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GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**"No time to lose" in tackling FGM and child marriage – UNICEF**

Booming population growth in regions where child marriage and female genital mutilation are common threatens to undermine progress on tackling both abuses, which blight the lives of hundreds of millions of girls, experts say. The number of girls mutilated is likely to soar and there will be no decline in child marriage unless the world dramatically scales up action, UNICEF said ahead of an international summit on FGM and child marriage on Tuesday. Worldwide, more than 130 million girls and women have undergone FGM and more than 700 million women alive today were married as children. Of these more than a third were married before they turned 15.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140721163037-2b7qk/?source=jtOtherNews1**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140721163037-2b7qk/?source=jtOtherNews1)

**Call to bring refugee innovation into humanitarian work**

The humanitarian sector must lift barriers to user-led innovation by refugee communities if it is to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world, says a report presented at the Humanitarian Innovation Conference at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom. The trajectory of humanitarian assistance is unsustainable - with the cost trebling and the number of people requiring help doubling over the past ten years — and humanitarian tools and services are often ill-suited to modern emergencies, says the report, Humanitarian Innovation: The State of the Art. The risk-averse sector needs to embrace innovation, private sector involvement and bottom-up solutions to keep up with modern challenges, says the report published by OCHA.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722103212-aqcdp/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722103212-aqcdp/?source=search)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Curfew imposed after deadly clan feud in southeast Turkey**

The Turkish authorities on Monday imposed a curfew in the southeastern town of Hakkari after violent clashes blamed on a feud between two Kurdish families left one person dead. The quarrel between the Pinyanisi and Ertosi clans turned violent on Sunday after hundreds of people got involved, attacking each other with knives and stones in the streets of the town of some 80,000 close to the borders with Iran and Iraq, media reports said.

**AFP -** <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/world/2014/07/21/Curfew-Imposed-After-Deadly-Clan-Feud-in-Southeast-Turkey.html>

**Eight killed as Turkish military, Kurdish rebels clash**

At least eight people were killed in clashes between the Turkish military and Kurdish rebels on the country's Syrian border, the army said on Tuesday, apparently the most serious outbreak of violence since the militants declared a ceasefire last year. A local official earlier pointed the finger at smugglers, after an armed group crossing the border from Syria into Turkey ignored calls to stop and opened fire on an army outpost. Three border guards were wounded, two of whom later died, after they came under attack from around 15 people trying to cross into Turkey, the Turkish General Staff said in a statement.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722112218-4i1n0**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722112218-4i1n0)

**Dozens of Turkish police detained over wiretapping**

Dozens of high-ranking police officers were detained in Turkey on Tuesday accused of involvement in spying and illegal wire-tapping during an investigation into corruption in Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's inner circle, CNN Turk said. At least 76 officers were detained in 22 provinces around the country on suspicion of forming a criminal organization and illegally bugging phones, the news channel said, weeks ahead of a presidential election in which Erdogan is standing.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722073036-jq9ty/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722073036-jq9ty/?source=search)

**Ukraine**

**Ukraine votes to call up more military reserves to protect border**

Ukraine's parliament approved a presidential decree on Tuesday to call up more military reserves and men under 50 to fight rebels in eastern Ukraine and defend the border against a concentration of troops in Russia. Some 45 days after the latest call-up of additional reserves, which has now expired, Kiev repeated the decree to "declare and conduct partial mobilization" to ensure the ranks of what Ukraine calls its "anti-terrorist operation" are filled.

After the vote, brief scuffles broke out between nationalist politicians and members of the party that was led by the former president, Viktor Yanukovich, who was overthrown in February.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722083744-dcqd9**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722083744-dcqd9)

**Ukraine war crimes trials a step closer after ICRC assessment**

ICRC has made a confidential legal assessment that Ukraine is officially in a war, Western diplomats and officials say, opening the door to possible war crimes prosecutions, including over the downing of Malaysia Airlines MH-17. "Clearly it's an international conflict and therefore this is most probably a war crime," one Western diplomat in Geneva told Reuters. The ICRC is the guardian of the Geneva Conventions setting down the rules of war, and as such is considered a reference in the United Nations deciding when violence has evolved into an armed conflict.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722092218-9h03y/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722092218-9h03y/?source=search)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Typhoon leaves 11 dead in Vietnam after killing 26 in China**

A typhoon that barrelled into northern Vietnam killed at least 11 people and left several missing, state media said Monday, while in China the death toll from the strongest storm to strike the country's south in four decades rose to 26. Typhoon Rammasun made landfall in Vietnam over the weekend, triggering heavy floods, destroying homes and crops, and blocking roads with landslides, said the Vietnam News, an English-language daily published by the official Vietnam News Agency.

**AP -** [**http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/typhoon-leaves-11-dead-in-vietnam-after-killing-26-in-china-1.2713295**](http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/typhoon-leaves-11-dead-in-vietnam-after-killing-26-in-china-1.2713295)

**Philippines raises storm alert level as Matmo churns toward Taiwan**

The Philippines raised storm alert levels on Tuesday as Typhoon Matmo threatened to drench the extreme north of the main island of Luzon with heavy rain as it churned toward Taiwan and mainland China. Packing sustained winds of 130 kph (80 mph) and gusts of up to 160 kph, Matmo was moving at 24 kph northwest towards central Taiwan. The storm was estimated to be about 180 km north of Batanes group of islands on Tuesday morning. **Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722031107-sjsck/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722031107-sjsck/?source=dpagehead)

**Cambodia**

**Political rivals say agreement reached**

Leaders of Cambodia's ruling and opposition parties say they have reached an agreement to end a political deadlock since last year's contentious election. Prime Minister Hun Sen and opposition leader Sam Rainsy said Tuesday that they had agreed upon a joint political solution to end the crisis. The two, along with representatives from both camps, met in a five-hour-long closed-door meeting. It was the third round of talks between the ruling and the opposition parties.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-political-rivals-agreement-reached-24658394**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cambodian-political-rivals-agreement-reached-24658394)

**Indonesia**

**Joko Widodo set to be Indonesia's new president**

Jakarta governor Joko Widodo is poised to win Indonesia's presidential election, according to results broadcast on television. The election commission is yet to formally announce the result, but a tally shows Mr. Widodo, also known as Jokowi, won 53.15% of the vote. His rival, former general Prabowo Subianto, garnered 46.85% of the vote. He has said he is withdrawing from the election process, alleging fraud. He has vowed to challenge the results. The election commission is due to announce the formal results at 20:00 local time.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28415536**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-28415536)

**Myanmar**

**Opposition party says 5 million sign petition to change constitution**

Myanmar's main opposition party says it has collected about five million signatures seeking reduced powers for unelected military members of parliament as the country, which emerged from dictatorship in 2011, moves towards an election next year. The National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Aung San Suu Kyi, has spearheaded the campaign, which ended on Saturday, to rescind Section 436 of the constitution. That clause requires a 75 percent vote in parliament to amend most sections of the constitution - all but impossible for an opposition party to achieve. But the NLD's efforts are unlikely to make much of a difference.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722095856-pps5o/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722095856-pps5o/?source=search)

**Philippines**

**Catholic bishops tell Aquino to uphold constitution**

Philippine Catholic bishops warned President Benigno Aquino on Tuesday to resist temptations to bully the Supreme Court to reverse a decision that an economic stimulus fund was illegal, asking him to uphold the constitution. Aquino, only son of the country's democracy icon, former president Corazon Aquino, has warned the court of a possible constitutional crisis if it does not reverse an earlier decision that the Disbursement Acceleration Program was illegal. The president has asked people to wear yellow to show support to his government against the Supreme Court, invoking "people power" to force the justices to reconsider their ruling because it threatened his economic goals.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722050044-wssfw/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722050044-wssfw/?source=search)

**Philippine army says 18 killed in rebel clashes**

Breakaway rebels attacked army troops in two towns in the southern Philippines, sparking clashes that left 17 guerrillas and a soldier dead in a region where the government and the main rebel group were to enforce a new peace deal. Regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso said Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement fighters assaulted the soldiers in two adjacent towns in Maguindanao province Monday, prompting government forces to retaliate in fighting that also wounded three soldiers.

**AP –** [**http://news.yahoo.com/philippine-army-says-18-killed-rebel-clashes-004333760.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/philippine-army-says-18-killed-rebel-clashes-004333760.html)

ESA

**South Sudan**

**South Sudanese rebels, seek troop withdrawal**

A South Sudanese rebel delegation was due to hold talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala on Tuesday and will ask him to withdraw troops from South Sudan, where they were deployed to help the Juba government, the rebel camp said. Museveni said in January his forces were supporting South Sudanese President Salva Kiir against rebels led by the former deputy president Riek Machar. The presence of Ugandan troops has drawn sharp criticism from rebels. A Ugandan official said the timing of any withdrawal would be decided by Uganda alone and not "dictated" by others.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140721153903-kj1lp/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140721153903-kj1lp/?source=search)

**Signs indicate looming famine**

Aid agencies say South Sudan could be headed for the worst famine since the 1984 Ethiopian famine. Food stocks are running low across conflict-ravaged northern regions of the country, aid workers say, and the onset of the rainy season has dashed hopes that South Sudan's displaced subsistence farmers will plant enough crops to feed themselves. The country has hardly any paved roads and the UN and humanitarian agencies are struggling to provide aid to remote regions. Even plane deliveries are dwindling as rain soddens dirt roads that act as air strips.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/21/us-southsudan-aid-idUSKBN0FQ1L720140721**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/21/us-southsudan-aid-idUSKBN0FQ1L720140721)

**Somalia**

**Somalia facing disaster three years after devastating famine**

Three years after famine in Somalia killed a quarter of a million people in six months, aid agencies warned Sunday a new catastrophe is looming unless urgent aid arrives. A joint statement issued by a group of humanitarian organizations said there were more than 300,000 malnourished children in the east African country and 2.9 million people in need of life-saving help. "Aid agencies today caution, again, that the signs of a drought are re-emerging in Somalia and urge for these not to be ignored in order to avoid a relapse into the conditions of the 2011 catastrophe," the statement said.

**AFP -** <http://news.yahoo.com/somalia-facing-famine-threat-aid-agencies-warn-114330602.html>

MENA

**Iraq**

**Ten killed in air strike north of Baghdad**

Ten people were killed, including a mother and three children, in a government air strike on a militant-controlled town north of Baghdad on Monday, hospital sources and witnesses said. The attack targeted the town of Hawija, 230 km from the capital, which is controlled by Sunni Muslim insurgents from the Islamic State and other groups opposed to Iraq's Shi'ite-led government. A tribal leader and former army officer said the dead were all civilians, and also included an elderly couple. He blamed the deaths on the militants for locating a base in the center of the town.

**Reuters** - <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/21/us-iraq-security-idUSKBN0FQ1MU20140721>

**Islamic State crushes and coerces on march towards Baghdad**

Using its own version of "soft" and "hard" power, the Islamic State is crushing resistance across northern Iraq so successfully that its promise to march on Baghdad may no longer be unrealistic bravado. While conventional states try to win hearts and minds abroad before necessarily resorting to military force, the jihadist group is also achieving its aims by psychological means - backed up by a reputation for extreme violence. The Islamic State, which in June captured a vast stretch of territory in the north including the largest city Mosul, used this strategy when its fighters met armed resistance from the town of al-Alam for 13 days running.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722064601-sz4q6/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722064601-sz4q6/?source=search)

**Libya**

**Clashes between Libya Army, Islamists Kill 16**

Sixteen people, most of them soldiers, were killed and 81 injured in clashes between the Libyan army and Islamist fighters in the eastern city of Benghazi, medical and military sources told AFP Tuesday. "Most of the dead and injured are soldiers. Three civilians, including an Egyptian, were killed when a rocket hit their house," a hospital source said on condition of anonymity. A military official said fighting broke out after an alliance of Islamist militia attacked an army barrack, killing five soldiers.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139925-clashes-between-libya-army-islamists-kill-16**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139925-clashes-between-libya-army-islamists-kill-16)

**Liberals set to oust Islamists in Libya parliament**

Liberal factions appear to be the big winners in Libya's new parliament after the announcement of election results on Monday, analysts said. The electoral commission finally announced the results of the winners of individual seats in the 25 June poll a day late and at a time when rival factions are involved in clashes for control of Tripoli airport. But the future make-up of the 200-seat parliament will only be known after the formation of political blocs, since the vote was open only to "individual candidates" and lists were barred. Commentators say liberals will fill most seats in the new parliament, unlike the former assembly which was dominated by Islamists.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139909-liberals-set-to-oust-islamists-in-libya-parliament**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139909-liberals-set-to-oust-islamists-in-libya-parliament)

**Saudi Arabia**

**MERS virus detected in air samples from Saudi camel barn**

Saudi scientists have found gene fragments of the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus in air from a barn housing an infected camel and say this suggests the disease may be transmitted through the air. MERS, a serious respiratory illness caused by a virus known as a coronavirus (CoV), has infected at least 850 people since it first emerged two years ago and killed at least 327 of them, according to latest figures from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140722035439-xyoqh/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140722035439-xyoqh/?source=search)

**State of Palestine/Israel**

**Israel hits dozens of targets in Gaza Strip**

Israeli aircraft and tanks have hit more than 70 targets in the Gaza strip, including five mosques, a football stadium and the home of the late leader of Hamas' military wing, according to Palestinian police. At least seven Palestinians were reported killed in the new round of air strikes early on Tuesday, bringing the death toll of Israel's two-week assault on the Gaza Strip to more than 580. Police spokesperson Ayman Batniji said tank shells damaged several houses along the eastern border of the territory and that at least 19 fishing boats were destroyed by navy shells fired from the Mediterranean.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/israel-hits-dozens-targets-gaza-strip-201472253749938898.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/israel-hits-dozens-targets-gaza-strip-201472253749938898.html)

**More than 100,000 Palestinians displaced in Gaza: UNRWA**

UNRWA said Monday the number of people seeking refuge at its sites in Gaza to escape a two-week-old Israeli offensive on the enclave has soared to more than 100,000. "This is a watershed moment for UNRWA, now that the number of people seeking refuge with us is more than double the figure we saw in the 2009 Gaza conflict," climbing to above 100,000, the agency's spokesman Christopher Gunness said in a statement. UNRWA says it has opened 69 shelters in the war-torn Gaza Strip to cope with the rising numbers of displaced people, as Israel rains down air strikes, tank and artillery shells on homes, offices and other targets in its campaign to stamp out militant rocket fire.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139914-u-n-more-than-100-000-palestinians-displaced-in-gaza**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139914-u-n-more-than-100-000-palestinians-displaced-in-gaza)

**Gaza truce efforts intensify as UNSG flies in to Cairo**

World efforts to end two weeks of deadly violence in and around Gaza stepped up a gear on Monday as the UNSG arrived in Cairo and US Secretary of State, John Kerry was awaited. UNSG chief Ban Ki-moon was already in the region on a whistlestop tour to build support for a truce and arrived in Cairo on Monday afternoon after meeting top officials in Kuwait, the current chair of the Arab League. The new momentum for a cease-fire came as the Palestinian death toll in Gaza topped 500 and the Israeli army said 18 of its soldiers had been killed, its heaviest losses in eight years.

**AFP -** [**http://www.arabnews.com/news/605311/featured**](http://www.arabnews.com/news/605311/featured)

**United Arab Emirates pledges $41 mn aid for Gaza reconstruction**

The United Arab Emirates said Monday it will offer nearly $41 million in aid for the reconstruction of Gaza homes hit by Israel's military offensive against rocket-firing militants. The initiative was aimed at reconstructing "damaged homes and rehabilitating hospitals, education and services" hit by Israeli military strikes in the Gaza Strip, the organisation's president, Sheikh Handan Ben Zayed Al-Nahyan, was quoted as saying in a statement. The UAE government already pledged $52 million in humanitarian aid for Palestinians in the coastal enclave in the early stages of the Israeli military offensive.  
**AFP -** [**http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/united-arab-emirates-pledges-41-mn-aid-for-gaza-reconstruction/articleshow/38820963.cms**](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/united-arab-emirates-pledges-41-mn-aid-for-gaza-reconstruction/articleshow/38820963.cms)

**White House pressures Israel over civilian deaths in Gaza**

The White House put pressure on Israel on Monday to take greater steps to protect Palestinian civilians from being killed in an Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip. President Barack Obama, who repeated his position that Israel had the right to defend itself against rocket and tunnel attacks from Hamas militants, expressed serious concern over the number of casualties on both sides.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140721203015-itp8t/?source=dpagehead**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140721203015-itp8t/?source=dpagehead)

**Yemen**

**Ansar al-Sharia vows to sever hands of 'Corrupt' Yemen Officials**

Ansar al-Sharia has threatened to sever the hands of "corrupt" officials in the southeastern province of Hadramawt, where the jihadists have been trying to impose their strict version of sharia law. Earlier this week, members of the network distributed similar leaflets forbidding women to leave their homes without a male guardian - known as "mahram" - and threatening to punish those who fail to comply with sharia.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139961-qaida-vows-to-sever-hands-of-corrupt-yemen-officials**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/139961-qaida-vows-to-sever-hands-of-corrupt-yemen-officials)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Three foreign advisers killed near Kabul airport**

ATaliban suicide bomber detonated himself on Tuesday outside Kabul International Airport, killing three foreign advisers and an Afghan interpreter, police said. The nationalities of the foreign advisers were not immediately clear. The explosion comes days after one of the most audacious militant attacks in a year on the airport, which is used by both civilians and the military.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/22/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN0FR0BH20140722**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/22/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN0FR0BH20140722)

**India**

**Encephalitis outbreak in India's West Bengal kills 60**

At least 60 people died in a recent outbreak of viral encephalitis in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, a top health official has said. Doctors say patients come from seven affected districts in northern Bengal. The disease usually occurs during the monsoon season across northern India and West Bengal is normally not among the worst-affected states. Encephalitis causes brain inflammation and can result in brain damage.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28415417**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-28415417)

**Pakistan**

**Pakistani elders forbid fleeing women from collecting food aid**

Some tribal elders in a city in northwest Pakistan have decreed that families fleeing a military offensive should not allow women to collect food aid, an elder said on Monday after Reuters saw him attacking women. "If any woman comes to the ration distribution area, she will be punished," said Malik Kaleemullah, an elder from the Malik tribe. The decision was taken by more than 40 elders on Sunday in the city of Bannu, he said, where most of the families fleeing the fighting are staying. Since the operation began, nearly a million displaced people have registered for aid, although that number is expected to fall as fraudulent claimants and duplicates are weeded out.

**Reuters -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/pakistani-elders-forbid-fleeing-women-collecting-food-aid-135217665.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/pakistani-elders-forbid-fleeing-women-collecting-food-aid-135217665.html)

WCA

**CAR**

**Violence simmers in Central Africa as peace talks open**

Key players in the Central African conflict launched a fresh round of talks in Brazzaville on Monday to end more than a year of sectarian bloodshed in the direly poor nation. But even as negotiators huddled in Congo, fresh violence erupted in the capital Bangui with the killing of a former Seleka rebel that sparked an immediate riposte.

The three day forum for reconciliation and political dialogue, chaired by Congo’s President Denis Sassou Nguesso, is aimed at resolving a crisis that has left thousands of civilians dead and driven more than a million people from their homes.

**AFP -** <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2014/07/violence-simmers-in-c-africa-as-peace-talks-open/>

**Ex-Seleka fail to show up at peace talks**

Delegates from Central Africa's ex-rebel group Seleka failed to show up Tuesday for a second day of peace talks in Brazzaville seeking to end more than a year of sectarian bloodshed. The two main negotiating sessions, on securing an end to hostilities and disarming fighters in CAR, were suspended in the absence of the rebel movement. A third workshop on the political transition went ahead at the request of the regional grouping ECCAS, according to a member of the Congolese organizing committee.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/c-africa-ex-rebels-fail-show-peace-talks-110142450.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/c-africa-ex-rebels-fail-show-peace-talks-110142450.html)

**Nigeria**

**Nigeria Boko Haram attack causes over 15,000 to flee**

More than 15,000 people have fled an area around the northeast Nigerian town of Damboa after a spate of lethal assaults by Boko Haram fighters during the weekend, the emergency services said on Monday.

Suspected Boko Haram fighters raided Damboa on Friday and Saturday, shooting dead more than 40 residents and burning houses, part of a pattern of killing that has forced tens of thousands to flee this year. They also attacked six nearby villages.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140721202342-m8pz4/?source=search**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140721202342-m8pz4/?source=search)

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.

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