

## Third Watching Brief

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Erratic Rainfall reduced crop output during rainy season but improved irrigation systems provide hope for dry season.
- Census successfully conducted with results pending.
- Security conditions improve around refugee camps as additional militias are disarmed and reintegrated into the communities.
- Full IDP resettlement program operational with expected resettlement of over 50,000 people by the end of the year

### SITUATION UPDATE

#### Humanitarian Response

- **Disaster Preparedness:** The national government appealed for help to combat drought and floods as humanitarian organizations fine-tune disaster reduction preparedness ahead of potential droughts in the central plain and heavy rainy season in the west. Representatives of government ministries, UN agencies and relief agencies held a daylong preparedness planning and scenario development workshop in Aybodi focusing on the anticipated rains and following flooding. The workshop focused on the most likely scenario, described as the "mid-case scenario", which estimates that at least 100,000 people will be displaced by floods and a total of up to 950,000 will be in need of humanitarian aid.
- **Food:** Besides almost doubling the amount of food rations to be distributed and helping drought-affected pastoralist communities, the government also set up a crisis centre under the Prime Minister's office to coordinate nationwide relief operations. The World Food Programme continues to be worried that although dependency on emergency food supplies is slowly decreasing, WFP's emergency operations are only 35% funded.
- **Agriculture:** Major donor commitment to improved irrigation and water resource management systems, specifically as they pertain to agricultural development. The emphasis has also been placed on mapping movement of nomadic pastoralists and efforts to reduce degradation and environmental damage.
- **Nutrition:** Despite fears of food insecurity, nutrition rates have improved slightly. The rate of acute malnutrition has decreased below the international crisis level of 15% in certain areas according to a study by a consortium of local NGOs around Qah'zeem.

#### Security/Protection

- Instances of violent conflict have decreased significantly in the central plain and around Qah'zeem.

- **Protected Areas:** The militias have moved out of the northern national park. Programs for disarming, demobilizing and reintegration have been established around the area to help prevent former militia youth from having access to weapons and inflicting violence. The program has concentrated on areas in the north around former militia strong holds and the national park.
- Several refugee camps continue to report violence based on cross border attacks from Country B but these instances have decreased since the last reporting period.
- Education still remains absent for many children. The inability for youth to attend school, combined with demographics the majority of the population between 18-30 years of age, has raised concern with some urban planners.
- Gender-based attacks have reportedly dropped after major improvements in W atSan conditions and basic security has improved.

### **Shelter and Resettlement**

- **IDPs:** Resettlement of Akola communities continue under supervision of the government. The number of returnees has risen significantly. Joint efforts between the UN and government have also focused on reintegration support to reduce violence between returnees and potential squatters or disputes between local communities.
- **Refugees:** The fighting in country B continues pushing mostly Maqqara pastoralists into Nimpala. This has reduced since the last reporting period but has not ceased. OCHA and the government have built several new camps to help accommodate those refugees in country and are trying to control the flow across the borders.
- Environmental degradation and deforestation continue around the camps. This is a major concern as resource scarcity and arable land for refugees has decreased significantly.

### **Economy**

- The UN Security Council announced it was lifting the ban on exporting timber, although still leaving strict restrictions on monitoring of harvest. The government has agreed to reviewing timber concessions and set up enforcement mechanisms to prevent illegal harvest and exportation.