

Second Watching Brief

HIGHLIGHTS

- Warning of renewed droughts threatening livelihoods
- Census planning creates problems around ethnicity question
- National Development Plan Adopted by national council

SITUATION UPDATE

Humanitarian Response

- Food: WFP has increased delivery of emergency food supplies to the eastern valley and specifically around the city of Al-Bahr.
- Agriculture: Pastoralists seek adaptation mechanisms against prolonged drought. Rising temperatures poses threats to basic livelihoods. 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 portions 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 assessment of crop production 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 40% of children under five are underweight and stunted due to malnutrition. The rate of acute malnutrition remained constant, afflicting around 16% of children under the age of five. The government has announced a goal to create the national nutrition program.

Security/Protection

- There have been two successful operations for disarming major militia groups in the north. While many remain, this initial effort reached critical areas around main 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.
- According a small NGO survey, the investment in major infrastructure in critical locations have brought initial calm after food riots in the last report period.
- Concerns remain over access to education in northern regions of the country, areas still experiencing instability and isolated instances of violence.
- Gender-based attacks have reportedly dropped after major improvements in WatSan Conditions.

Shelter and Resettlement

- IDPs: Resettlement of Akola communities continue under supervision of the government. The movement of pastoralists along the central valley with resettlement has raised concerns from security experts.
- Refugees: The fighting in country B continues without resolution or signs of lessening. The government has indicated increased efforts are needed to reduce the flow of refugees and increase protection of border refugee camps from attacks.
- Areas around the camps have shown significant signs of environmental degradation due to pressures on resources by the growing populations in the camps.

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 broke out over concerns that several questions geared at determining the ethnicity of the population. Opposition formed against the polarizing impact that this information could bring.

Economy

- Country B and C report reduced 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 and international lobbying.
- 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.