

## Third Watching Brief

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Cholera outbreak grows and officials worry is uncontrollable causing Country C closes borders temporarily
- Initial agricultural indicators reflect the high probability of an acute food shortage in the coming dry period
- Donors failed to deliver over half of the requested funds for emergency food aid.
- Census officials announce a 2-year delay due to continued disagreements between ethnic group leaders and officials on certain questions.
- Conditions around refugee camps continue to worsen with increased reported cases of water borne diseases
- Full IDP resettlement program operational but conflicts breaking out around returnee areas
- Refugee camps have close to doubled in size since the end of the civil war, officials report.

### SITUATION UPDATE

#### Humanitarian Response

- **Food:** Government announces emergency measures are needed to stem pending food crisis, warning of serious shortfalls from local production. According to the government, more than half the country is considered food insecure with more than ¾ of the country at risk.
- **Health:** The number and location of clinics are insufficient and lacking basic supplies. Cholera spreading into capital and critical urban areas causing neighboring countries to limit border crossings. Health authorities and aid workers are racing to contain outbreaks of cholera, influenza and diarrhea which have killed over an estimated 1000 people and infected over 6,000, officials say.
- **Health:** Rapid population growth and lack of access to health services particularly in insecure rural areas have contributed to an influx of patients to the capital, health officials said. The shortage of qualified medical personnel and equipment is also affecting the hospital's response capacity. However, officials concede that everything hinges on one important issue - security.
- **Health:** Cholera has spread throughout the country, reaching Aybodi and other major areas. It has spread throughout the central plain with the largest number of reported cases in the northern border areas. Country C has temporarily closed its borders until precautionary measures can be established. This closure has damaged the ability for Nimpala to export goods. The cholera continues to spread and health officials do not have adequate containment plans.
- **Agriculture:** Erratic rainfall has led to failing crops in the central plain. An NGO reported that instead of tall, lush, and green maize and crops there are barren fields of parched browns and pallid yellows. The local farmers are not expecting to have sufficient harvests and have spent significant portions of their cash on preparing the land. The lack of water resource management and improved irrigation for certain populations have lead to a potential food crisis. Some experts predict a close to 80% crop failure of maize

## Security/Protection

- Insecurity continues to limit aid workers in north. Several main NGOs have closed their offices around Qah'zeem due to threats and violence. This weakens emergency services and monitoring efforts.
- According to humanitarian organizations, there has been a large influx of weapons in illegal circulation despite the efforts for disarming ex-combatants. This has threatened instability and a renewed round of violence if not contained.
- The number of IDPs in zones under threat from militia attacks in north have grown significantly. There has been no response from the government to increase security or protection. UN peacekeepers do not have the forces needed to cover all of the areas.
- Cattle raiders continue to increase attacks have killed over 250 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.
- Gender-based attacks have continued to burden local communities and increased significantly. International NGOs are pressuring the government to take action and planning international campaigns if actions are not taken.

## Shelter and Resettlement

- **IDPs:** Resettlement of Akola communities continues under supervision of the government. The health concerns have slowed progress in returnees because movement has been restricted. The camps are also key areas for the cholera outbreak so the government has been trying to restrict movement out of the areas. This has also limited development projects to improve conditions in the camps
- **Refugees:** The fighting in country B continues, increasing the number of attacks across the borders into Nimpala. The poor conditions in the camps have multiplied health threats.
- Recent satellite images have shown significant destruction of the forested areas around the camps. This raises serious concerns for the areas agricultural and environmental health.
- 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 the most.

## Economy

- Country B and C report increased flow of illegal timber across the borders. The Security Council denied a motion to remove the sanctions but agreed for a review in 1 year. The continued infringement on national forests and illegal export raised major concerns.