

## Third Watching Brief

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence erupts throughout the country destabilizing government putting the UN peacekeepers on high alert.
- Key officials warn that President Ndogogo will step down as conflicts expand and opposition grows.
- Initial indicators suggest an acute food shortage in the coming dry period after erratic rainfall diminished crop outputs.
- Cholera outbreak grows and remains uncontrollable causing Country C closes borders temporarily
- Donors failed to deliver over half of the requested funds for emergency food aid.
- Census has been canceled until further notice due to opposition and violent protests.
- Conditions around refugee camps continue to worsen and protests within camps grow.
- Full IDP resettlement program operational but conflicts breaking out around returnee areas has halted implementation

### SITUATION UPDATE

#### Humanitarian Response

- Food insecurity is currently estimated at above 9 million people. The poor rainfall has damaged significant portions of the crops and causing hardship for small subsistence farmers. The Nimpalan 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the country at risk.
- **Food:** Increased violence in many regions has impacted WFP's ability to deliver emergency supplies. Attacks directed at WFP caravans have reduced the quantity and frequency of food deliveries to areas with acute food shortages.
- **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. Crops have also been damaged from conflicts.
- **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.

- **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.

### Security/Protection

- Confirmed reports of militias rearming throughout the country with increased number of violence throughout areas of the country. Signs of renewed organized opposition and conflict with the central government are becoming clear. Experts warn the country has reached a tipping point and is about to enter into another civil war.
- Attacks by rebels flowing across the border from Country B have increased dramatically. Over 439 civilians have been killed in fighting and even more are being displaced as these groups target refugees in the northern border areas.
- The UN Security denied a request to increase Peacekeepers in the country. The peacekeeping force has been unable to respond effectively to the increase in violence.
- Violence has erupted around the northern refugee camps and near the edges of the national forests.
- Cattle raiders have killed over 400 people in several areas in the eastern and central valley.
- OCHA and several main relief NGOs have had to cease all operations from five 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 has been halted due to violence and fear of spreading cholera.
- **Refugees:** Fighting around refugee camps has increased as pressure on local communities grow. Maqqara leaders in Nimpala have initiated a new campaign to demand for political asylum for the refugees, who are predominately of Maqqara ethnicity.
- 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.

### Census

- The census was canceled after major opposition formed and opportunists organized protests which quickly turned violent.
- 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. The Security Council denied a motion to remove the sanctions. They have mandated additional staff to continue monitoring and reporting on flows of timber. This undermined the President's efforts to increase economic productivity in the country.