire-tear-gas-anti-conscription-protest-194101724.html)

**Somalia**

**Country reels from cyclone, floods and hunger**

Tens of thousands of vulnerable Somalis have been left destitute after losing their homes and livestock in twin natural disasters, ICRC reported. In November, a cyclone struck the northern semi-autonomous region of Puntland, killing at least 140 people and up to a million head of livestock. The government has declared a state of emergency. Further south, the River Shabelle has flooded the town of Jowhar and surrounding areas. "Hundreds of families have been rendered homeless and the economy has been shattered through the loss of so many animals," reported ICRC coordinator of relief effort in Puntland. High winds and heavy rains caused flash floods and cut off roads, making it difficult to deliver aid. The second disaster zone is Jowhar in Middle Shabelle. Some 10,000 people have fled the town because of flooding caused by two months of heavy rains in the highlands that feed the River Shabelle. On top of that, ethnic clashes have displaced 5,000 people, who are camped out near the airstrip 13km north of Jowhar. The officer in charge of the ICRC's water and sanitation programmes in Somalia, described conditions as “very difficult” as water sources have been contaminated, which could lead to water-borne diseases. There is no longer famine in Somalia after four good rainy seasons, but 870,000 people – more than 20% of the population – still need food aid. One in six children are acutely malnourished.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131127175633-yp9tn/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131127175633-yp9tn/?source=hptop)

**South Africa**

**Some clinics running short of HIV/AIDS drugs**

One in five South African clinics are running short of life-saving HIV/AIDS drugs, affecting nearly half a million people and undermining the success of the world's largest treatment programme, medical charities said on Thursday. With about 6 million people infected with the virus - more than 10% of the population - South Africa carries the world's heaviest HIV/AIDS caseload and has around 2.5 million people taking ARV drugs daily. However, the huge numbers are causing the system to creak, health researchers say. MSF surveyed more than 2,300 of South Africa's 3,800 public health facilities and found that one in five had either run short or run out of drugs in the previous three months. Of the affected clinics, catering for 420,000 patients, 20% said they had had to turn away patients, putting the effectiveness of the ARV treatment plan at risk, MSF said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128141030-fpd2m/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128141030-fpd2m/?source=hptop)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Dominican Republic breaks off Haiti talks over immigration ruling**

The Dominican Republic broke off talks with Haiti on Wednesday and recalled its ambassador for consultations over a recent Dominican court ruling that could strip citizenship from more than 200,000 Haitian migrants, many of whom were born on Dominican soil. The two countries have been holding talks mediated by the Venezuelan government to resolve their differences over a 23 September ruling by the Dominican Republic's Constitutional Court. The Dominican government has come under intense international pressure over the ruling, with foreign leaders, UN agencies and human rights groups questioning its legal basis.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/27/us-dominicanrepublic-citizenship-idUSBRE9AQ17S20131127**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/27/us-dominicanrepublic-citizenship-idUSBRE9AQ17S20131127)

**Guyana**

**Authorities close public schools amid heavy rains**

Heavy rains have forced authorities in Guyana to close all public schools amid widespread flooding. The Agriculture Minister reported that 20 centimetres of rain fell overnight, causing traffic jams and flooding homes, offices, hospitals and other buildings across the country. He said the bad weather is expected to persist as Guyana prepares for the start of one of its rainy seasons.

**GoG -** [**http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?p=17226**](http://gina.gov.gy/wp/?p=17226)

**Haiti**

**EU to give $25.1 million in humanitarian aid**

The EU will give Haiti $25.1 million (18.5 million euros) in aid next year to help ease ongoing humanitarian concerns, an official said. Raphael Brigandi, a spokesman for the EU office in Haiti, said Europe had drawn up an aid plan after assessing needs. The aid would help food insecurity and other problems while assisting the needs of individuals who remain displaced following the devastating January 2010 earthquake, Brigandi said. Humanitarian aid will be channeled through European groups working on the ground in Haiti as well as international organizations such as the UN and the Red Cross. The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office has also prioritized the cholera epidemic that has claimed the lives of around 500 people and affected some 50,000 Haitians this year.

**AFP -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131127/eu-give-haiti-251-mln-humanitarian-aid**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/afp/131127/eu-give-haiti-251-mln-humanitarian-aid)

**Honduras**

**Fresh protests keep political tensions high**

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied in the streets of Honduras's capital Thursday to support the leftist presidential candidate from whom they believe victory was snatched. The Supreme Electoral Tribunal says the conservative Juan Orlando Hernandez won the vote with an unbeatable 36.35% lead after Sunday's presidential election, against 28.91% for leftist Xiomara Castro, wife of ousted ex-president Manuel Zelaya. It was the third day running that hundreds of students rallied to support Castro, who would be impoverished Honduras's first woman president if elected. Castro's campaign accuses the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of manipulating 19% of the votes to favor Hernandez. It plans to call massive street protests over the alleged fraud.

**AFP -**

[**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5juRJ1OdER9y98wu-QtryUUIIr52g?docId=5f46c1e6-deba-40fd-98b4-c16f923ee5f0&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5juRJ1OdER9y98wu-QtryUUIIr52g?docId=5f46c1e6-deba-40fd-98b4-c16f923ee5f0&hl=en)

**Nicaragua**

**Committee passes change to remove presidential term limits**

A Nicaraguan parliamentary committee on Thursday approved a constitutional change to remove presidential term limits, which could allow incumbent Daniel Ortega stay in power for years and has raised concerns about democracy in the country. The plan put forward this month by Ortega's ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front was passed by the four Sandinista members of the seven-strong committee, paving the way for a full vote on the package of changes in December. The 68-year-old Ortega, a prominent Cold War antagonist of the US, has yet to say publicly whether he wants to run again for the presidency in 2016. But the move looks likely to make the country the latest in a string of Latin American nations from Bolivia to Ecuador to give presidents power extending beyond their traditional limits.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/nicaragua-reform-idUKL2N0JE01H20131129**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/nicaragua-reform-idUKL2N0JE01H20131129)

MENA

**Egypt**

**Heavy prison sentence for Islamist women, girls**

Nearly two dozen Islamist women and girls, some as young as 15, were handed heavy prison sentences for protesting in a court ruling that came a day after police beat and terrorized prominent female activists in a crackdown on secular demonstrators under a tough new anti-protest law. The harshness of the sentences and the scenes a day earlier were new signs that the military-backed government is becoming bolder in silencing dissent, turning to abuses reminiscent of the Hosni Mubarak era. Authorities have been justifying tougher measures as needed to fight terrorism and bring stability -- while they also appear to be exploiting divisions among secular democracy activists. They were convicted on charges related to holding an 31 October protest in the city demanding Morsi's reinstatement. Among them were seven teenagers aged 15 and 16, who were sentenced to prison terms until they turn 18. The rest -- most aged 18 to 22 -- were sentenced to 11 years in prison. Six other Brotherhood members were sentenced to 15 years in prison for inciting the demonstrations.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-heavy-prison-sentence-islamist-women-21035888**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/egypt-heavy-prison-sentence-islamist-women-21035888)

**Police arrest leading activist for urging protests**

Egyptian police arrested a leading activist for calling for protests in breach of a new law that heavily restricts demonstrations. Alaa Abdel Fattah, a symbol of the 2011 uprising against President Hosni Mubarak, was arrested at his home, security officials said. He had earlier issued a statement saying he planned to turn himself into the prosecutor on Saturday. The protest law passed on Sunday has heightened fears about the future of political freedoms in Egypt after the military deposed President Mohamed Mursi in July. It gives the Interior Ministry the right to ban any meeting of more than 10 people in a public place. Rights groups say it is deeply repressive.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128210129-51kwj/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128210129-51kwj/?source=hpbreaking)

**Iran**

**Seven killed in quake, no damage to nuclear station reported**

At least seven people were killed in an earthquake in Iran on Thursday near the city of Bushehr, where the country's sole nuclear power plant is situated, state news agency IRNA reported. The earthquake, which had a magnitude of 5.6, struck about 60km) northeast of Bushehr on the Gulf coast, according to USGS data. No damage to the nuclear plant was reported. IRNA said seven people had died, and quoted the governor of Bushehr saying there was "total calm" in the area. Relief teams had been sent to the affected towns and villages, he said. Helicopters will be dispatched on Friday to assess the damage, said Fars news agency, which put the death toll slightly higher, at eight. Hossein Derakhshan, a spokesman for the Red Crescent, said there had been some damage to houses in the area because they were traditionally built and not earthquake-proof, according to news agency ISNA.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128190720-3cfh6/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128190720-3cfh6/?source=hpbreaking)

**Iraq**

**Police say 18 people killed execution-style near Baghdad**

Iraqi police have uncovered the bodies of 18 people who were abducted from their homes and killed execution-style in a town near Baghdad, two police sources said. The corpses were found grouped together and shot in the head in Meshahda, around 32 km north of Baghdad, police and a source at the capital's morgue said. It was the deadliest in a series of execution-style killings which are on the rise in Iraq.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE9AS07020131129**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/29/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE9AS07020131129)

**Libya**

**UN to send guard force to Tripoli**

The United Nations is to send a 235-strong special force to Libya to protect UN staff because of increasing attacks in the country, officials said Wednesday. The UN Security Council has agreed a request by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to send the force, China's UN ambassador Liu Jieyi said. Ban said in a letter to the council that UN staff are "at increased risk of attack" because of worsening tensions and "the lack of reliable national security forces." The force, probably to be taken from UN peacekeeping missions, would guard the UN base in Tripoli. "This would act as a deterrent against extremist elements who are not welcoming of foreign personnel," Ban commented. He added that the guards could also help evacuate the more than 200 staff in the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/un-send-guard-force-libya-215443808.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/un-send-guard-force-libya-215443808.html)

**More than 40 killed in depot blast, more clashes in east**

More than 40 people were killed on Thursday in an explosion at an army depot in southern Libya after locals had tried to steal ammunition and four soldiers died in other violence in the restive east, officials said. The blast in Brak al-Chati, near the main southern city of Sabha, happened after a group of 43 locals and Africans were entering the army depot to steal ammunition, a security official said. The casualties could rise further as the depot was still on fire and people might be trapped inside, the official said. The four soldiers were killed in Benghazi as clashes erupted between army special forces and militant Islamists of the Ansar al-Sharia group, officials said. The trouble started when soldiers stopped a car loaded with weapons, explosives and large amount of money. Another soldier was assassinated by unknown gunmen in the morning in another part of the city, a security source said. Fighting had initially started on Monday between army special forces and members of the Ansar Sharia in Benghazi. At least nine people were killed before the Islamists retreated from their main base. Three more soldiers were killed on Wednesday. Army officials went on nationwide television on Thursday to appeal to the Islamists and other militias to lay down their weapons in Benghazi and start a dialogue.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/28/us-libya-explosion-idUSBRE9AR0RQ20131128**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/11/28/us-libya-explosion-idUSBRE9AR0RQ20131128)

**Sudan**

**Statement of UN RC/HC on killing of two MoH staff in West Darfur - UNICEF mention**

The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Ali Al-Za’tari, strongly condemns the killing of two Sudanese Ministry of Health staff, a vaccinator and a driver, who were part of a team vaccinating vulnerable children against measles in West Darfur. “My deepest condolences go to the family and friends of those killed,” said Mr Al-Za’tari. “I call on all parties to ensure the protection of all personnel working to deliver assistance to populations in need throughout Sudan,” he said. UNICEF and the WHO are helping to ensure that every child in Sudan is getting vaccinated, whoever they are and wherever they live.

**OCHA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/statement-un-rchc-sudan-killing-two-moh-staff-west-darfur-29-november-2013**](http://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/statement-un-rchc-sudan-killing-two-moh-staff-west-darfur-29-november-2013)

**Syria**

**Fighting rages near Damascus, missile hits Raqa**

Rebels and loyalists have clashed on two key fronts near Damascus, as a missile hit Raqa city in the north, killing six people and wounding 30, reported the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The frontline battles raged around the Qalamoun area that links Damascus to the city of Homs and east of the capital where rebels are fighting to break a year-long siege, said the Observatory. The clashes early on 28 November morning were especially fierce around Qalamoun's Deir Attiyeh which rebels, including jihadist fighters, seized from the army last week. In Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus, battles raged in the Marj area days after rebels launched an offensive aimed at breaking the siege on opposition-held areas. 'Nine rebels were killed around Marj, as were three members of Hezbollah. In the city of Raqa, a surface-to-surface missile launched overnight from Damascus province killed at least six people and wounded at least 30 others, including two women, said the Observatory. Raqa is the only provincial capital in Syria to have fallen out of regime hands since the start of the country's war more than 32 months ago. It is now under jihadist control, but activists have frequently accused the army of targeting only civilian areas of Raqa, rather than parts of the city where the feared Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is positioned. In Aleppo province's Atareb, ISIL executed Hassan Jazra and six members of his Ghuraba al-Sham battalion, after it had accused them of theft and looting.

**AFP -** [**http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=929079**](http://www.skynews.com.au/world/article.aspx?id=929079)

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/scud-missiles-hit-syrian-city-activists-2013112820721445314.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/scud-missiles-hit-syrian-city-activists-2013112820721445314.html)

**Tunisia**

**More than 50 police officers injured in clashes**

More than 50 Tunisian police officers were injured, two seriously, during clashes with demonstrators in the town of Siliana, the interior ministry reported. The clashes broke out as the town held a general strike and demonstration to mark the first anniversary of a police crackdown on a peaceful protest, in which 173 people were injured by police buckshot fire. Protesters clashed with police and torched an office of Tunisia's ruling party, as strikes degenerated into violence in two marginalised towns, amid rising discontent and political deadlock. The regions of Siliana, Gafsa and Gabes ground to a halt as strikes were observed to protest against poverty and lack of development. In Siliana, southwest of Tunis, dozens of demonstrators hurled rocks at police, who tried to disperse them by driving into the crowd and firing tear gas. The protesters placed burning tyres in the town centre, where stones littered the streets and sporadic clashes continued into the early evening. In the poor central region of Gafsa, police fired tear gas to scatter protesters trying to break into the governor's office, with hundreds of people then attacking the headquarters of the ruling party Ennahda. The protesters torched the office and prevented fire crews from gaining access.

**DPA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_11\_28/More-than-50-police-injured-in-Tunisia-clashes-4596/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_11_28/More-than-50-police-injured-in-Tunisia-clashes-4596/)

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hYNrCKgVSRdY2ynCtsYNPUpzYy\_Q?docId=02809f35-cedc-43b8-b352-b96162a650c4&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hYNrCKgVSRdY2ynCtsYNPUpzYy_Q?docId=02809f35-cedc-43b8-b352-b96162a650c4&hl=en)

ROSA

**Afghanistan**

**President condemns US airstrike that killed a child, wounded two women**

Afghanistan's president Hamid Karzai said US forces had bombed a home in Helmand killing a small child and wounding two women on Thursday and condemned the attack as another sign of disregard for civilian life, his spokesman said. The strike could not have come at a worse time, as Karzai is engaged in a stand-off with the American government over a bilateral security agreement that will help shape the presence of US troops in Afghanistan after 2014. "It shows that US forces have no respect for the decisions of the Loya Jirga [council of elders] and life of civilians in Afghanistan," said Karzai's spokesman, Aimal Faizi.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128195954-pq21c/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128195954-pq21c/?source=hpbreaking)

**Bangladesh**

**UN to send envoy amid rising violence**

An UN envoy will visit Bangladesh to hold talks with political parties about ending an election standoff that has sparked deadly violence, an official reported on 28 November. The UN assistant secretary general for political Affairs will arrive on 6 December to hold discussions on "election preparations", the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary reported. He would not give details of the four-day visit, which comes as the main opposition holds deadly street protests against the timing of the 5 January 2014 elections and threatens a boycott. But a mass-circulation newspaper, Daily Star, without naming sources, said the envoy would carry "a strong message" from the UN chief to rival political leaders to hold "free, fair, credible and inclusive" polls. There was no immediate comment from the UN office in Bangladesh.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/107600-u-n-to-send-envoy-to-bangladesh-amid-rising-violence**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/107600-u-n-to-send-envoy-to-bangladesh-amid-rising-violence)

**Nepal**

**Vote likely to end in coalition, instability**

Elections appear to have resolved little in politically fractious Nepal as near-complete results released Thursday make a fifth consecutive coalition government -- and continuing instability -- all but certain. The country has stumbled through the last five years with no constitution and parliamentary paralysis in addressing chronic problems like poverty, fuel shortages and corruption. None of the 122 parties that competed in the 19 November elections received a clear majority, according to near-complete results from the vote-counting. A final tally was expected by Saturday. The country's many parties have argued chronically over the years about who gets to be the PM, whether the president should have executive powers and whether to divide the country into a federal system based on ethnicity or geography.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nepal-vote-end-coalition-instability-21039263**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nepal-vote-end-coalition-instability-21039263)

**Sri Lanka**

**Authorities begin war tally after international pressure**

Sri Lanka was to begin compiling a death toll from its ethnic conflict Thursday as it seeks to fend off growing pressure over allegations of mass killings at the end of the war. Some 16,000 officials are expected to fan out across the island at the start of a six-month operation to compile a definitive toll from the conflict, which ran for 37 years and was one of the bloodiest in post-colonial Asia. In a brief statement on President Mahinda Rajapakse's website on Wednesday, the government said the department of census of statistics would conduct what it called an "island-wide census to assess the loss of human life and damage to property", adding that the work would begin on 28 November. The announcement came after Rajapakse hosted a Commonwealth summit this month which was overshadowed by allegations of war crimes committed by government troops in the final stages of the conflict in May 2009. UN bodies and rights groups have said that as many as 40,000 civilians may have died in the final phase of the conflict.

**AFP -** [**http://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/20049474/sri-lanka-begins-war-tally-after-international-pressure/**](http://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/20049474/sri-lanka-begins-war-tally-after-international-pressure/)

WCARO

**Across WCARO**

**Humanitarian actors in the Sahel start work on a three-year response plan**

A workshop chaired by the UN Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator in the Sahel, brings together humanitarian actors, donors and Government representatives from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and The Gambia, from 28 – 29 November in Dakar. More than 150 participants discuss and consolidate the anticipated needs of the Sahel countries and define strategic objectives for the humanitarian response. The regional humanitarian needs overview will include projections for 2014 and form the basis for a three-year Strategic Response Plan for the Sahel. The Plan will be launched in February, covering all nine Sahel countries and replacing the national Consolidated Appeal Processes (CAP) used in previous years. It aims at supporting governments and humanitarians in the planning, coordination and implementation of their humanitarian work. This includes the improved identification and targeting of vulnerable populations in the Sahel, ensuring early response to emergencies and life-saving assistance for people in need, and building communities’ capacity to cope with future crises.

**OCHA -** [**http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2013.28.11%20-%20Press%20release%20HNO.pdf**](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2013.28.11%20-%20Press%20release%20HNO.pdf)

**CAR**

**Ex-rebels seize on chaos to loot, pillage**

The motley crew of fighters who overthrew the CAR's government in March are raging beyond their leader's control, terrorising civilians and pushing the country toward civil war, analysts say. What started as a movement to oust then-president Francois Bozize has gone off-script, the mostly Muslim Seleka fighters burning and pillaging villages, the majority Christian population responding with their own militias that have themselves killed innocent Muslims in reprisal. "These armed groups are taking advantage of the situation to carry out raids and massacres. Villages are being burnt and looted. The residents are either killed or flee to the bush," said Jean-Marie Fardeau, director of Human Rights Watch's French office. France said it would send about 1,000 soldiers to bolster its current mission of 410 troops and help a struggling African mission to stabilise the country. France has also proposed a United Nations Security Council resolution authorising international troops to use force to stop ongoing atrocities.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g9bC9hYAKRWkQQujv7pMBVjoniFg?docId=2f448140-6f18-4232-b9ec-00465a82d508&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g9bC9hYAKRWkQQujv7pMBVjoniFg?docId=2f448140-6f18-4232-b9ec-00465a82d508&hl=en)

**French troops arrive in Bangui**

French troops have started to deploy to the CAR in preparation for an intervention to restore order, eight months after Seleka rebels ousted president Francois Bozize's government. Citing an aiport source, the AFP news agency reported that the French military had airlifted men and equipment to Bangui. "French military aircraft have made several round trips in the past few hours coming mainly from Gabon, to bring in supplies," the source said. "Many patrol vehicles and troop transports, [including] light armoured vehicles, have arrived from Cameroon by road and headed directly for the M'poko military base," which is MISCA headquarters near Bangui, a CAR military source said. "Ground reconnaissance missions and joint patrols are being carried out right now by teams of [French foreign] legionnaires and men from the 410-strong [French] force already located in Bangui," the source added.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/11/french-troops-arrive-central-africa-20131128164431354881.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/11/french-troops-arrive-central-africa-20131128164431354881.html)

**Religious violence prompts genocide fears**

Shocked by an escalation of killings, rapes and other abuses committed by Muslims against Christians, and vice versa, in the CAR, leading clerics from both faiths recently travelled together to preach peace and listen to tales of horror. The level of violence, lawless and impunity that prevails in CAR - where a "human catastrophe of epic proportions is unfolding", according to Amnesty International - is so great that Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga and Oumar-Kobine Layama, the country's leading imam, had to travel under an armed escort. The Bossangoa's bishop, Nestor Aziagba, and Imam Layama both spoke of their fears of a genocide, a prospect also recently evoked by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, senior UN officials as well as human rights activists.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99216/religious-violence-and-the-seeds-of-hate-in-car**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99216/religious-violence-and-the-seeds-of-hate-in-car)

**Washington Post**

[**http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/averting-genocide-in-the-central-african-republic/2013/11/28/8faa6446-57bb-11e3-8304-caf30787c0a9\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/averting-genocide-in-the-central-african-republic/2013/11/28/8faa6446-57bb-11e3-8304-caf30787c0a9_story.html)

**Country needs many more peacekeepers**

CAR needs up to four times more peacekeepers than are currently deployed to quell the worsening sectarian conflict and provide security for aid workers, the European Union's top humanitarian official said. France is preparing to boost its force to at least 1,000 soldiers once a UN resolution is passed in December to improve security until a 3,600-strong African Union force is operational. Paris already has around 400 troops based at the airport in Bangui. Around 2,500 regional peacekeepers deployed in the country are to be brought into the AU force. "Clearly what needs to be done is beefing up of peacekeeping forces. Tripling or quadrupling what is there," EU aid chief Kristalina Georgieva said, warning they face a twin risk of a Somalia-like state collapse and potential genocide. "Unless there is an immediate, significant change in security conditions, these two risks can deepen so much that we have a tragedy on our hands. And we'll look back and say 'why didn't we act sooner'," she said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128121453-bdpnu/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128121453-bdpnu/?source=hpbreaking)

**DR Congo**

**UN calls for immediate action after reported killings of children in Kinshasa - UNICEF mention**

The UN called on the DR Congo to take immediate action in light of alarming reports of disappearance and assassination of children and youth that coincide with a Government operation to tackle delinquency in Kinshasa. “According to information received, which is currently being verified, at least 20 people, including 12 children, have been reportedly killed,” stated a news release issued by UNICEF and the UN peacekeeping mission in DRC (MONUSCO). The two organizations said the “alarming” reports of disappearance and assassination of young men and children coincide with the start of ‘Operation Likofi’ (Punch) which DR Congo authorities began a week ago to curb urban delinquency in the capital. “UNICEF and MONUSCO call for immediate steps to be taken by DR Congo authorities to put an end to such acts,” they stated.

**UN News Centre -** [**http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46604&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo.UpbIX4so7cs**](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46604&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo.UpbIX4so7cs)

**Guinea-Bissau**

**Newly-found HIV strain leads more quickly to AIDS**

Researchers say a new strain of HIV found in West Africa leads to faster development of AIDS. Scientists based at Sweden's Lund University say the new strain, known as A3/O2, is a cross between the two most common strains in Guinea-Bissau. Their study found people infected with the new strain develop AIDS in about five years, more than a year faster than people with one of the initial strains alone. They say people with A3/02 are also three times more likely to develop AIDS and suffer an AIDS-related death. The university says that so far, the new strain has been identified only in West Africa. But it notes that around the globe, other strains are combining, raising the risk of harder-to-treat strains of HIV. The findings were based on a study of 152 people with HIV in Guinea-Bissau.

**VoA -** [**http://www.voanews.com/content/newlyfound-hiv-strain-leads-more-quickly-to-aids/1799800.html**](http://www.voanews.com/content/newlyfound-hiv-strain-leads-more-quickly-to-aids/1799800.html)

**Mali**

**Election to enter second round on 15 December**

Mali's parliamentary elections will enter a second round on 15 December as no party has secured an absolute majority in the first round, according to provisional results published Wednesday. Turnout in the 24 November polls reached 38.4%, "far short of our expectations," said Minister of Territorial Administration Moussa Sinko Coulibaly, as he announced the results. Some 6.5 million Malians were eligible to vote for a new national assembly, with more than 1,000 candidates running for the 147 seats. The polls marked Mali's first steps to recovery after it was plunged into chaos by a military coup in March last year that triggered the fall of the country's north into the hands of armed Islamist groups allied with Al-Qaeda. They finalised a process begun with the election of its first post-conflict leader in August. Foreign and national monitors welcomed the smooth running of the election, which was generally peaceful apart from a few violent incidents in the north by Tuareg separatists. The observers nonetheless regretted the low turnout.

**AFP -** [**http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h-sTU0h38b6tlCzsfZIa1zxQ82mg?docId=f49ef59a-4847-45e0-9c23-87c46096f4a1&hl=en**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h-sTU0h38b6tlCzsfZIa1zxQ82mg?docId=f49ef59a-4847-45e0-9c23-87c46096f4a1&hl=en)

**Three rebels dead after gun battle in the north**

A gun battle between the National Movement for the Liberation of the Azawad (MNLA) rebel group and the national army has left three separatist fighters dead in Kidal in northern Mali, officials said on 28 November. Fighters from the MNLA opened fire on roads leading to the airport, ahead of the expected arrival of the Malian Prime Minister. "There's panic in the city," said a military source. Officials said the premier's trip was canceled. The incident came as officials in Bamako were preparing to hold a run-off vote on 15 December for parliamentary elections after no party won an absolute majority in the first round at the weekend.

**DPA -** [**http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013\_11\_28/Astakhov-gets-in-touch-with-Russian-orphan-who-escaped-from-adoptive-parents-in-US-one-year-ago-2878/**](http://voiceofrussia.com/news/2013_11_28/Astakhov-gets-in-touch-with-Russian-orphan-who-escaped-from-adoptive-parents-in-US-one-year-ago-2878/)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128214632-adanq/?source=hpbreaking**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128214632-adanq/?source=hpbreaking)

**Conflict shuts down almost all healthcare centres in north - UNICEF mention**

The persistent conflict in Mali has deprived most people in the north of the country of regular access to healthcare, according to ICRC. UNICEF estimates that the conflict affected more than 2.8 million people. In October there were 283,000 IDPs and 169,000 refugees. ICRC said public services in the north had collapsed, medical facilities were no longer able to operate and local people had no regular healthcare apart from a hospital in Gao and a few community health centres funded by the ICRC. "It is very hard for many Malians, especially young children and pregnant women, who are particularly vulnerable, but also war casualties, to obtain treatment," said Katherine Zimmermann, health coordinator for ICRC in Mali. ICRC healthcare workers have noted a particularly high infant mortality rate in the hospital they are supporting in Gao. Northern Mali has also been plagued by hunger since the beginning of the conflict. In September the UN announced that three out of four families there did not have enough food. UNICEF estimates that 210,000 children under five will suffer from severely acute malnutrition.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20131128174017-whalk/?source=hptop**](http://www.trust.org/item/20131128174017-whalk/?source=hptop)

**Mauritania**

**Voter priorities following elections - UNICEF mention**

As votes come in following Mauritania's 23 November general and local elections, the party of the Mauritanian President, Union for the Republic, looks likely to emerge the winner, with Twassoul party in second place. Voter participation estimates range from 46%, according to Twassoul, to 60%, with many voters describing the elections as being only about candidates' connections rather than policy or real change. While Twassoul took part, other main opposition parties boycotted the elections, having reportedly called them a "masquerade", accusing the ruling party of not giving them enough of a voice. At least 2,000 people were displaced and hundreds of houses were flooded in Sebkha during September's heavy rains, but the local authorities took three weeks to respond to the crisis, eventually making two water pumps available to discharge water. Until then, residents had taken charge of helping each other, with families delivering hot meals to the displaced, while NGO World Vision helped remove stagnant water and distributed mosquito nets. Only half of Mauritania's city-dwellers and just under half of its rural inhabitants have access to an improved water source, according to UNICEF's 2010 figures.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/99215/voter-priorities-following-mauritania-elections**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/99215/voter-priorities-following-mauritania-elections)