**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Monday, 08 September 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [GENERAL](#GENERAL) | **Across Regions** | Indian Ocean nations in tsunami test this week |
|  |  | WMO pares El Nino expectations, weak event still likely |
|  |  | West widens contacts with Syria's Kurds but suspicion remains |
| [CEE/CIS](#CEECIS) | **Russia** | Russia hints at flight ban in response to new sanctions |
|  | **Ukraine** | "Shaky" Ukraine ceasefire holding, OSCE urges political solution |
|  |  | Rebels have handed over 1,200 POWs so far to Ukraine – president |
|  |  | Mounting evidence of war crimes and Russian involvement |
| [EAP](#EAP) | **Philippines** | Philippines government and Church to take action against worsening violence in schools |
| [ESA](#ESA) | **Kenya** | Leader ICC trial shelved |
|  | **Lesotho** | Military action 'only option' against renegade general |
|  | **Somalia** | AU troops accused of raping Somali women: HRW |
|  |  | Al-Shabaab names new leader |
|  |  | Bomb targets African troops in Somalia, 3 civilians dead-police |
| [LAC](#LAC) | **Across LAC** | Drought puts spotlight on Central American climate change |
|  | **Mexico** | Hurricane Norbert forces 1,000 people to evacuate |
| [MENA](#MENA) | **Across MENA** | Grand mufti urges Muslims to confront IS |
|  |  | New UN rights boss warns of "house of blood" in Iraq, Syria |
|  | **Iraq** | Civilians killed as Iraqi forces raid Kirkuk |
|  |  | Kurds to hold final meeting on participating in the next Iraqi government |
|  | **Lebanon** | IS executes second Lebanese soldier |
|  | **Libya** | Former general's forces and militants clash in Benghazi |
|  |  | Twelve killed in clashes west of Tripoli |
|  |  | Libyan armed groups may have committed war crimes in Tripoli-HRW |
|  | **State of Palestine** | Abbas threatens to end Hamas unity deal |
|  |  | Over 100 of UNRWA installations damaged during Israeli onslaught |
|  | **Syria** | Syrian air strikes on Islamic State positions kill 60 civilians-activists |
|  |  | Former French hostage says Brussels attack suspect was among his captors in Syria. |
|  | **Yemen** | Protester killed as Yemen police crack-down on sit-in |
| [SA](#SA) | **Across SA** | Torrential monsoon rainfall kills over 230 people in India and Pakistan |
|  |  | Air Force distributes relief material for flood affected areas in J-K |
|  | **Pakistan** | Pakistan opposition says making progress in govt talks to end protests |
| [WCA](#WCA) | **Across WCA** | Nigeria, Chad presidents to discuss insurgency: statement |
|  | **Nigeria** | Most of Borno under Boko Haram |
|  |  | Nigeria says retakes Bama, blocks Boko Haram move on Borno state capital |
|  |  | Boko Haram militants attack northeast town near Cameroon border |
|  | **Sierra Leone** | Canadian Ebola mobile laboratory team heads back to Sierra Leone |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Indian Ocean nations in tsunami test this week**

A decade after the strongest tsunami in living memory, 24 countries will take part in a UNESCO-backed simulation exercise this week to test their capacity to forecast and tackle similar disasters. The exercise will simulate a 9.1-magnitude earthquake south of the Indonesian island of Java beginning on 9 September. A second 9.0-magnitude quake will be simulated at the Makran Trench south of Iran and Pakistan. The test is designed to examine an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system put in place after the December 2004 disaster.

**UNESCO –** [**http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/indian\_ocean\_wide\_tsunami\_exercise\_to\_test\_readiness\_ten\_years\_after\_the\_2004\_disaster/back/9597/#.VAqnNWjD\_cs**](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/indian_ocean_wide_tsunami_exercise_to_test_readiness_ten_years_after_the_2004_disaster/back/9597/#.VAqnNWjD_cs)

**WMO pares El Nino expectations, weak event still likely**

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) now sees less chance of El Nino conditions forming this year than it did three months ago and expects only a weak El Nino event if it occurs at all, it said in a statement on Monday. During El Nino events, surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific become substantially warmer than normal, a phenomenon that is strongly linked to major climate fluctuations around the world and can last for a year or more.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908124431-enms8/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908124431-enms8/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**West widens contacts with Syria's Kurds but suspicion remains**

The fight against Islamic State could at last win Syria's Kurds the Western help they have sought, but they must first clarify their relationship to President Bashar al-Assad and reassure Turkey that they won't cause trouble on its border. The US has entered the war against Islamic State fighters in Iraq with air strikes, but is still trying to decide a strategy for fighting the group on the other side of the frontier in Syria. In Iraq, Kurds are one of the main Western allies against Islamic State. But in Syria, where Kurdish militia have carved out a swathe of northern territory and repeatedly battled against Islamic State during a three-and-a-half year civil war, Kurds have yet to win the West's acceptance as partners.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908103256-qtk7j/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908103256-qtk7j/?source=search)

CEE/CIS

**Russia**

**Russia hints at flight ban in response to new sanctions**

Russia signalled on Monday it might ban Western airlines from flying over its territory as part of an "asymmetrical" response to new EU sanctions over the Ukraine crisis. Blaming the West for damaging the Russian economy by triggering "stupid" sanctions, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Moscow would press on with measures to reduce reliance on imports, starting with increasing output of domestic aircraft. Medvedev suggested Russia should have hit back harder over the action by the US and EU to punish Moscow for its role in Ukraine, saying it had been too patient in the worst confrontation with the West since the Cold War.

**Reuters-** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908124213-mniza/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908124213-mniza/?source=search)

**Ukraine**

**"Shaky" Ukraine ceasefire holding, OSCE urges political solution**

A ceasefire struck between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists was largely holding on Monday in eastern Ukraine despite sporadic violations, but Europe's security watchdog said the sides must push for a political settlement. The ceasefire, which took effect on Friday evening, is part of a peace plan intended to end a five-month conflict the United Nations' human rights envoy said had killed more than 3,000 people. It has also caused the sharpest confrontation between Russia and the West since the Cold War.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908114237-ax6c8/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908114237-ax6c8/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**Rebels have handed over 1,200 POWs so far to Ukraine – president**

Pro-Russian separatists have so far handed over about 1,200 prisoners-of-war to the Ukrainian side under the terms of a ceasefire agreement, President Petro Poroshenko said on Monday. The two sides are meant to exchange all their POWs under the terms of the ceasefire accord, clinched last Friday. Poroshenko was speaking during a visit to Mariupol, a port city in the east of Ukraine which the rebels advanced towards last week before the ceasefire took effect.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908133103-pa9qc/?source=jtTheWire**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908133103-pa9qc/?source=jtTheWire)

**Mounting evidence of war crimes and Russian involvement**

Ukrainian militia and separatist forces are responsible for war crimes, Amnesty International said. The organization accused Russia of fuelling separatist crimes as it revealed satellite images indicating a build-up of Russian armour and artillery in eastern Ukraine. Despite a fragile cease-fire, the situation on the ground remains fraught with danger and Amnesty International calls on all parties, including Russia, to stop violations of the laws of war. Amnesty International researchers on the ground in eastern Ukraine have documented incidents of indiscriminate shelling, abductions, torture, and killings.

**AI -** [**http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/ukraine-mounting-evidence-of-war-crimes-and-russian-involvement**](http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/news-item/ukraine-mounting-evidence-of-war-crimes-and-russian-involvement)

EAP

**Philippines**

**Government and Church to take action against worsening violence in schools**

A task force made up of different state agencies has been formed to address the worsening violence attributed to youth organizations. President Benigno Aquino III shares the concern of many parents and educators over the violations of the Anti-Hazing Law. The task force seeks to address the need to ensure justice for fatal victims of hazing and their families. At the same time, we have to look at whether the law can be improved so that its objectives are met.

**Gulf News -** [**http://gulfnews.com/news/world/philippines/philippines-government-and-church-to-take-action-against-worsening-violence-in-schools-1.1381844**](http://gulfnews.com/news/world/philippines/philippines-government-and-church-to-take-action-against-worsening-violence-in-schools-1.1381844)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Leader ICC trial shelved**

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court have asked for the case against the Kenyan President to be adjourned indefinitely. The ICC chief prosecutor said she still did not have enough evidence to proceed with the trial, which was due to resume next month. The Kenyan President is charged with crimes against humanity after some 1,200 people were killed and 600,000 driven from their homes. The ICC chief prosecutor said that the case should be delayed "until such time the government of Kenya executes the [prosecution's] revised request in full.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29083115**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29083115)

**Lesotho**

**Military action 'only option' against renegade general**

Lesotho's army commander said on 7 September that military action was now the only option against a general accused of masterminding an attempted coup, and appealed to neighbouring states for assistance. The Lieutenant General Maaparankoe Mahao reported from Maseru that efforts to negotiate with the renegade general after the coup bid had failed. The army chief was frank about the difficulties he would face in taking on Tlali Kamoli, who has taken to the mountains with a seized cache of weapons including artillery, mortars and small arms. Mahao called on Kamoli to surrender and negotiate, but said his predecessor seemed bent on military confrontation.

**AFP -** [**http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Renegade-Lesotho-general-seizes-weapons-20140905-4**](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Renegade-Lesotho-general-seizes-weapons-20140905-4)

**AFP -** [**http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/army-chief-military-action-only-option-1.1747162#.VAxCm2jD\_cs**](http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/army-chief-military-action-only-option-1.1747162#.VAxCm2jD_cs)

**News24 -** [**http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/SA-police-help-hunt-Lesotho-coup-plotter-20140907**](http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/SA-police-help-hunt-Lesotho-coup-plotter-20140907)

**Somalia**

**AU troops accused of raping Somali women: HRW**

AMISOM troops in Somalia have gang-raped women and girls as young as 12 and traded food aid for sex, Human Rights Watch, the US-based rights group, says. "Some of the women who were raped said that the soldiers gave them food or money afterwards in an apparent attempt to frame the assault as transactional sex," HRW said in a report on Monday. AMISOM said the alleged rapes were "isolated" incidents and called the report "unbalanced and unfair".

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/09/au-troops-accused-raping-somali-women-201498104526450714.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/09/au-troops-accused-raping-somali-women-201498104526450714.html)

**Al-Shabaab names new leader**

Al-Shabaab, named a new leader Saturday after confirming the killing of their previous leader by a US airstrike, a commander of the group said. The militants unanimously selected Ahmad Umar, also known as Abu Ubaidah, at a meeting in an undisclosed location in Somalia, said rebel commander Abu Mohammed. Al-Shabaab also stated that it remains aligned with al-Qaida. The cases investigated by HRW involved troops from Burundi and Uganda.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/somalia-warns-attacks-revenge-godane-death-25310293**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/somalia-warns-attacks-revenge-godane-death-25310293)

**Bomb targets African troops in Somalia, 3 civilians dead-police**

A roadside bomb exploded near an AU convoy southwest of the Somali capital Mogadishu on Monday, killing at least three civilians who were on buses next to the blast, a senior police officer said. The AU convoy and several public buses were in the area, about 20 km from Mogadishu, when the bomb detonated, leaving two civilian buses badly damaged, senior police officer Major Hussein Ahmed told Reuters. "I have counted three dead civilians. The death toll is sure to rise," he said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908124143-fh8jy/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908124143-fh8jy/?source=search)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Drought puts spotlight on Central American climate change**

At least 2.5 million people in four countries – Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras - are struggling to feed themselves because a severe drought has shrunk harvests and raised food prices, weakening the fragile food supply. The worst affected area is the "dry corridor" running across the region, which is also its bread basket. “The situation can get worse. If the drought continues we may face a humanitarian crisis at the end of the year,” said the WFP’s regional director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**WFP -** [**http://www.wfp.org/stories/drought-coffee-rust-high-food-prices-25-million-central-americans-need-food-aid**](http://www.wfp.org/stories/drought-coffee-rust-high-food-prices-25-million-central-americans-need-food-aid)

**Mexico**

**Hurricane Norbert forces 1,000 people to evacuate**

Hurricane Norbert grew into a category two hurricane on the five-level Saffir-Simpson scale, packing maximum sustained winds of 155 km per hour and crept up just off Mexico's Pacific coast, dumping heavy rain that forced 1,000 people to take refuge in shelters while government workers were told to stay home. Norbert was blowing hurricane-force winds just offshore of the coast of the Baja California peninsula as it moved northwest at 13 km per hour, as it churned some 135 km from Cabo San Lazaro. The Cabo San Lucas Mayor said that several rural communities lacked power or drinking water and that authorities were unable to communicate with them.

**AFP -** [**http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/hurricane-norbert-forces/1348968.html**](http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/hurricane-norbert-forces/1348968.html)

MENA

**Across Region**

**Grand mufti urges Muslims to confront IS**

Grand Mufti Abdul Aziz Al-Asheikh has urged Muslims to confront the "oppressive" Islamic State jihadists if they fight Muslims after seizing swaths of Iraq and Syria. "If they fight Muslims, then Muslims must fight them to rid people and religion of their evil and harm," he said in a response to a request from an Iraqi for a fatwa or edict on fighting IS. "They have been killing ever since they began their fight. Their killing is filled with mutilations and hideousness that distort (the image of) Muslims," Al-Asheikh said.

**Arab -** [**http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/627026**](http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/627026)

**New UN rights boss warns of "house of blood" in Iraq, Syria**

The new UN human rights chief urged world powers on Monday to protect women and minorities targeted by Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, saying the fighters were trying to create a "house of blood". Jordan's Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein, the first Muslim to hold the position, called for the international community to focus on ending the "increasingly conjoined" conflict in the two countries, and abuses in other hotspots from Ukraine to Gaza.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908111101-f4rxp/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908111101-f4rxp/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Iraq**

**Civilians killed as Iraqi forces raid Kirkuk**

Iraqi army helicopters have conducted airstrikes in the northern Kirkuk province, killing at least seven people and injuring 20 others, as the military pursued Islamic State fighters in the country's north. The troops targeted several neighbourhoods in the city of Hawijah. Among those who were killed were two women, who were hit when the government forces struck a maternity and children's wards of a hospital in the Sunni-dominated city south of Kirkuk. In the province of Nineveh, which includes the strategic city of Mosul, government forces led by Kurdish armed fighters had also reportedly killed six IS fighters as they recaptured four towns and villages.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/civilians-killed-as-iraqi-forces-raid-kirkuk-2014968512697621.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/civilians-killed-as-iraqi-forces-raid-kirkuk-2014968512697621.html)

**Kurds to hold final meeting on participating in the next Iraqi government**

Iraq's Kurdish political bloc is heading back to Iraqi Kurdistan for a final meeting on Monday to decide whether to participate in the next national government, the Kurds' top negotiator Hoshiyar Zebari told Reuters. "We are going back today to Suleimaniya to have a decisive meeting with the Kurdish leaders on the status of the talks and the Kurds' share of the government," Zebari said. "The decision will be the Kurds' final decision either way."

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908085413-x3uun/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908085413-x3uun/?source=search)

**Lebanon**

**IS executes second Lebanese soldier**

IS beheaded a second Lebanese soldier, a commander with the extremist group told Turkish news agency, blaming it on an escape attempt by the captive. The soldier, Abbas Medlej, 24 yrs old, was captured along with at least 27 of their colleagues from the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces during clashes with jihadists from IS and the Nusra Front in the northeastern town of Arsal.

**Daily star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Sep-06/269801-isis-executes-second-lebanese-soldier.ashx#axzz3CaFyPtUl**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2014/Sep-06/269801-isis-executes-second-lebanese-soldier.ashx#axzz3CaFyPtUl)

**Libya**

**Former general's forces and militants clash in Benghazi**Heavy clashes erupted between a former general's forces and militant fighters in the eastern city of Benghazi on Saturday. In response, Haftar's forces used helicopters to bomb camps of suspected Islamist militants. Haftar, who was once accused by the post-revolution government of trying to stage a coup against it, has declared war on several Islamist factions and teamed up with government forces in Benghazi. Three people were killed and three others wounded in the clashes.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/06/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0H10I120140906**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/06/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0H10I120140906)

**Twelve killed in clashes west of Tripoli**Around twelve people have been killed and ten wounded in a flare-up of clashes in shelling in Warshefana, between rival armed groups near the Libyan capital Tripoli. An alliance of armed groups called Operation Dawn, mainly from the western city of Misrata, seized the capital Tripoli last month after expelling a rival group from Zintan. Residents reported heavy shelling in the city on Saturday.   
**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0H20HU20140907**](http://af.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idAFKBN0H20HU20140907)

**Libyan armed groups may have committed war crimes in Tripoli-HRW**

Libyan armed factions' attacks on civilians and destruction of property over five weeks of fighting to control Tripoli may amount to war crimes, Human Rights Watch said on Monday. An alliance of armed groups from the western city of Misrata called Operation Dawn took Tripoli two weeks ago by expelling a rival faction from Zintan, part of growing turmoil that has beset the oil producer since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908120140-5gib8/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908120140-5gib8/?source=search)

**State of Palestine**

**Abbas threatens to end Hamas unity deal**

Mahmoud Abbas has threatened to break off a unity agreement with Hamas if the movement does not allow the government to operate properly in the Gaza Strip. Speaking in Cairo ahead of an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting, the Palestinian president accused Hamas of running a shadow government and said he wanted a single authority and a single system of rule.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/09/abbas-warns-he-may-end-unity-deal-with-hamas-20149794312283293.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2014/09/abbas-warns-he-may-end-unity-deal-with-hamas-20149794312283293.html)

**Over 100 of UNRWA installations damaged during Israeli onslaught**UNRWA said that 111 of its installations in the Gaza Strip had been damaged during the 50-day Israeli aggression on the enclave. It added that three of those installations were completely destroyed and are in need of reconstruction.

**EIN -** [**http://world.einnews.com/article/222484268/Uo6odrvw8cVDxf41**](http://world.einnews.com/article/222484268/Uo6odrvw8cVDxf41)

**Syria**

**Syrian air strikes on Islamic State positions kill 60 civilians-activists**

Syrian government warplanes killed at least 60 civilians including a dozen children in two days of air strikes on Islamic State-held territory at the weekend, activists said on Monday. President Bashar al-Assad's military has stepped up an aerial campaign over the last three months against Islamic State, an al Qaeda offshoot that controls about a third of Syria's territory, much of it desert in the north and east. The air strikes have hit a number of Islamic State targets but have also killed many civilians in territory under the group's control.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908113636-gq5r7/?source=jtOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908113636-gq5r7/?source=jtOtherNews2)

**Former French hostage says Brussels attack suspect was among his captors in Syria.**

Nicolas Henin, the French journalist held hostage for months in Syria said on Saturday that one of his captors was a Frenchman suspected of killing four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May. He recognized Mehdi Nemmouche from video shown to him as part of an investigation.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/06/us-france-hostage-captor-idUSKBN0H10N220140906**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/06/us-france-hostage-captor-idUSKBN0H10N220140906)

**Yemen  
Protester killed as Yemen police crack-down on sit-in, kill one**A Yemeni man was shot dead Sunday when police tried to disperse a Shiite rebel sit-in blocking the road to Sanaa airport as part of a protest campaign. The protest organising committee said one demonstrator was shot dead, adding that a number of protesters received gunshot wounds. Sunday's move came after protesters did not heed an ultimatum to clear the area, and apparently after some approached a checkpoint leading to the nearby interior ministry. The Huthi rebels, also known as Zaidis or Ansarullah, have been pushing for the government's resignation, accusing it of corruption. Yemeni security officials and tribal leaders say clashes between Shiite rebels and Islamist tribesmen have killed 40 people over two days in the country's north.  
**The Daily Star -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-08/269876-yemen-police-crack-down-on-sit-in-kill-one.ashx#axzz3ChGORsRy**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-08/269876-yemen-police-crack-down-on-sit-in-kill-one.ashx#axzz3ChGORsRy)

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemen-clashes-rebels-tribesmen-kill-40-25312494**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemen-clashes-rebels-tribesmen-kill-40-25312494)

SA

**Across Region**

**Torrential monsoon rainfall kills over 230 people in India and Pakistan**

More than 230 people have been killed in flooding caused by heavy rain across large swathes of India and Pakistan. At least 130 people were killed by downpours in Pakistani-administered Kashmir and Punjab, officials said. About 110 people also died in Indian-administered Kashmir, as the floodwaters washed away houses and triggered landslides, officials said. The region is suffering from its worst flooding in two decades. The chief minister of the Indian-administered state of Jammu and Kashmir, reported that "close to 100 lives" had been lost. However, local media reported that up to 120 people in the state had been killed in the floods, including at least 14 killed by landslides.

More than 2,000 people have been marooned by the floods and required rescue in the past five days, the Times of India newspaper reported. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, said that 100 people had died in Pakistani-administered Kashmir when the roofs of their homes collapsed. Forty people were killed by the floods in Pakistan's Punjab province alone, according to local media reports. Much of the city of Lahore was submerged by floods, with houses levelled by the rain

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29093254**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-29093254)

**DW -** [**http://www.dw.de/torrential-monsoon-rainfall-kills-over-230-people-in-pakistan-and-india/a-17906402**](http://www.dw.de/torrential-monsoon-rainfall-kills-over-230-people-in-pakistan-and-india/a-17906402)

**Air Force distributes relief material for flood affected areas in J-K**

As rescue operations in flood-hit Jammu and Kashmir continue in full swing, the Indian Air Force today distributed relief material in the affected areas. Jammu's Divisional Commissioner (DC) Shantmanu said, "Till yesterday our entire focus was on rescue only but from today we are also supplying relief material. We are providing food packets, medicines and water. At most of the places, we could give these things only via chopper because connectivity over land is not possible at various areas."

IN News - <https://in.news.yahoo.com/air-force-distributes-relief-material-flood-affected-areas-143121568.html>

**Pakistan**

**Pakistan opposition says making progress in govt talks to end protests**

Leaders of Pakistani protests demanding Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's resignation are making progress in talks with the government, officials said on Monday, trying to find a solution to a crisis that has destabilised the coup-prone nation. Anti-government protests turned deadly last month, with thousands trying to storm Sharif's house in an outburst of violence which has prompted fears that the army might intervene and even topple Sharif. After weeks of deadlock, protest leaders Imran Khan, a former cricket star, and Tahir ul-Qadri, a firebrand Sufi cleric, are now in talks with government officials.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908112134-sca4g/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908112134-sca4g/?source=search)

WCA

**Across Region**

**Nigeria, Chad presidents to discuss insurgency: statement**

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan and his Chadian counterpart, Idris Deby Itno, will meet this week to discuss how to tackle insurgency and arms smuggling across their borders. The two presidents will also discuss how to implement an agreement to work together against "insurgents and terrorists" made by Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon in Paris earlier this year. "Their talks are expected to lead to the strengthening of the Paris accord on joint border patrols, intelligence-sharing and the prevention of the illicit movement of terrorists, criminals, arms and ammunition across shared borders," the statement said.

AFP - <http://news.yahoo.com/nigeria-chad-presidents-discuss-insurgency-170028457.html>

**Nigeria**

**Most of Borno under Boko Haram**

The local government in Nigeria's restive northern state of Borno state conceded late Sunday that Boko Haram fighters were in control and urged concerted efforts to undo the damage. "Schools and clinics remain closed," said Baba Jiddah, the state government's secretary. Boko Haram militants have already overrun the towns of Gamboru Ngala, Dikwa, Bama and Gwoza, all in Borno State; Buni Yadi and Bara in neighboring Yobe State; and Madagali and most recently Gulak in Adamawa state - all in the northeast.

**AA -** [**http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/385445--most-of-borno-under-boko-haram-official**](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/world/385445--most-of-borno-under-boko-haram-official)

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-flee-boko-haram-militants-seize-nigerian-towns-220422376.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-flee-boko-haram-militants-seize-nigerian-towns-220422376.html)

**Nigeria says retakes Bama, blocks Boko Haram move on Borno state capital**

Nigeria's military has recaptured the flashpoint town of Bama in northeast Borno state from Boko Haram and blocked the Islamist militants' advance towards the state capital Maiduguri, a senior official said on Monday. He said government forces are also fighting a southwards push into neighbouring Adamawa state by the group, which has recently departed from its usual hit-and-run tactics and started to seize towns and territory.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140908132302-fnlh5/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140908132302-fnlh5/?source=search)

**Boko Haram militants attack northeast town near Cameroon border**Boko Haram militants early on Saturday attacked another town in northeast Nigeria, pushing southwards in an apparent strategy to carve out an Islamist enclave in the remote north, residents and local officials said. Fighters from the group, which has taken over several northeast towns and villages in recent weeks, stormed Gulak in the northern part of Adamawa state, near the hilly border with Cameroon where the militants are thought to have bases. Gulak is about 50 km southwest of Gwoza, a border town in neighboring Borno state seized by Boko Haram last month and where the group's leader, Abubakar Shekau, proclaimed a "Muslim territory" in the northeast.   
**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/06/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0H10LS20140906**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/06/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0H10LS20140906)

**Sierra Leone**

**Canadian Ebola mobile laboratory team heads back to Sierra Leone**

Canada is sending its mobile Ebola laboratory back into action in Sierra Leone. The Public Health Agency of Canada says the team left on Saturday to resume running a lab that supports an Ebola treatment centre in Sierra Leone. There was no immediate indication if the new team would be heading back to the same location - Kailahun in eastern Sierra Leone, near the borders of Guinea and Liberia.

CANPRS - <http://www.cfra.com/HealthCP/Article.aspx?id=434424>

Global News - <http://globalnews.ca/news/1548631/canadian-ebola-mobile-laboratory-team-heads-back-to-sierra-leone/>

The Brief is produced by UNICEF's Emergency Operations Centre (OPSCEN) and is a daily compilation of the main humanitarian, political and security-related media stories from around the world. It aims to provide field offices and senior decision-makers with critical information related to humanitarian emergencies and staff security.

Disclaimer: The views presented here are those of the original authors and are not necessarily shared by UNICEF. Please note that these news stories should be used solely for official purposes. Our license agreement does not permit users to store, post or redistribute the contents beyond personal use. We kindly ask that UNICEF colleagues be responsible users of copyrighted material. For information on this service please contact:

**UNICEF Operations Centre (OPSCEN)**  
*Providing assistance 24 hours a day*  
  
Tel:       +1 212 326 7222  
Fax:      +1 212 303 7924  
Bberry: +1 917 582 3620 (for SMS)  
Sat:      +870 761 112 299  
Email:   [opscen@unicef.org](mailto:opscen@unicef.org)

Skype:  opscen.unicef  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
UNITE FOR CHILDREN