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Countries

Links

ECHO Products > Echo Flash

## Echo Flash

### Published ECHO Daily Flash of 21 January 2020



#### ECHO DAILY FLASH

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

21 January 2020

##### I. International



#### Mali - Armed violence, impact on civilians (DG ECHO, ACL ED, media)

- At least 15 civilians of a Peul village close to Douentza in the centre of Mali were killed last week. This is another attack targeting civilians caused by the intercommunity violence that has affected the centre of the country for more than a year, with the worst massacre in Ogossagou in March 2019.
- In the centre, the lack of effective police and justice allows criminal groups and ethnic militias to exert armed violence in complete impunity.
- The worsening armed conflicts in the centre and border areas with Burkina Faso and Niger result in ever more military activities. Both have a serious impact on civilians' security and access to basic services. 871 and 888 civilians were victims of improvised explosive devices in 2018 and 2019 respectively, representing half of all fatalities.
- In the Menaka region in the north, humanitarian organisations had to suspend their operations due to a series of violent incidents caused by armed criminal groups. Negotiations with security forces and local leaders are underway to guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers and to restart assistance to local population.



#### Ethiopia - Cholera outbreak (Ethiopian authorities, UNICEF, DG ECHO Partners)

- Since mid-December 2019, over 1045 cholera cases and at least 24 related deaths have been reported in SNNPR (Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region), Oromiya (Guji zone) and Somali (Shabelle zone) regions in Ethiopia. The most affected zones are South Omo and Gofa in SNNPR with 970 cases and 18 deaths.
- Regional and local authorities have established emergency tasks forces and deployed rapid response teams with the help of international partners, including MSF, UNICEF, WHO as well as DG ECHO funded partners (IRC, PIN, UNICEF). Assessments of critical gaps and response coordination efforts are ongoing following alerts and government requests, including case management supported by Regional Health Bureaus and INGOs.
- In 2019 and before these latest episodes, a total of 2074 cholera cases had been reported, with all regions and administrative cities affected, except Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz regions.
- Cholera outbreaks remain a major public threat in Ethiopia mainly due to poor living conditions, inadequate water and sanitation facilities and poor health and hygiene practices.



#### Iran - Floods (DG ECHO, Humanitarian partners, Copernicus EMS, media)



activation

- Since 11 January, heavy rains and river overflowing have led to widespread floods, affecting especially Sistan and Baluchistan (SB), Hormozgan and Kerman. Depth of water reached 8 metres. New waves of rain are expected.
- In SB, 13 counties are particularly impacted with thousands of people displaced and living in emergency shelters. 500 roads to villages are blocked, 719 villages damaged as well as agricultural land, livestock, schools, health clinics. First estimates report more than 200 000 people directly affected; 100 000 people have their houses at least partially destroyed. Infrastructure and agriculture losses reach USD 100 million. Telecommunications are cut off.
- In Hormozgan, floods have affected villages and infrastructure, including roads and water facilities.
- Most pressing humanitarian needs are safe drinking water, food, hygiene aid.
- First emergency, life-saving relief has been provided by Iranian authorities, the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the Military. There is a raising concern about the risk of communicable waterborne diseases, disruption to schooling and livelihoods.
- Some humanitarian partners are supporting the response from their stocks. Funds are requested. A needs assessment field mission is ongoing.
- EU Copernicus was activated and provided mapping of affected areas.



#### Indonesia - Flash floods (BMKG, Floodlist, media)

- Heavy rain has been affecting southern Sumatra Island since 19 January, triggering flash floods and causing casualties and damage.
- As of 21 January, media report at least nine fatalities in Kaur Regency (western Bengkulu Province) following the collapse of a bridge. In addition, one person is reported missing, while 30 more were rescued after the collapse.
- Over the next 24 hours, moderate rain is forecast over southwestern Sumatra Islands.



#### Nigeria - increased violence and shrinking humanitarian space in the Northeast (DG ECHO, INSO, IOM, UN OCHA)

- The humanitarian hub in Ngala, Borno State, Northeast Nigeria was attacked on 18 January by heavily armed non-state armed groups operatives. An entire section of the facility was burned down. Although no humanitarian staff was harmed, the attack illustrates a worrisome deterioration of the security environment in which humanitarian organisations operate.
- This attack follows the attack on 7 January of an IDP camp in Monguno. Four people were killed, including two children and an estimated 2,728 IDPs were left homeless, after the destruction of more than 300 shelters.
- There is an increase of vehicle check points set up by non-state armed groups along main supply routes in the states of Borno and Yobe, which has a direct negative impact on the free movement of civilians and on the capacity of humanitarian workers to deliver aid.
- A total of 12 aid workers have lost their lives in 2019 which is twice more than in 2018.
- Abduction of civilians and aid workers remains a serious threat. Civilians and three aid workers abducted on 22 December by non-state armed groups were released on 15 January but two female aid workers, abducted in March 2018 and July 2019, remain in captivity.



#### Australia - Severe weather (BOM, media)

- Hailstorms, dust storms and heavy rain with thunderstorms hit south-eastern Australia, particularly New South Wales and Victoria States over the last few days, leading to casualties and damage.
- As of 21 January, media report two injuries, transportation disruptions and widespread damage in Canberra as a result of a hail storm, flash floods and landslides. In addition, 2200 houses remained without power in south Sydney after two storms.
- For the next 48 hours, more heavy rain is forecast across southern Victoria and south-western New South Wales.
- The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has issued severe weather warnings across the aforementioned areas.

##### II. Europe



#### Spain - Severe weather update (Spanish Civil Protection, AEMET, EUMETNET, COGIC, media)

- Heavy snowfall, heavy rain, strong winds, very low temperatures and storm surge (due to the so-called "Storm Gloria") have been affecting northern and eastern Spain mainland as well as the Balearic Islands over the past 48 hours, causing casualties and damage.
- As of 21 January, media report, four fatalities, of which two in Valencia Province (one in Gandia Municipality and one more in Moxent Municipality), one in Avila Province and one in the Asturias Region. In addition, across the Valencia Province, the airport of Alicante has been temporarily closed, schools in 120 municipalities were suspended and several roads were cut off.
- Over the next 24 hours, heavy rain and strong winds are forecast over most of the country except western regions, while heavy snowfall is forecast over northern and northeastern regions.
- According to the Spanish Meteorological Agency (AEMET), a red warning for snow storm remains in effect over parts of Aragona Region as well as for coastal event over northeastern Spain.



#### Meteoalarm - As of 21 January, 8.00 UTC (EUMETNET)

- On 21 January: Red Alert for snow/ice and coastal events in central-eastern and north-eastern Spain.
- On 22 January: no Red Alert issued.



#### Floods and flood warnings during the last 24 hours reported by national services (European Flood Awareness System – EFAS)

- United Kingdom:** Warning level 2/3 for 1 region in England.

##### III. Factsheets



#### Myanmar

- Myanmar faces multiple ongoing conflicts between the Myanmar military and ethnic armed groups, marked by widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights laws causing substantial humanitarian needs.
- The United Nations estimates that more than 985,000 people in the country are currently in need of humanitarian assistance, including those displaced in the conflict-torn states of Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan.
- In 2019, the European Union allocated EUR 9 million in humanitarian aid to address the immediate needs of displaced and conflict-affected communities in Myanmar.

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