**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief - Tuesday, 2 September 2014**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [GENERAL](#GENERAL) | **Across Regions** | Fiji says UN negotiating demands with hostage takers |
|  |  | Poverty and hunger will not end without better rainwater management, top scientists say |
|  |  | Sri Lanka court gives green light to deport Pakistani asylum seekers |
|  |  | Two Algerian diplomats free after two years' captivity in Mali |
| [CEE/CIS](#CEECIS) | **Across CEE/CIS** | Bosnia police detain 13 Serb ex-soldiers, police suspected of war crimes |
|  | **Turkey** | Dozens of police detained over "anti-government plot" |
|  | **Ukraine** | More than 1 million Ukrainians displaced by conflict - UNHCR |
|  |  | 'Russia has launched a great war' |
| [EAP](#EAP) | **Across EAP** | Older people bear the brunt of Pacific island disasters |
|  | **China** | Poultry farm hit in new outbreak of H5N6 bird flu |
|  | **Myanmar** | Census shows population 9 mn fewer than estimated |
|  | **Thailand** | Rights group slams detention of child migrants and asylum seekers - report |
| [ESA](#ESA) | **Kenya** | Red Cross to Kenyatta: send troops to quell clan clashes |
|  | **Lesotho** | Tension as exiled PM expected to return; calls for regional peace force |
|  |  | SADC rejects Thabane's troop request |
|  | **Mozambique** | Rivals to meet to cement ceasefire |
|  | **Somalia** | A million people at risk as country slides towards famine: UN |
|  |  | US targets al-Shebaab leader in airstrike |
|  |  | Al-Shebaab attacks intelligence headquarters; 15 killed |
|  |  | Army launches offensive against extremists |
|  | **South Sudan** | 2000+ acutely malnourished kids in one week |
|  |  | Cholera down but malaria and parasitic disease up – MSF |
| [LAC](#LAC) | **Across LAC** | Drought leaves up to 2.81 mln hungry – UN |
|  | **Colombia** | Silence surrounds 92,000 disappeared – ICRC |
|  | **El Salvador** | Gangs agree not to attack police and military |
| [MENA](#MENA) | **Across MENA** | Syrian refugees trigger child labour boom in Turkey - UNICEF mention |
|  | **Iraq** | UNICEF delivers emergency aid to children in Amerli |
|  |  | Amid ongoing conflict, Iraq completes massive polio campaign for children with support of UNICEF and WHO |
|  |  | Iraq retakes more towns from IS |
|  | **Libya** | Clashes between Islamists, rivals kill 31 |
|  |  | Gunmen seize government ministries as Libya spirals further into chaos |
|  |  | Heavy fighting in Benghazi city; airport hit |
|  |  | Militia fighters enter US embassy annex in Tripoli |
|  | **State of Palestine** | Israel claims West Bank land for possible settlement use, draws US rebuke |
|  |  | Rebuilding Gaza will take 20 years, group says |
|  |  | Around 600 Palestinians seized by Israel in August |
|  | **Syria** | Record 4.1 million got food aid in August, UN says |
|  |  | 37 children killed in string of attacks: NGO |
|  |  | Evidence of Islamic State cluster munition use |
|  |  | Army battles rebels as UN bids to free Golan monitors |
|  | **Yemen** | Shiite rebels rally in Sanaa after leader defies UN |
|  |  | At least 13 soldiers killed in al Qaeda attacks |
| [SA](#SA) | **Afghanistan** | Talks for unity government collapse; crisis deepens |
|  |  | Taliban suicide bombers hit Afghan intelligence agency |
|  | **India** | Police, tribespeople clash in NE; 2 dead |
|  | **Pakistan** | Minister condemns protests as 'revolt against state' |
|  |  | IDPs reach record one million |
|  |  | Sindh puts off polio drive as Islamabad crisis hits vaccine delivery |
| [WCA](#WCA) | **Across WCA** | Ebola threatens food security in West Africa - FAO |
|  |  | Thousands flee Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria for Cameroon |
|  | **CAR** | Rebels expel government ministers |
|  | **DR Congo** | Ebola kills 31 people: WHO |
|  |  | MSF 'delighted' by escape of kidnapped nurse |
|  | **Mali** | New round of peace talks opens in Algiers |
|  | **Niger** | Parliament chief, facing baby-trafficking probe, 'in Belgium' |
|  | **Nigeria** | Scores killed as Boko Haram overrun town |
|  |  | Boko Haram kill scores in captured town |

GENERAL

**Across Regions**

**Fiji says UN negotiating demands with hostage takers**

Fiji revealed for the first time Tuesday the demands being made by Al-Qaeda-linked Syria rebels who took more than 40 UN peacekeepers hostage in the Golan Heights last week. Fiji's army chief said the rebels wanted their organisation, the Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front, to be removed from the UN’s list of terrorist organisations. He said they also wanted humanitarian aid sent to a small town which is an Al-Nusra stronghold just outside Damascus and were demanding compensation for three of their fighters who had been hurt in recent days. Unconfirmed reports in Fiji's media said the hostage takers were also demanding the release of Abu Mussab al-Suri, also known as Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, an Al-Qaeda leader who was arrested in Pakistan in 2005 and is now being held by Syrian authorities.

**AFP -** [**http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/145781-fiji-says-u-n-negotiating-demands-with-hostage-takers**](http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/145781-fiji-says-u-n-negotiating-demands-with-hostage-takers)

**Poverty and hunger will not end without better rainwater management, top scientists say**

The world will fail to meet international targets to eradicate poverty and hunger unless countries improve the way they use rainwater, which billions of people depend on to grow food, leading water experts said. More than two billion of the world’s poorest people live in the driest “hot spots”, including Africa’s Sahel region, parts of India, northern China and parts of Brazil. These regions, which also have the world’s highest population growth rates, depend on unpredictable rainfall. But these regions do receive enough rainfall overall, and could grow a lot more food if they had better ways of using rainwater, experts said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140831204123-hl6xy/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140831204123-hl6xy/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Sri Lanka court gives green light to deport Pakistani asylum seekers**

A Sri Lankan court on Monday gave permission to authorities to send back scores of Pakistani asylum seekers, after the government said they were a threat to security and public health. UNHCR says 88 Pakistanis have been deported since 1 August in what is has called a breach of international law. The agency has called for an end to the deportations and demanded access to another 75 detained people who are awaiting deportation.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140901143954-7jnh4/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140901143954-7jnh4/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Two Algerian diplomats free after two years' captivity in Mali**

Two Algerian diplomats kidnapped in Mali in April 2012 by the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) were freed on Saturday, the Algerian foreign ministry announced. A third diplomat still held hostage had died "from a chronic illness", the ministry said. It did not say whether the two had been released by their kidnappers or had been freed in a military operation.

**AFP -** [**http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/109575/World/Region/Two-Algerian-diplomats-free-after-two-years-captiv.aspx**](http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/109575/World/Region/Two-Algerian-diplomats-free-after-two-years-captiv.aspx)

CEE/CIS

**Across CEE/CIS  
Bosnia police detain 13 Serb ex-soldiers, police suspected of war crimes**

Bosnian police on Monday detained 13 former Bosnian Serb soldiers and policemen suspected of taking part in the murder and persecution of hundreds of Bosnian Croats and Muslim Bosniaks early in the country's 1992-95 war. The case was handed over to the Bosnian prosecutors from the Hague-based UN war crimes tribunal, which has been relegating cases to the judiciary in ex-Yugoslav countries before it ends its 20-year work at the end of this year. Among the detained are several top wartime police officers and members of a notorious military group known as "Mice", suspected of committing the war crimes in the northern towns of Teslic and Doboj, a statement from the prosecutor's office said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/01/us-bosnia-warcrimes-idUSKBN0GW20Q20140901**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/01/us-bosnia-warcrimes-idUSKBN0GW20Q20140901)

**Turkey**

**Dozens of police detained over "anti-government plot"**

Dozens of Turkish police officers, including a former chief of a police financial unit, were detained on Monday in a fresh wave of arrests over allegations that officers were involved in plotting against the government, local media said. Arrest warrants were issued for 33 police "seeking to overthrow the government", broadcaster NTV reported. Dozens of police have been remanded in custody since July on charges that they formed a criminal organisation and bugged phones, part of what new President Tayyip Erdogan has described as a plot against him.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140901060346-25ckx**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140901060346-25ckx)

**Ukraine**

**More than 1 million Ukrainians displaced by conflict - UNHCR**

More than one million people have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine, including 814,000 Ukrainians now in Russia with various forms of status, UNHCR said. Numbers displaced inside Ukraine by the fighting have nearly doubled in the past there weeks to at least 260,000 and more are fleeing, it earlier told a Geneva news briefing.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140902103745-ifo3g**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140902103745-ifo3g)

**'Russia has launched a great war'**

Ukraine's defence minister has accused Russia of launching a "great war" that could claim tens of thousands of lives. Russia dismissed the comments, saying they only pulled the Ukrainian people further into a bloody civil conflict. The comments came after Ukrainian troops were forced to flee Luhansk airport in the east of the country amid an offensive by pro-Russian rebels. Meanwhile, crisis talks between Ukraine officials, rebels and Russian envoys have broken up without agreement.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29017736**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29017736)

**Reuters -** [**http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/ukraine-crisis-poroshenko-war-idINKBN0GU0PV20140830**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/ukraine-crisis-poroshenko-war-idINKBN0GU0PV20140830)

EAP

**Across EAP**

**Older people bear the brunt of Pacific island disasters**

Five years ago, when an 8.1 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit the islands of Samoa in the Central South Pacific, elderly people struggled the most to run away from the huge waves that descended on their coastal villages. And, in the aftermath, they were acutely exposed to ill health and trauma. As the older generation continue to be over-represented in fatalities caused by major disasters in the Pacific islands, there is growing awareness that their voices need to be heard in disaster planning and policy development. Around 60% of the world’s senior citizens, aged over 60, live in developing countries where human exposure to natural catastrophes is acute, and that figure could rise to 80% by 2050.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140901083955-biw0l/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140901083955-biw0l/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**China**

**Poultry farm hit in new outbreak of H5N6 bird flu**

Nearly 18,000 geese died on a poultry farm in northeast China after being stricken by the H5N6 bird flu virus last month, the agriculture ministry said. As many as 20,550 geese on the farm in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang province, showed symptoms of avian flu and 17,790 birds died, the ministry said on its website. The ministry sealed off and sterilized the infected area, besides culling and safely disposing of almost 69,000 geese, it added. The National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory confirmed that the geese had the H5N6 virus. In May, a 49-year-old man in China's Sichuan province died of the H5N6 bird flu virus, which domestic media described as the world's first known human infection with the strain.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140902004226-9dpa1/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140902004226-9dpa1/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Myanmar**

**Census shows population 9 mn fewer than estimated**

Myanmar's first census in three decades shows the country has a population of 51 million people, authorities said Saturday, around nine million fewer than an earlier estimate. The census, which triggered international concern after authorities refused to allow minority Muslims to register their ethnicity as Rohingya, was conducted in March and April. The full results, including breakdowns by religion and ethnicity, will be released in May next year. Around 1.2 million people were missed out of the census in parts of western Rakhine state and conflict-torn Kachin and Karen states, according to an immigration ministry director.

**AFP -** [**https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24856050/myanmar-census-shows-population-9-mn-fewer-than-estimated/**](https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/world/a/24856050/myanmar-census-shows-population-9-mn-fewer-than-estimated/)

**Thailand**

**Rights group slams detention of child migrants and asylum seekers – report**

Every year, Thailand arbitrarily and indefinitely detains thousands of child migrants and asylum seekers due to their immigration status or that of their parents, according to a new report from the Human Rights Watch (HRW). The children are exposed to violence, denied access to education, nutritious food, and space for recreation, and held in squalid conditions in what amounted to a “modern-day debtor’s prison” until their parents could pay for their repatriation, said the report.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140902023027-oiud0/?source=fiHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140902023027-oiud0/?source=fiHeadlineStory)

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/reports/2014/09/01/two-years-no-moon**](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2014/09/01/two-years-no-moon)

ESA

**Kenya**

**Red Cross to Kenyatta: send troops to quell clan clashes**

Frustrated by a resurgence of intercommunal conflict, Kenya's top humanitarian official has called on President Uhuru Kenyatta to make good on a threat to deploy the army in perennially restive areas in the country's northeast. "The head of state is fully aware of this situation," Abbas Gullet, secretary-general of the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), said in the wake of renewed clashes between the Garre and Degodia communities in Mandera County. As of 28 August, a total of 18,000 households had been displaced and are currently living in seven displacements sites within Rhamu in Mandera North sub-county. About 77 people have lost their lives and more than 95 have been injured since January due to the conflict between the two main clans in Mandera, according to KRCS. Several houses have also been torched.

**IRIN -** [**http://www.irinnews.org/report/100562/red-cross-to-kenyatta-send-troops-to-quell-clan-clashes**](http://www.irinnews.org/report/100562/red-cross-to-kenyatta-send-troops-to-quell-clan-clashes)

**Lesotho**

**Tension as exiled PM expected to return; calls for regional peace force**

Gunfire and power cuts rekindled tensions in Lesotho's capital Maseru overnight, as the country awaited the possible return of its exiled PM following an apparent coup. An aide to Tom Thabane said the 75-year-old could return to the country Tuesday, after regional mediators brokered a road map to ease the country's political crisis. Thabane had fled across the border to South Africa before dawn on Saturday, as troops attacked key police installations and surrounded his official residence. The military denies carrying out a coup and says its raids were to confiscate weapons from police stations destined for "political fanatics".

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/lesotho-pm-heading-home-coup-170938173.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/lesotho-pm-heading-home-coup-170938173.html)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140901123841-kat4n/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140901123841-kat4n/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**SADC rejects Thabane's troop request**

Regional leaders have rejected calls by Lesotho's exiled PM Thomas Thabane for the immediate deployment of troops to help restore order in his country, an official said. Instead, an observer team would be urgently sent to Lesotho, she said. South Africa's President Jacob Zuma hosted emergency talks with Mr Tabane and others on Monday.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29010132**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-29010132)

**Mozambique**

**Rivals to meet to cement ceasefire**   
Mozambique President Armando Guebuza and his rival Afonso Dhlakama will meet face-to-face this week to cement a peace deal aimed at ending two years of hostilities and clear the way for elections on 15 October. Dhlakama, head of the main opposition and revived rebel group Renamo, has agreed to come out of hiding from the central Gorongosa mountains to campaign in upcoming polls, according to the Italian embassy, which is acting as a mediator. The announcement came on the opening day of parliamentary and presidential election campaigning, and just a few days after negotiators from Renamo and the Frelimo-led government signed a peace deal.  
**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/mozambique-rivals-meet-cement-ceasefire-183957606.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/mozambique-rivals-meet-cement-ceasefire-183957606.html)

**Somalia**

**A million people at risk as country slides towards famine: UN**

Over a million people in Somalia are struggling in conditions close to famine, with hunger and drought due to worsen, UN experts said. The grim assessment, based on the latest data collected by the UN and as heavy fighting persists in some of the hardest hit regions. The UN said 1,025,000 people were classified in either "crisis" or "emergency" situations, just one step short of famine on its hunger scale. This represents an increase of a fifth compared with the numbers affected in January. Over 43,000 children are at extreme risk of dying from hunger, while one in seven under five-year-olds -- some 218,000 children -- are acutely malnourished, it added. The joint report was released by the FSNAU and FEWS NET.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/a-million-people-at-risk-as-somalia-slides-towards-famine-un-585558**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/a-million-people-at-risk-as-somalia-slides-towards-famine-un-585558)

**FAO -** [**http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/242231/icode/**](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/242231/icode/)

**US targets al-Shebaab leader in airstrike**

US forces have carried out airstrikes against the leader of al-Shebaab, with casualties reported but uncertainty hanging over the fate of the main target, officials said. The Pentagon confirmed an "operation" was carried out Monday against the hard-line militia, and that it was "assessing the results." "The Americans carried out a major airstrike targeting a gathering by senior al-Shebaab officials, including their leader Abu-Zubayr," said Abdukadir Mohamed Nur, governor for southern Somalia's Lower Shabelle region.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-02/269305-us-targets-al-shabab-leader-in-somalia-airstrike.ashx#axzz3C9GIzPiA**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Sep-02/269305-us-targets-al-shabab-leader-in-somalia-airstrike.ashx#axzz3C9GIzPiA)

**Al-Shebaab attacks intelligence headquarters; 15 killed**  
At least 15 people were killed when al-Shabaab bombed the intelligence headquarters in Mogadishu and clashed with security forces, officials said Sunday. "The target of the attack was to release scores of innocent Muslims, including members of our group, who are under interrogation and tortured by Somali national security members," a senior al-Shebaab member said. At least three further explosions and a fierce gun battle between the insurgents and security personnel ensued. Several security officials were also among the dead, witnesses said.   
**DPA -** [**http://www.dw.de/al-shabab-militants-attack-somali-intelligence-headquarters/a-17891505**](http://www.dw.de/al-shabab-militants-attack-somali-intelligence-headquarters/a-17891505)

**Army launches offensive against extremists**

Military officials say the Somali army, backed by AU forces, has launched a long-awaited operation against al-Shebaab fighters in southern Somalia. The governor of Lower Shabelle region, where the offensive began, said Saturday that troops are advancing toward the militant-held town of Bulomarer, about 110km south of Mogadishu. The offensive aims to oust the feared terrorist group from its last major strongholds, from where officials believe they orchestrate deadly attacks in and outside Somalia. Losing Bulomarer would leave the group's current key base of the coastal town of Barawe vulnerable to attacks.

**AP -** [**http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2014/08/30/somalia-launches-offensive-against-extremists**](http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2014/08/30/somalia-launches-offensive-against-extremists)

**South Sudan**

**2000+ acutely malnourished kids in one week**

OCHA says that nearly a fifth of all children screened for acute malnutrition in South Sudan last week indicated for the condition. OCHA reported that aid workers screened 11,336 children for malnutrition in the past week. OCHA says that overall since the start of the year aid agencies have treated about 43,500 children for severe malnutrition and about 40,000 for moderate malnutrition. Additionally 12,739 pregnant and lactating women have been treated for malnutrition.

**Radio Tamazuj -** [**https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/south-sudan-2000-acutely-malnourished-kids-one-week**](https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/south-sudan-2000-acutely-malnourished-kids-one-week)

**Cholera down but malaria and parasitic disease up – MSF**

South Sudan’s cholera crisis is waning but humanitarian workers are now battling increased cases of malaria and the parasitic disease kala azar, with children most affected. The latest emergency operations are focusing on malaria and kala azar, a parasitic disease transmitted by the bite of a sandfly which is usually fatal without treatment. MSF treated about 200 people for kala azar in Upper Nile State, one of the areas worst hit by fighting, in July. With the onset of the rains producing stagnant water for mosquitoes, there has also been a “spike” in malaria, MSF said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140829142554-a34r7/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140829142554-a34r7/?source=fiOtherNews3)

LAC

**Across LAC**

**Drought leaves up to 2.81 mln hungry – UN**

A severe drought has ravaged crops in Central America and as many as 2.81 million people are struggling to feed themselves, WFP said, though the region's coffee crop has been largely unscathed. The drought, which is also affecting South America, has been particularly hard on the so-called "dry corridor" of Central America, which includes southern Guatemala, northern Honduras and western El Salvador.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140829234605-kilxd/?source=jtHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140829234605-kilxd/?source=jtHeadlineStory)

**Colombia**

**Silence surrounds 92,000 disappeared – ICRC**

More than 92,000 Colombians have disappeared during 50 years of war and at the hands of drug gangs, and the government needs to step up efforts to find missing people, the Red Cross said. Every day nine people are reported missing in Colombia. Of the total number of those registered as missing over the years, nearly 70,000 remain missing without trace, according to the government’s official register.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140829160543-cxw9s/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140829160543-cxw9s/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**El Salvador**

**Gangs agree not to attack police and military**

Leaders of El Salvador's major gangs on Friday said their members would no longer attack police and the military in a bid to revive a tattered gang truce and slash high rates of violence that have rocked the country. Kingpins of five Salvadoran gangs, including Barrio 18 and its rival Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), said the agreement was reached last Sunday to relaunch a March 2012 truce that cut homicide rates by 40%. But in the first eight months of 2014, homicides reached 2,054, an average of 11 per day, well above the five to eight murders per day registered last year.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/us-el-salvador-gangs-idUSKBN0GU02I20140830**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/us-el-salvador-gangs-idUSKBN0GU02I20140830)

MENA

**Across MENA**

**Syrian refugees trigger child labour boom in Turkey – UNICEF mention**

According to UNHCR, about half the million Syrian refugees currently living in Turkey are children. Whereas more than 60% of children in refugee camps are enrolled in school, 73% of those outside the camps – the overwhelming majority of refugees – do not go to school. A recent UNICEF report estimates that one in 10 Syrian refugee children is working – in agriculture, restaurants and shops, as mobile vendors or begging on the street. Almost 900,000 children are estimated to be working in Turkey, around 300,000 of them between the ages of six and 14, according to official figures. The legal working age is 15.

**Guardian -** [**http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/sep/02/syria-refugees-child-labour-turkey**](http://www.theguardian.com/law/2014/sep/02/syria-refugees-child-labour-turkey)

**Iraq**

**UNICEF delivers emergency aid to children in Amerli**

In response to a break in the two-month long siege of Amerli, UNICEF has delivered 45 metric tonnes of life-saving supplies for the estimated 3,000 children, women and their families who have been trapped in dire conditions. The UNICEF supply convoy consisted of seven trucks dispatched from Erbil directly to Amerli without transfer to unmarked vehicles, and included the Mayor of Amerli as a passenger. This delivery is the first in a series of planned aid convoys and is now supporting 15,000 people with family food packs, oral rehydration kits for health clinics, emergency food rations, therapeutic food for malnourished children, family hygiene kits and more than a thousand bottles of water.

**UNICEF -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/unicef-delivers-emergency-aid-children-amerli-iraq-enar**](http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/unicef-delivers-emergency-aid-children-amerli-iraq-enar)

**Amid ongoing conflict, Iraq completes massive polio campaign for children with support of UNICEF and WHO**

Despite the ongoing conflict, violence and displacement across Iraq, a mass polio immunization campaign succeeded in reaching 3.75 out of 4 million children under the age of 5. The five-day campaign between 10 and 14 August was organised by the Iraqi MoH with the support of UNICEF and WHO, and was part of the national response to the re-emergence of the poliovirus in Iraq earlier this year. The campaign comes at a time when the number of displaced children continues to increase on a daily basis. Approximately 65,000 internally displaced children were vaccinated in the Kurdish Duhok Governorate alone.

**WHO/ UNICEF -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/amid-ongoing-conflict-iraq-completes-massive-polio-campaign-children-support-unicef-and**](http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/amid-ongoing-conflict-iraq-completes-massive-polio-campaign-children-support-unicef-and)

**Iraq retakes more towns from IS**

Iraqi Kurdish forces and Shia armed volunteers have retaken more northern towns from the IS group, killing at least two of its senior fighters, sources said. A day after breaking the siege in the town of Amerli north of Baghdad, government forces retook the town of Sulaiman Bek on Monday, removing another key stronghold of the IS group. Iraqi officials said they killed, Mussab Mamoud, the town's IS head, and Mazen Zaki, the military wing commander, along with more than 20 other Sunni rebel fighters. Iraqi security officials said eight of the fighters were Chechen. They also said the fighters include dozens of nationalities, including experienced Chechen snipers.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/iraq-retakes-more-towns-from-islamic-state-20149183142780549.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/09/iraq-retakes-more-towns-from-islamic-state-20149183142780549.html)

**Libya**

**Clashes between Islamists, rivals kill 31**

A Libyan security official says clashes in the eastern city of Benghazi between Islamists and rival fighters loyal to a renegade general have killed 31 on both sides. The official said early on Tuesday that fierce fighting erupted between Gen. Khalifa Hifter's loyalists and a group of Islamist militias called The Benghazi Revolutionary Shura Council late on Monday. Hifter's jets pounded Islamists' positions while militiamen responded with artillery. The hours-long clashes concentrated around the city's Benina airport.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/clashes-islamists-rivals-libya-kill-31-25209590**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/clashes-islamists-rivals-libya-kill-31-25209590)

**Gunmen seize government ministries as Libya spirals further into chaos**

Armed militiamen have seized control of most Libyan government ministries in the capital, Tripoli, the transitional government acknowledged early Monday, in the latest sign of a dramatic deterioration of Libya's trappings of statehood.

**LA Times -** [**http://timeli.info/item/2376798/LA\_Times\_World\_News/Gunmen\_seize\_government\_ministries\_as\_Libya\_spirals\_further\_into\_chaos\_\_\_LA\_Times**](http://timeli.info/item/2376798/LA_Times_World_News/Gunmen_seize_government_ministries_as_Libya_spirals_further_into_chaos___LA_Times)

**Heavy fighting in Benghazi city; airport hit**

Heavy clashes broke out between the forces of a renegade general and Islamist fighters in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi on Saturday, killing at least 10 people and showering the airport with rockets, medical and military sources said. Libya is being racked by factional violence as the armed groups which helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 turn their guns on each other in a struggle to dominate politics and the country's vast oil resources.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0GU0V620140830**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/us-libya-security-idUSKBN0GU0V620140830)

**Militia fighters enter US embassy annex in Tripoli**   
Members of a Libyan rebel militia have entered an annex of the US embassy in Tripoli but have not broken into the main compound where the US evacuated all of its staff last month, a US official said on Sunday. It was not immediately known how close the annex, apparently made up of diplomatic residences, is to the embassy itself.   
**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL1N0R10F520140831**](http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFL1N0R10F520140831)

**State of Palestine**

**Israel claims West Bank land for possible settlement use, draws US rebuke**

Israel announced on Sunday a land appropriation in the occupied West Bank that an anti-settlement group termed the biggest in 30 years, drawing Palestinian condemnation and a US rebuke. Some 400 hectares (988 acres) in the Etzion Jewish settlement bloc near Bethlehem were declared "state land, on the instructions of the political echelon" by the military-run Civil Administration.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140831223326-qjabb/?source=fiOtherNews2**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140831223326-qjabb/?source=fiOtherNews2)

**Rebuilding Gaza will take 20 years, group says**

An international organization involved in assessing post-conflict reconstruction says it will take 20 years under current levels of restrictions to rebuild the Gaza Strip's battered and neglected housing stock following the war between Hamas and Israel. Most of the new building would be to make up for the current housing deficit, rather than to address damage from fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants. The housing assessment by Shelter Cluster, chaired by NRC with the participation of UNHCR and the Red Cross, underscores the complexities involved in an overall reconstruction program for the Gaza Strip, which some Palestinian officials have estimated could cost in excess of $6 billion.

**AP -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/housing-group-20-years-rebuild-gaza-25188472**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/housing-group-20-years-rebuild-gaza-25188472)

**Around 600 Palestinians seized by Israel in August**

Israeli forces detained 597 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem in August, raising the number of Palestinians in Israeli prisons to more than 7,000, the Palestinian Prisoners Club said. The majority of the arrests took place in East Jerusalem and Hebron, which is situated in the south of the West Bank, the NGO, based in Ramallah, said in a statement. Many were arrested during demonstrations in support of Palestinians in Gaza, which was the focus of a deadly 50-day war between Israel and Hamas.

**AFP -** [**http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-30/269070-israel-arrests-almost-600-palestinians-in-august-ngo.ashx#axzz3BsVpdYE1**](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2014/Aug-30/269070-israel-arrests-almost-600-palestinians-in-august-ngo.ashx#axzz3BsVpdYE1)

**Syria  
Record 4.1 million got food aid in August, UN says**

A record 4.1 million people in Syria received food rations in August due to more convoys being able to cross front lines and borders from Turkey and Jordan, WFP said. "We are reaching more people every day with urgently needed food assistance - many of them have been going hungry for months," Muhannad Hadi, WFP's regional emergency coordinator for the Syria crisis, said in a statement. Over the last six weeks, WFP and partner agencies have crossed front lines to reach more than 580,000 people, over four times the 137,000 reached in the preceding six weeks, it said.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140902093207-h9mm4**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140902093207-h9mm4)

**37 children killed in string of attacks: NGO**   
At least 37 children have been killed in government air strikes and shelling across Syria in the last 36 hours, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said Sunday. The Britain-based Observatory said 20 children had been killed between midnight on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, with 17 more killed between Friday and Saturday night. The deaths came in regime shelling and air strikes across the country, though most took place in the northern province of Aleppo and northwestern Idlib.  
**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/37-children-killed-string-syria-attacks-ngo-155702434.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/37-children-killed-string-syria-attacks-ngo-155702434.html)

**Evidence of Islamic State cluster munition use**

Credible evidence has emerged that IS forces used ground-fired cluster munitions in at least one location in northern Syria in recent weeks. The use of cluster munitions by non-state actors such as the IS shows the urgent need for Syria and all nations that have not yet done so to join the ban on cluster munitions and destroy their stockpiles. Syrian government forces have used cluster munitions since June 2012 despite widespread international condemnation. An attack on 21 August is the most recent report of government use.

**HRW -** [**http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/09/01/syria-evidence-islamic-state-cluster-munition-use**](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/09/01/syria-evidence-islamic-state-cluster-munition-use)

**Army battles rebels as UN bids to free Golan monitors**

Syrian troops battled rebels hard by the armistice line with Israel on the Golan Heights on Monday as the UN pressed efforts to free 44 peacekeepers held by the insurgents. Several mortar rounds struck close to the ceasefire line as the combatants exchanged rocket, mortar and tank fire near the Quneitra crossing, which the rebels seized last week. The UN said on Sunday that the Fijians "continue to be detained by armed elements". More than 70 Philippine peacekeepers who had been surrounded by the rebels escaped the hot zone over the weekend but the UN mission remained on high alert.

**AFP -** [**http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/middle-east/67861-syria-rebels-golan-heights-un-peacekeepers**](http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/middle-east/67861-syria-rebels-golan-heights-un-peacekeepers)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/31/us-syria-crisis-peacekeepers-idUSKBN0GV07420140831**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/31/us-syria-crisis-peacekeepers-idUSKBN0GV07420140831)

**Yemen**

**Shiite rebels rally in Sanaa after leader defies UN**

Tens of thousands of Shiite rebel activists demonstrated in the Yemeni capital Monday, heeding a call by their leader to press their campaign to oust the government in defiance of the UN. The show of strength by the Zaidi Shiite rebels caused traffic jams on several major roads in Sanaa, , as sources said the president has sent an envoy for renewed talks with the rebels' leader.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/shiite-rebels-rally-sanaa-leader-defies-un-184236911.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/shiite-rebels-rally-sanaa-leader-defies-un-184236911.html)

**At least 13 soldiers killed in al Qaeda attacks**Suspected al Qaeda militants carried out two separate suicide car bombings against military locations in the south Yemen province of Shabwa on Sunday and medical sources said 13 soldiers had died. The attacks were one of the most significant to be carried out by the insurgents in southern Yemen since the army launched a major campaign earlier in the year to flush out militants of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) from their strongholds in Abyan and Shabwa provinces.   
**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL5N0R112D20140831**](http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL5N0R112D20140831)

SA

**Afghanistan**

**Afghan talks for unity government collapse; crisis deepens**

Talks on a power sharing deal between Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, have collapsed, a top leader said on Monday, rekindling fears of ethnic unrest over the disputed election results. The breakdown in negotiations on a political deal comes days after Abdullah's team walked out of a UN audit of votes from a 14 June run-off ballot, saying it was dissatisfied with the way that fraudulent votes were being handled.

**Reuters -** [**http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/01/uk-afghanistan-election-idUKKBN0GW2CB20140901**](http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/09/01/uk-afghanistan-election-idUKKBN0GW2CB20140901)

**Taliban suicide bombers hit Afghan intelligence agency**

Taliban suicide bombs hit an office of the Afghan intelligence agency in an eastern city on Saturday, killing six people, and insurgents shot dead another 11 in the west, in an upsurge of violence as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw from the country. Seven militants were also killed during several hours of heavy fighting with Afghan security forces at the Jalalabad headquarters of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), said a spokesman for the governor of eastern Nangarhar province near the border with Pakistan.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/us-afghanistan-attack-idUSKBN0GU03W20140830**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/30/us-afghanistan-attack-idUSKBN0GU03W20140830)

**India**

**Police, tribespeople clash in NE; 2 dead**

A group of tribespeople in northeastern India are enforcing a general strike to protest the killing by police of two of its members. T. Moses Kamba, a spokesman for the Naga tribespeople's United Naga Council, says Saturday's clash with police during a march by hundreds of council supporters left 13 other tribespeople injured. The council is demanding a speedy conclusion of peace talks to end one of the longest-running insurgencies in the region.

**AP -** [**https://sg.news.yahoo.com/police-tribespeople-clash-ne-india-2-dead-103206075.html**](https://sg.news.yahoo.com/police-tribespeople-clash-ne-india-2-dead-103206075.html)

**Pakistan**

**Minister condemns protests as 'revolt against state'**

Pakistan's interior minister Tuesday slammed violent anti-government protests as a "revolt against the state" as lawmakers met to discuss the political crisis shaking PM Nawaz Sharif. Parliament met for an emergency session after three days of clashes between police and club-wielding demonstrators demanding Sharif's resignation. Violence erupted on Saturday when Khan and Qadri ordered their followers to storm the PM’s official residence, with protesters throwing rocks at police who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. There were further clashes on Sunday and Monday, when activists armed with bamboo batons briefly seized control of the state broadcaster.

**AFP -** [**http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/pakistan-minister-condemns-protests-as-revolt-against-state-585542**](http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/pakistan-minister-condemns-protests-as-revolt-against-state-585542)

**IDPs reach record one million**

Pakistan's government announced the start of a full-scale security operation on 15 June in North Waziristan in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) to take on rebel strongholds near the Afghan border. Dubbed "Zarb-e-Azb", the ongoing military operation was launched against Taliban fighters and their allies in the Pakistani tribal areas. According to the UN, as of August 2014 the estimated number of displaced people is now more than one million, comprising about 95,000 families.

**Al Jazeera -** [**http://www.aljazeera.com/humanrights/2014/08/pakistan-idps-reach-record-one-million-201482712311342575.html**](http://www.aljazeera.com/humanrights/2014/08/pakistan-idps-reach-record-one-million-201482712311342575.html)

**Sindh puts off polio drive as Islamabad crisis hits vaccine delivery**

A three-day polio vaccination campaign scheduled to begin on 1 September has been put off by the provincial authorities after the federal health ministry refused to send oral polio vaccine (OPV) to the province due to political unrest in Islamabad. Officials said the Sindh Expanded Programme for Immunisation had initially sought 4.5 million OPVs, which the National Health Services ministry regretted and agreed to send two million vaccines for Karachi and some other high-risk districts of Sindh.

**Dawn -** [**http://www.dawn.com/news/1128817/sindh-puts-off-polio-drive-as-islamabad-crisis-hits-vaccine-delivery**](http://www.dawn.com/news/1128817/sindh-puts-off-polio-drive-as-islamabad-crisis-hits-vaccine-delivery)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Ebola threatens food security in West Africa – FAO**

Disruptions in food trade and marketing in the three West African countries most affected by Ebola have made food increasingly expensive and hard to come by, while labor shortages are putting the upcoming harvest season at serious risk, FAO warned. In Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, quarantine zones and restrictions on people's movement aimed at combating the spread of the virus, although necessary, have seriously curtailed the movement and marketing of food. This has lead to panic buying, food shortages and significant food price hikes on some commodities, especially in urban centers, according to a special alert issued today by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).

**FAO -** [**http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/242177/icode/**](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/242177/icode/)

**GIEWS -** [**http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4003e.pdf**](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4003e.pdf)

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140902070026-27kni/?source=fiHeadlineStory**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140902070026-27kni/?source=fiHeadlineStory)

**Thousands flee Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria for Cameroon**

Sustained Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria's far northeast have forced thousands of people from their homes, swamping towns in the north of neighbouring Cameroon, authorities said. "We've been flooded here in Mora by Cameroonians and Nigerians fleeing Boko Haram," a police officer in the northern town said. "The day before yesterday (Friday), there were already more than 10,000 people in Mora. Not a day goes by without more people coming." The number of IDPs in Nigeria and those who have crossed its borders into Cameroon, Niger and Chad because of the militant violence has been increasing, with no end sight to the insurgency. OCHA said on 5 August that Boko Haram attacks have forced nearly 650,000 people from their homes in the northeast states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-flee-boko-haram-attacks-nigeria-cameroon-194440727.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/thousands-flee-boko-haram-attacks-nigeria-cameroon-194440727.html)

**CAR**

**Rebels expel government ministers**

A grouping of former Seleka rebels in CAR said on Sunday it had expelled from its ranks several members serving in a new government seeking to stop a cycle of deadly clashes between Muslims and Christians. The decision casts doubt on the future of the new cabinet and could prove a major setback for efforts aiming to end violence that has killed thousands, forced a million to flee their homes and split the country in two.

**Reuters -** [**http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GW1JW20140901?sp=true**](http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFKBN0GW1JW20140901?sp=true)

**DR Congo**

**Ebola kills 31 people: WHO**

An outbreak of the Ebola virus in DRC has killed 31 people and the epidemic remains contained within the country's northwest, WHO said Tuesday. "There are now 31 deaths," Eugene Kambambi, the WHO's head of communication in DRC, said adding that the epidemic remains ringfenced in an area around 800km north of Kinshasa. WHO had previously given a death toll of 13 for the country.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/ebola-kills-31-people-dr-congo-102448943.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/ebola-kills-31-people-dr-congo-102448943.html)

**MSF 'delighted' by escape of kidnapped nurse**

MSF said it was "deeply moved and delighted" after one of its nurses escaped unharmed from rebels who had held her hostage in eastern Congo for more than 13 months. She was abducted on 11 July 2013, along with three of her colleagues. The kidnapping took place during an attack on the village of Kamango, in North Kivu, by the Ugandan rebel group ADF-NALU which is fighting government forces in DRC. The nurse managed to flee while rebels were distracted by a military assault and was found, weak and thin, by Congolese government forces on Friday and returned safely to the nearby city of Beni. The other three aid workers who were kidnapped with Vulinzole remain missing, despite efforts by MSF to secure their release.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.trust.org/item/20140901170438-38l6z/?source=fiOtherNews3**](http://www.trust.org/item/20140901170438-38l6z/?source=fiOtherNews3)

**Mali**

**New round of peace talks opens in Algiers.**

Peace talks between the Malian government and armed rebels opened on Monday in the Algerian capital, the second round of negotiations since July. A ceasefire has been in force since May when the rebels seized a large swathe of northern Mali in a major offensive. Then in July, Bamako and the rebels met for a first round of talks in Algiers and signed a preliminary accord which set a roadmap for further negotiations.

**AFP -** [**http://www.centnews.com/Politics/New-round-of-Mali-peace-talks-opens-in-Algiers/S-2014-09-01/87539.html**](http://www.centnews.com/Politics/New-round-of-Mali-peace-talks-opens-in-Algiers/S-2014-09-01/87539.html)

**Niger**

**Parliament chief, facing baby-trafficking probe, 'in Belgium'**

Niger's head of parliament, who faces questioning in a probe into international baby-trafficking, has turned up in Belgium, an opposition official said Saturday, confirming a media report. Hama Amadou, who had already quietly left Niger for neighbouring Burkina Faso, "is now in Brussels," the official said, confirming the report by RFI. On Thursday. Amadou's lawyer confirmed that his client, leading challenger to President Mahamadou Issoufou ahead of elections in 2016, had fled Niger for Burkina Faso because he felt threatened by the state, and not because of the baby trafficking accusations.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/niger-parliament-chief-facing-baby-trafficking-probe-belgium-233532220.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/niger-parliament-chief-facing-baby-trafficking-probe-belgium-233532220.html)

**Nigeria**

**Scores killed as Boko Haram overrun town**

Boko Haram have overrun much of a northeastern Nigerian town after hours of fighting that has killed scores and displaced thousands of residents, several security sources said on Tuesday. The Islamists launched an attack on the town of Bama, 70km from the Borno state capital of Maiduguri, on Monday. They were initially repelled but came back in greater numbers overnight, the sources and witnesses said. The sources said there were heavy casualties on both sides. One security source said as many as 5,000 people fled.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/02/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0GX0R120140902**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/09/02/us-nigeria-violence-idUSKBN0GX0R120140902)

**Boko Haram kill scores in captured town**

Boko Haram gunmen have killed scores of residents in a Nigerian town on the border with Cameroon that they captured in recent raids, witnesses said Saturday. The militants seized Gamboru Ngala earlier this week after taking over military and police facilities in a fierce gun battle which forced thousands of residents across the border into Cameroon. The residents fled to Fotokol for fear of attack by the Islamists, despite being told they were only after security personnel and local vigilantes.

**AFP -** [**http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-kill-scores-captured-nigeria-town-231309930.html**](http://news.yahoo.com/boko-haram-kill-scores-captured-nigeria-town-231309930.html)

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