

## Second Watching Brief

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Warning of renewed droughts threatening basic livelihoods
- Census planning creates problems around ethnicity question and protests erupt throughout urban areas of the country.
- National Development Plan Adopted by national council
- Significant conflict occurrences between pastoralists and resettlement of IDPs in the central plain and northern areas
- Reports of militia's re-arming in northern areas of Nimpala raise public concern
- Increased risk of waterborne disease around Qah'zeem and refugee camps

### SITUATION UPDATE

#### Humanitarian Response

- Food insecurity is currently estimated at above 1.5 million people. This is 20% above initial projections for the year. The increase is attributed to the escalating conflict and increased hunger season food shortages associated with delayed harvests.
- Food: WFP has increased delivery of emergency food supplies to the eastern valley and specifically around the city of Al-Bahr. WFP estimates they are providing emergency food supplies for close to 813,000 people. This number is expected to grow as poor and erratic rainfall combined with reduced maize production due to ongoing violence in the central regions have limited farm outputs.
- Agriculture: Pastoralists seek adaptation mechanisms against prolonged drought. Rising temperatures has been linked as a threats to livelihoods generation for most of the population. The average temperature in the past decade has risen by 0.3' compared to previous decades. The slight change has worried some agronomists working in the central areas of the country where water and crops are already highly susceptible to slight temperature variations. Experts warn that a 2' rise in temperature in areas of Nimpala could cause a near complete loss of main livelihood crops including coffee. FAO conducted a rapid crop assessment mission last month and confirmed below normal rainfall during the critical rainy season, which just ended. The immediate impact will be delayed harvest in the central plains and will threaten the hunger season. The risk of reduced water supply, vulnerability to high temperatures, and new pests are all related to fears over potential climate changes impacting agricultural production.
- Nutrition: A study was released stating that over 45% of children under five are underweight and stunted due to malnutrition. The rate of acute malnutrition is estimated to have increased slightly, afflicting around 16.6% of children under the age of five. The government has announced a goal to create the national nutrition program.

- **Health:** Reports of significant increase in waterborne diseases in urban areas throughout the country. Outbreaks have been reported in the north and through the central plain. The capital has not had any reported cases but officials are worried about a quick spread of the outbreak.

### **Security/Protection**

- Reports of groups rearming in the north have caused alarm with central government officials in Aybodi. Old groups associated with Northern Brotherhood have reportedly formed in response to violence directed at IDPs and around refugee camps.
- Several refugee camps reported significant fighting between the remnants of the Northeast Brotherhood in and around refugee camps in the north and the Akola resettlements.
- Cattle raiders have killed over 100 people in several areas in the eastern and central valley. Clashes over water, livestock, and pasture have increased slightly since the last reporting period.
- Concerns remain over access to education in northern regions of the country, still experiencing instability and isolated instances of violence. Violence continues to disrupt governance and reconstruction activities.
- OCHA and several main relief NGOs have had to withdraw operations from two of the major refugee camps due to violence and growing conflict. They have requested additional funds to help support emergency operations.
- Gender-based attacks have continued to burden local communities. They have increased significantly suggesting organized groups are behind parts of the attacks in refugee camps.

### **Shelter and Resettlement**

- **IDPs:** Resettlement of Akola communities continue under supervision of the government. The movement of pastoralists throughout the central plain correspond to resettlement efforts and have raised concerns from security experts for the potential of local disturbances.
- **Refugees:** The fighting in country B continues. The government has indicated increased efforts are needed to reduce the flow of refugees and increase protection of border refugee camps from attacks.
- According to officials, disputes over land ownership are threatening resettlement of thousands of former IDPs. This is placing land as a major source of tension and impacting the poorest members of society.

### **Census**

- Planning continues to reach deadlines for the next census. A time frame has been established and districts are being redrawn. A center for Census, Statistics and Evaluation was created to support these programs. The tools will be pre-tested before finalization for the enumeration of the 2010 census.
- Protests erupted after the center announced they would include several questions geared at determining the ethnicity of the population. Opposition formed against the polarizing impact of this information.
- Growth rate is already estimated at 3.2%, with high fertility rates of almost 7 children per women in urban areas, highest around the capital, Aybodi. This raises concerns about extensive population growth.

### **Economy**

- Country B and C report increased flow of illegal timber across the borders. Nimpalan officials are planning to make an appeal for an end to the continued sanctions. The Security Council still seems poised not to lift sanctions but the President has prioritized efforts. With the apparent rearming of rebels there is a diminishing chance of success.

- Infrastructure projects are underway. Concerns remain about disrupting traditional allocation systems from the impact of building major dams or irrigation systems in central plain and north/eastern agricultural areas.

#### **Environment**

- Fear of continued rapid deforestation with estimates that the country could lose forest cover within 40 years if current rate of deforestation continues. Large portion of the country still use biomass as a primary source of energy, especially firewood for cooking.