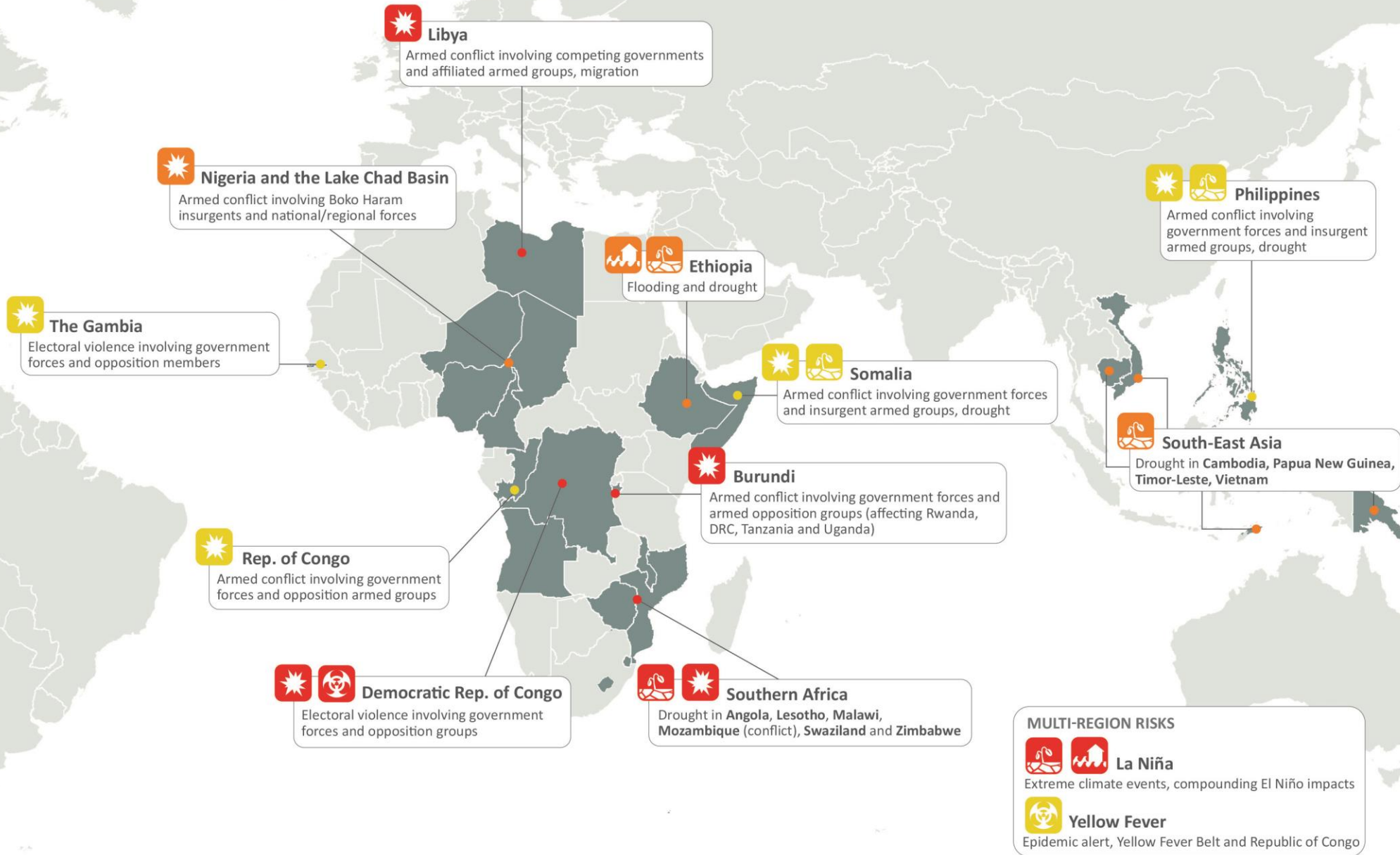


IASC Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness Report

Submitted by the IASC Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness





Introduction

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness (EWEAR) Report is produced bi-annually by the inter-agency Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness to highlight risks with a high probability and impact on humanitarian needs during the next six months (June to November 2016). The Report aims to provide a forward-looking analysis of the most serious risks in support of IASC Reference Group activity and to equip relevant decision makers with key information for preparedness, response, advocacy and resource mobilisation efforts to mitigate and manage these risks.

As a product of a humanitarian inter-agency entity, adherence to the humanitarian principles is a key factor in its production, in particular independence – meaning the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from those of a political, economic, military or other nature. The Report acts as an inter-agency source of information for officials accountable at the global level for preparedness and is in addition to reporting up the normal chain of accountability from Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators. The Report does not aim to provide an analysis of the relative severity of humanitarian need.

Each country or region includes a risk analysis followed by an analysis of IASC response capacity and preparedness. In an effort to support concerted early action to the situations of most concern, the initial list of risks provided by the different agencies has been prioritised to highlight only those risks assessed as having the most acute gap between the potential humanitarian impact and existing capacity and preparedness levels. Countries have been divided into three ‘tiers’ based on the assessed gap between the seriousness of the risk and the level of preparedness and response capacity: very high, high or moderate.

It was agreed that risks relating to existing Level 3 emergencies (L3s) should only be included in the Report by exception, as L3s are already regularly reviewed by the IASC, with every effort made to scale up and enhance the response. A summary of the methodology used to develop risk selection is at the end of this Report.

All information provided is based on extensive research by the various contributing agencies, with the risk analyses drawing from a range of open and public sources, and presents the IASC early warning analysts group’s collective assessment. The IASC Index for Risk Management (INFORM) values, which are based on historic data, have been added to provide a wider risk context.

The IASC early warning analysts group will continue to closely monitor these risks and the wide range of ‘on watch’ risks that were not included in this Report, as part of regular monthly discussions.

This Report was collaboratively developed as an inter-agency product by early warning and preparedness analysts from the following IASC partners: ACAPS, FAO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO. WFP provided staff to facilitate the process and compile the text.

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Burundi Armed conflict involving government forces and armed opposition groups (affecting Rwanda, DRC, Tanzania and Uganda)



RISK ANALYSIS

The gradual militarisation of the political crisis will continue to reinforce the government's sense of isolation and help ensure that more radical elements maintain the upper hand. President Nkurunziza's administration appears to be trying to turn a political confrontation into one that has a strong ethnic character - by accusing the Tutsis of being behind the rebellion, resulting in the use of a rhetoric with ethnic-undertones. In addition to allegations of unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention, torture and ill-treatment, restricted movement, and crackdowns on freedom of speech, there are also claims of less visible forms of violence being employed, such as enforced disappearances. Violence is spreading to the provinces, where the *Imbonerakure* – the ruling party youth militia - exert control. A cycle of high-profile tit-for-tat targeted killings of ruling party and army officials raises concerns about eroded cohesion within the armed forces. Burundi increasingly appears to be on the brink of open conflict, with increasing ethnic undertones in the political rhetoric and a widening of the existing rift in the army bearing the risk of a larger confrontation between pro- and anti-government forces. With both the regional and inter-Burundian dialogues at an impasse, the opposition is expected to further radicalize, setting the stage for guerrilla warfare, notably in the provinces bordering Rwanda and DRC. Reports have emerged of calls for the population to take up arms. DRC has publicly accused Rwanda of paying former rebels to join the rebellion to oust Nkurunziza, underscoring the increasing cross-border dimension of the crisis; Rwanda rejected all such allegations. Most land belonging to refugees is seized as soon as they leave, laying the basis for a protracted crisis. Allegations of Burundians being abused or attacked by government-sponsored militias within camps in neighbouring countries are likely to encourage more refugees to join opposition armed groups, and raise protection concerns over child recruitment. A UN police presence is under consultation but only a very minimal deployment is expected. Burundi's GDP shrank by 7.4 points in 2015, and the IMF and World Bank both predict negative economic growth in 2016. The salaries of civil servants, including police, have been affected, creating conditions conducive to increased criminality. Since the crisis began in April 2015, displacement has steadily grown with 261,000 refugees spread across Tanzania (138,000), Rwanda (77,000), Uganda (24,000) and DRC (22,000), and an estimated 85,000 IDPs in Burundi. Internal displacements are under-reported and likely to be much higher. As the violence continues and spreads into the provinces, combined with rapid food price increases, the government's plan to cut public spending will affect the delivery of critical services and lead to displacement as a coping strategy for people affected by food insecurity (the May/June Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) concluded that 2.6 million people are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis, 1,740,753 people) and Phase 4 (Emergency, 545,280 people)). The suspension of direct EU funding to the Burundi administration will inevitably impact on the provision of basic state services and development activities, particularly those led by the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, as Burundi relies on international aid for 51 per cent of its national budget. Children are likely to be disproportionately affected as they will drop out of school to work for food or on family land. There is a very high likelihood that over 500,000 new people will require humanitarian assistance in the coming six months.

PREPAREDNESS

IASC capacity to respond to a sudden deterioration in the humanitarian situation has increased, but is still perceived to be low/medium. Sixty five development and humanitarian partners have an operational presence in country but their capacity to respond to the ongoing situation and any sudden deterioration is considered limited. Their presence and capacities are mainly concentrated in the capital Bujumbura, although many have sub-offices in other provinces and/or would be able to quickly reopen new sub-offices if needed. Despite recent efforts to deploy additional emergency personnel, there is still a need for UN Agencies and NGOs to bring in more staff with emergency expertise, as many are still very development-oriented. It was assessed through the recent contingency planning exercise that in-country response capacity (staff, relief items and funding) would cope with about 10,000 additional people in need in the first weeks of a crisis. While existing capacities were estimated to be higher in the food security and livelihood (FSL) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sectors, the nutrition and health sectors have fewer existing capacities. There are also logistics gaps, namely warehousing and transport capacity. Protection and human rights monitoring capacity are limited and undermined by insecurity and repression. Many donors have indicated the suspension of their bilateral funding. Coordination mechanisms have been strengthened: nine sectors are in place since January 2015, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) was re-established in April 2015 and OCHA opened an office in January 2016 to strengthen inter-sector coordination of preparedness and response. However, there are no provincial sectors or inter-sectoral fora, and information management (IM) capacity within sector lead agencies has been weak. Most agencies have agreed to strengthen their IM capacity. IASC partners have also agreed to establish a protection working group and define a clear protection strategy. Additional support for better sectoral coordination will remain critical. The HCT plans to revise the contingency plan starting in May-June 2016. The latest inter-agency post-elections contingency plan covering the period September 2015 to February 2016 requested US\$10 million to support preparedness efforts.

INFORM Risk Value: 6.4

- Hazard & Exposure (Human): 8.0
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 6.3
- Vulnerability: 6.9

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Electoral violence involving government forces and opposition groups



RISK ANALYSIS

Presidential and legislative elections due in November 2016 are increasingly likely to be delayed. Protests, some violent, erupted in December 2015 and January 2016 at the announcement of electoral delays. Opposition activists accuse President Joseph Kabila of trying to stall the election to remain in power. The Constitutional Court on 11 May ruled that, in the event elections are delayed, President Kabila should stay in power until a newly-elected President takes office. The contention surrounding the Constitutional Court ruling is a flashpoint for reactions from opposition supporters. On 30 March, the UN Security Council extended MONUSCO's mandate for one year, including provisions for situations of escalating political violence. Allies of President Kabila won 14 of 19 provincial governorship elections in March, thus solidifying the president's control over local security forces and resources. Given the restriction on political freedoms and the lack of avenues for democratic opposition, along with the government's heavy-handed use of security forces to maintain authority, the likelihood of political tensions escalating into violent clashes in urban centres is high. Former Governor of Katanga Province Moise Katumbi, who was nominated by several opposition groups to challenge President Kabila in the poll, represents a threat for the incumbent President and an arrest warrant was issued for him, accusing him of recruiting mercenaries. Katumbi flew to South Africa for medical treatment on 20 May, and it is unclear whether he will return to DRC. While the ruling party could attempt to change the constitution, the most likely scenario remains delayed elections into 2017, a move which would likely trigger wide political unrest in a situation similar to that of post-electoral Burundi. Besides the capital, electoral violence can also be expected in opposition strongholds such as Katumbi's hometown of Lubumbashi. The government is likely to limit or shut down mobile networks, restrict the opposition's rights through legal or violent means and increase intimidation and harassment. Such an outcome would lead to displacement from the capital and translate into several hundred thousand people being affected. Opponents and rebels are likely to cross the Congo River to find refuge in the Republic of Congo, souring an already tense relationship between Brazzaville and Kinshasa. The DRC armed forces are likely to increase their military operations against certain armed groups with political affiliation in eastern DRC. As violence in the Kivus continues to displace people, with an average of 200,000 people displaced every three months in 2015, these numbers are likely to increase in the lead up to the elections. As armed groups prepare for military offensives, recruitment is likely to increase, making child protection essential. There is a very high likelihood that more than 500,000 new people will be affected as a result of this risk.

DRC is also experiencing a cholera outbreak, with 7509 cases (140 deaths) reported since January mainly in South Kivu (1726), Lomami (1327) and North Kivu (1032). A high number of cases are still being reported in South Kivu where the situation is of particular concern due to the presence of camps hosting refugees from Burundi. Previous epidemics suggest a high likelihood of the epidemic spreading to densely populated locations such as Kinshasa and in border regions near the Republic of Congo, potentially adding an additional 10,000 affected people to the overall humanitarian caseload.

PREPAREDNESS

IASC partners' capacity to respond to a quickly worsening humanitarian situation is considered medium. A significant number of humanitarian actors are present in DRC (260 partners have an operational presence), although there are few or no partners to respond to emergencies in some areas, especially in remote and rural locations. Humanitarian response capacity is concentrated in eastern DRC, particularly Nord-Kivu and Sud-Kivu. In other provinces where there are fewer partners, the response to emergencies can take more time. That said, some actors in the health and shelter sectors have rapid response capacity throughout DRC, and a capacity mapping exercise was recently undertaken. Humanitarian operational capacity is hindered by a severe lack of financial resources. By 20 May, 13 per cent of the US\$690 million Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requirements had been received. A coordinated rapid response mechanism is in place, although insecurity and limited funding mean that only the most acute needs are targeted. The poor state of roads and other transport infrastructure mean that many areas are difficult to access. The rising number of security incidents against humanitarian partners, primarily in the east, would also limit access to affected areas. The HCT has agreed to develop new operational strategies to better spread resources (staff, stocks, financial) across vulnerable areas, bring capacity and operational presence closer to the most vulnerable communities, and reinforce prepositioning of response capacities throughout DRC. Coordination structures function well, both nationally and sub-nationally, given the protracted response, and management and operational arrangements are well-established. Inter-agency contingency plans have been or are being updated for vulnerable provinces and are due to be finalised in May-June 2016. MONUSCO also has a contingency plan for the elections.

INFORM Risk Value: 7.2

- Hazard & Exposure (Human): 8.0
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 8.1
- Vulnerability: 7.4

Libya Armed conflict between competing governments and affiliated armed groups, migration



RISK ANALYSIS

The UN brokered Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) has led to the creation of a Government of National Accord (GNA) as the sole internationally recognised governing body of Libya. The recognition of the GNA is fragmenting the House of Representatives (HoR) and the General National Congress (GNC). The prolonged process of negotiations has created a political and security vacuum which the various militias, jihadist groups and criminal gangs have taken advantage of, further increasing the risk to civilians of indiscriminate attacks, summary executions, unlawful killings, arbitrary arrests, abductions, and torture on account of one's origins, religion or political views. Civilian infrastructure including hospitals have also been attacked and looted. No effective mechanisms exist to protect civilians or ensure accountability amidst a continuing collapse of the justice system in many parts of the country. Meanwhile, armed groups with a pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) are already established in the city of Sirte, seeking to expand IS' presence in the hinterland and along the coast. With documented cases of forced recruitment of children and their use in hostilities, child protection concerns are rising. Moreover, children under IS rule are less likely to receive adequate education, and schools typically lack equipment and staff. International pressure to recognise and support the GNA, coupled with the domestic threat posed by an emerging IS are likely to reconfigure alliances among the armed groups. As the HoR and GNC camps both lose unity, powerful armed groups are likely to increase their leverage through renewed violence. The current confluence of strategic intent, political opportunity and tactical manoeuvres indicate that both the Misratan brigades (pro-GNC) and the Libyan National Army (LNA, pro-HoR) will mount military operations against IS in Sirte. Division, rather than unity, between armed groups is the most likely outcome in the coming months. As IS expands, particularly towards the oilfields in the south and also west towards Misrata, then an international military campaign led by NATO countries may become increasingly likely. As the international community considers lifting the arms embargo to equip the GNA to fight IS, it is likely that IS fighters will be forced to retreat to rural areas further south and across the borders. As most IS fighters in Libya hail from Tunisia, an increased return of IS members to Tunisia is likely as military pressure escalates. Increased recruitment of unemployed and disenfranchised youths is likely as well as marginalisation of minority groups. In addition, a shortage of liquidity by Libya's Central Bank will generate concern as it facilitates salary payments to 1.6 million Libyans. Medicine and food pipelines will remain particularly vulnerable and breaks could leave nearly 2 million people (one-third of the population) without access to essential health services.

The number of migrants transiting through Libya for Europe has grown, facilitated by conflict and a lack of security, with coastal cities used as exit points for the Mediterranean crossing. Increasing restrictions along the Aegean route into Europe have contributed to a 90% rise in departures by sea from Libya since the beginning of 2016 (about 24,000 people) compared to the same period last year. This trend is expected to continue as conditions on the ground deteriorate.

PREPAREDNESS

Humanitarian operational capacity in Libya is low. Only 18 partners participated in the development of the HRP 2016 (9 UN and 9 INGOs). The humanitarian community has operate in Tunisia since evacuation in July 2014, and relies on national staff, INGOs, local NGOs and government capacity for delivery. Several INGOs have international staff in Libya, but most operations are managed remotely and through 'in/out' field missions. The return of a limited number of international staff to Libya is being explored by United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). Local partners' capacity is quite limited and they have made a strong request for capacity building on technical humanitarian issues. Trainings by the protection and health sectors are scheduled. Overall, scaling up quickly would be a challenge, especially in ISIS-controlled areas where access is very limited; it would require identify and vetting new partners. Humanitarian operational capacity is hindered by a lack of financial resources; as of 18 May, 23 per cent of the US\$166 million HRP requirements had been received. Transport networks across Libya are either partly destroyed or inaccessible due to insecurity and ongoing fighting. Moreover, limited capacity of local partners with respect to logistics and supply chain management raises concerns, particularly for medicines. The HCT was re-established in June 2015, and led the development of the HNO and HRP for 2016. There is an inter-sector coordination platform and four sectors are active (health, shelter and NFIs, protection and WASH), with meetings taking place in Tunisia (without local partners). The health sector also started coordination meetings inside Libya (with local partners). Sub-national coordination needs to be improved, and sector lead agencies should ensure dedicated sector coordinators and IM capacity. Efforts are ongoing to improve the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment methodology. The HCT has started developing an 'operational plan' which outlines preparedness to respond to an escalation of the crisis and to kick-start a possible long-term intervention in areas where there might be needs (Benghazi, Tripoli, Sabha and Awbari and Al Jabal Al Ghabi).

INFORM Risk Value: 6.4

- Hazard & Exposure (Human): 10.0
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 7.0
- Vulnerability: 4.5

Multi-Regional Risk - La Niña



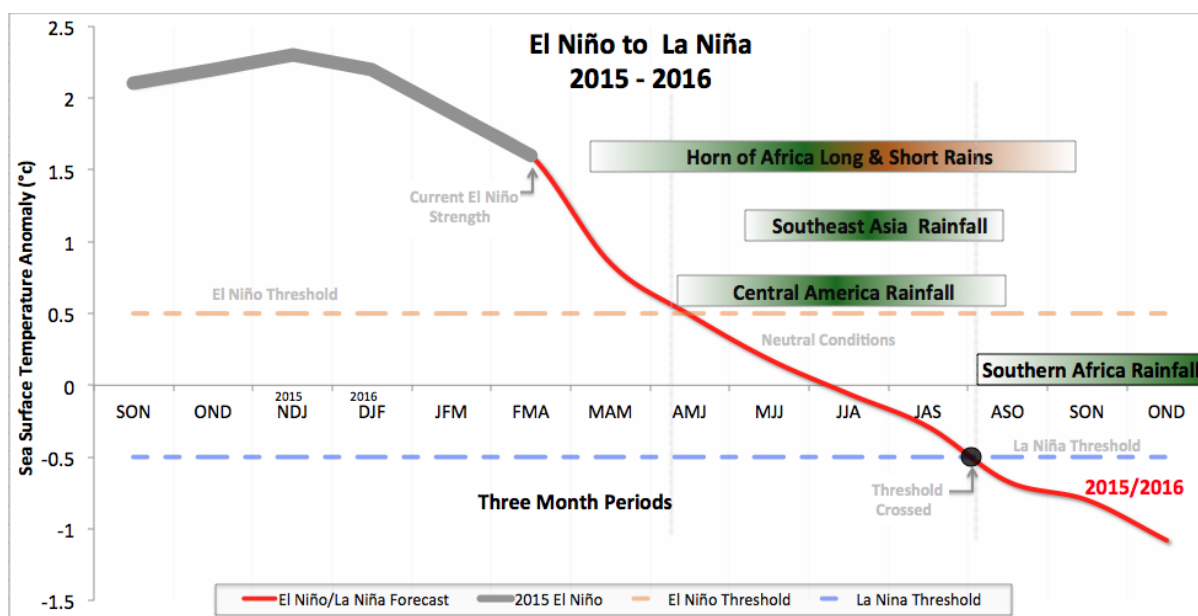
Extreme climate events, compounding El Niño impacts

OVERVIEW

Forecasts predict that the 2015/16 El Niño event will transition to neutral conditions by June-July 2016, with a possible transition to La Niña conditions around September-October 2016. Historical analysis indicates that a transition to La Niña from an El Niño event occurs roughly half of the time, with the most recent forecast predicting a 75 per cent chance of La Niña by the third quarter of 2016.

The main feature of La Niña is the opposite of El Niño: cooler, rather than warmer, sea surface temperatures in the tropical central and eastern Pacific Ocean. In areas where El Niño brings below-average rainfall and increased temperatures, often La Niña brings about above-average rainfall and cooler temperatures.

La Niña tends to influence climate in many of the same areas affected by El Niño. With coping capacities of people already eroded due to El Niño, and given that the humanitarian impact of El Niño continues to increase (food insecurity, for example, is not projected to peak before December 2016), the emergence of La Niña could severely compound suffering. The humanitarian impacts of La Niña could be particularly devastating in the regions most affected by El Niño, namely Southern Africa, parts of eastern and western Africa, Central America, South America, Asia and the Pacific.



El Niño is rapidly declining in strength with current forecasts predicting neutral conditions to be in place across the main growing months in SE Asia and Central America, and transitioning to La Niña conditions during the second rainfall season in Eastern Africa and Southern Africa's main rainfall season.

The effects of La Niña are likely to be experienced first during the short-rain season (October - November) in parts of eastern Africa where below average rainfall is forecast, potentially causing drought conditions. In Southern Africa, there is an increased risk of a wetter than average rainfall season (December - February) occurring across a drought-stricken region. While above average rainfall could, under certain conditions, favour crop production and pasture recovery, its associated risk of flooding may also lead to further crop and livelihood losses, infrastructure damage and intensify water-related and vector-borne diseases as well as a lack of access to clean water. While enhanced rainfall is also much more likely across parts of Central America, West Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, the impacts of La Niña in these regions are unlikely to be experienced until 2017 due to the timing of their growing seasons.

Southern Africa Drought in Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique (conflict), Swaziland and Zimbabwe



RISK ANALYSIS

While El Niño's climatic influence is waning, the humanitarian consequences are still being felt and the impact of the associated drought is expected to increase significantly across Southern Africa in the next six months. The meagre April/May 2016 harvest will temporarily improve food access in parts of the region in the short term, but food security is likely to begin deteriorating by July, reaching its lowest state between December 2016 and March 2017. The current regional cereal deficits and ongoing economic downturn will continue to apply upwards pressure on market prices (which are already showing unprecedented increases), diminish purchasing power and reduce food access.

The next agricultural season, which starts around October 2016, will be critical to mitigate further negative impacts. Unless livelihood recovery activities and preparation for the next agricultural season are prioritised and implemented as part of El Niño response and recovery efforts (and advance preparedness for a potential La Niña), a further deterioration in food security and livelihoods is expected in 2017. In addition to the spread of disease due to water scarcity, some 31.6 million people are already assessed as food insecure across the region, potentially increasing to more than 49 million by late 2016. Children are particularly vulnerable as they typically drop out of school to beg or work in order to counteract the negative livelihood effects. The gap between accelerating humanitarian need and national capacity is likely to be most acute in Angola, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, with Mozambique and Zambia on watch.

The humanitarian situation in Mozambique is compounded by the recent escalation in violence between the ruling Front for Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO) party and the opposition Mozambique Resistance Movement (RENAMO) party. While a return to full-scale conflict is unlikely due to RENAMO's limited capacity, a failure to find a political solution to the growing tension means RENAMO's low-level insurgency is likely to continue in south and central Mozambique. The conflict is driven by the government's increasingly thin restraint on the use of force, as well as by the fact that RENAMO's leader is under pressure to demonstrate the group's capacity, for fear of losing credibility. The escalation in conflict will continue to generate displacement, both internally (rural to town) and into Malawi (11,500 refugees since mid-December 2015). There is a high likelihood that the refugee flow to Malawi will quickly become unsustainable due to severe food shortages caused by the drought.

PREPAREDNESS

Humanitarian response capacity in the region is limited. Most partners present in the various countries maintain only a development focus, and the overall humanitarian presence is relatively small. The UN and NGOs have stepped up preparedness and response efforts; the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat has established a regional El Niño response team and WFP has scaled up food assistance response capacity by declaring a Level 3 Emergency (13 June). However, there still remains a need to further strengthen inter-agency response capacity through 2016. In Mozambique, for example, existing response efforts are currently estimated to be reaching one fifth of the people in need of assistance. Response capacity of IASC partners is considered low in Angola, Lesotho and Swaziland and medium in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Logistical capacity among IASC partners in these countries is severely limited. Prior to the onset of El Niño, a HCT existed in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. A HCT has since been established in Zimbabwe and Lesotho, prompted by El Niño. Angola and Swaziland both lack an HCT, although there is an emergency country team in Angola and there are plans to review a potential HCT for Swaziland. Clusters are currently active in Malawi and Mozambique. HCTs have developed plans in Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and a joint government-HCT plan in Madagascar, seeking US\$678 million for humanitarian response efforts. In April, the Lesotho and Swaziland HCTs carried out an assessment and prioritisation of critical gaps in preparedness and response, and work is ongoing to address these gaps. In addition to strengthening inter-agency response for the El Niño-induced drought, there is also a need for agencies to support livelihood recovery programmes during the next six months to help ensure a successful growing season and avoid a protracted emergency into late 2017/2018. Timeliness of interventions is crucial to address needs on the ground, and there is a need for a strong livelihood recovery programme within the broader multi-sectoral response. Livelihood recovery activities such as seed and fertiliser distribution, livestock vaccination and re-stocking as well as asset creation programmes are required to ensure affected farmers are able to plant. Detailed proposals to implement these measures are under development.

	AGO	LSO	MOZ	MWI	SWZ	ZWE
INFORM Risk Value	4.2	3.9	5.8	4.3	3.1	4.3
Hazard & Exposure (Natural)	2.0	2.0	6.0	3.3	1.8	2.5
Lack of Coping Capacity	7.1	6.7	6.8	6.4	5.7	5.7
Vulnerability	4.4	5.2	6.1	6.3	4.0	5.8

South Pacific & South East Asia Drought in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Timor-Leste and Vietnam



RISK ANALYSIS

Although the majority of climate forecasts predict El Niño conditions will weaken to neutral levels by the middle of the Southwest monsoon season (June - September), a continuation of drought conditions in Southeast Asia and above-average rainfall in parts of the Pacific has a very high probability of affecting more than 500,000 additional people in the coming six months. The negative impacts of an El Niño induced drought has weakened the 2016 production outlook for countries located south of and along the Equator, and has significantly reduced access to fresh water across mainland Southeast Asia, with some areas experiencing the worst drought conditions in decades. Below-average rainfall is forecast through the beginning of the main sowing months (May-August) for southern Cambodia and southern Vietnam, while well-above-average rainfall is forecast throughout Timor-Leste and parts of PNG - though this is not their main rainfall season. In Timor-Leste, the current drought has reduced second season cropping activities and with the current rainfall forecasts predicting a transition to above-average rain, there is potential for flooding, waterlogging and water-borne diseases as well as restricted access to clean water potentially resulting in back-to-back below average harvests. In Vietnam, significant rainfall shortages have led 18 provinces to declare a drought emergency, while saltwater intrusion has negatively impacted the rice growing regions in the Mekong Delta. In Cambodia, many wells have run dry with water shortages reported in nearly every province, leading to cattle and fish deaths and an estimated 2.5 million people being severely affected by drought.

PREPAREDNESS

PNG: Response capacity of IASC partners is medium. Over 50 partners operate across PNG. Most have a development focus and limited humanitarian expertise. PNG has a standing informal cluster system. In April 2016, the Disaster Management Team (DMT) released the PNG El Niño Response Plan, which is 23 per cent funded. In June 2015, documents were finalised to support response preparedness, including: Disaster Response Protocols; Joint Rapid Needs Assessment Framework; Inter-Agency Emergency Communications Plan; Early Warning Monitoring Guidelines; and Stockpiles and Prepositioning list. The 2012 inter-agency Contingency Plan was re-validated in December 2015. Challenges which may impact partners' response in the event of a worsening scenario include bureaucratic constraints and limited access to remote areas.

Timor-Leste: Response capacity of IASC partners is considered medium. Few partners are operating across the country. Most agencies have a strong development focus and very limited humanitarian expertise. Challenges which may impact the ability of humanitarian partners to respond in the event of a worsening scenario include bureaucratic constraints, limited logistical access to remote areas and under-funding. WFP has scaled up a logistics operation, but transport costs remain a challenge. Preparedness and response activities are coordinated through the HCT. Timor-Leste has a standing informal cluster system, but partners do not have much IM capacity. There is a rapid needs assessment methodology led by the government, which envisions participation by NGOs and the UN. In March 2015, the HCT tested its 2015 Contingency Plan (flood scenario) in an inter-agency simulation exercise. In April 2016, the HCT developed an Emergency Response Plan requesting US\$25 million for humanitarian efforts which has received barely any support.

Vietnam: Response capacity of IASC partners is considered medium. While the UN Country Team normally focuses on development programming, it is re-targeting existing partnerships and expanding programmes to provide emergency support in key areas. Preparedness and response activities are coordinated via the UN Disaster Risk Management Team and broader Disaster Management Working Group. In April 2016, the UN launched jointly with the government an Emergency Response Plan to support the drought-affected population. A Joint Rapid Needs Assessment methodology is agreed across the NGOs, UN and government and has been successfully used. A Tabletop Exercise is scheduled to take place with the Government in May 2016.

Cambodia: UN and NGO partners are coordinating preparedness and response efforts through the Humanitarian Response Forum (HRF), which works in close collaboration with the government, notably the National Committee for Disaster Management. The development and regular update of an HRF contingency plan, last updated in April 2015, has contributed to improved preparedness. In response to the deteriorating situation due to El Niño, humanitarian partners are conducting assessments and re-programming funds to increase the availability of clean water and supplies and provide food security.

	PNG	KHM	VNM	TLS
INFORM Risk Value	5.3	4.0	3.6	4.1
Hazard & Exposure (Natural)	5.2	4.4	7.3	3.5
Lack of Coping Capacity	8.1	6.7	4.5	7.3
Vulnerability	5.9	3.2	1.8	4.7

Ethiopia Flooding, drought



RISK ANALYSIS

Following the severe El Niño-induced drought, significant flooding has occurred in many of the same regions, with weather forecasts predicting a continuation of above-average rainfall across central and western Ethiopia during their current rainfall season. This may not only hamper the delivery of food aid in the short term, but could also generate economic distress in the medium term. Risks are high for livestock survival and agricultural production, particularly in the regions affected by both phenomena.

The government estimates 190,000 people to be displaced and 486,000 to be affected by floods in southern regions, adding to the 10 million people already in need of emergency food assistance. El Niño consequences on Ethiopian GDP growth have potential to be significant as agriculture represents 45 per cent of GDP, 60 per cent of exports, employs around 75 per cent of Ethiopia's workers, and 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas. In addition, this may produce inflationary pressures in the affected areas. There is a moderate likelihood that more than 500,000 additional people will need humanitarian assistance in the coming six months as a result of the above trends.

PREPAREDNESS

The HCT's capacity to scale up can be categorised as medium. Currently, 66 humanitarian organisations are operational in Ethiopia, including 10 UN agencies, 43 international NGOs and 13 national NGOs. There are some capacity gaps in health, nutrition and logistics. Key agencies are expanding operations and efforts are ongoing to deploy additional personnel to support programming. Humanitarian operational capacity is hindered by a shortage of financial resources. The joint government-HCT Humanitarian Requirements Document 2016, which has appealed for US\$1.4 billion, has a funding gap of US\$639 million. The National Disaster Risk Management Coordination Commission and WFP have agreed on a lending-borrowing mechanism to mitigate periodic pipeline breaks.

Logistical issues include congestion at Port Djibouti and local trucking capacity. Access challenges continue, including difficulties obtaining visas for INGO staff. The HCT in Ethiopia is strong, and has well-established management and operational arrangements in place. There is a strong assessment methodology in place, led by the government. However, gaps exist in cluster leadership, information management (IM) and inter-cluster coordination, particularly at the sub-national level. Food, nutrition, WASH, health and early recovery are priority clusters needing additional IM and coordination capacities. The Logistics Cluster was activated in March 2016, and WFP has deployed staff to support cluster coordination. Nutrition, Protection and Emergency Shelter/NFI Clusters have also scaled up their response capacity to the drought. OCHA is scaling up to strengthen inter-cluster response at the sub-national level.

INFORM Risk Value: 6.5

- Hazard & Exposure (Natural): 3.8
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 7.2
- Vulnerability: 7.2

Nigeria and Lake Chad Basin Armed conflict involving Boko Haram insurgents and national/regional forces



RISK ANALYSIS

Boko Haram has seen its influence weaken as the military response in north-east Nigeria and the far north of Cameroon continues to put intense pressure on the group. This, however, has not resulted in a full cessation of the group's activities, and vulnerable populations in the Lake Chad Basin remain at risk as the humanitarian impact continues to mount. Boko Haram is very likely to increase its presence by infiltrating refugee and IDP camps as well as populations in remote areas. In addition, an influx of fighters from the Islamic State into Boko Haram's ranks raises the risk of a major offensive. Increased recruitment and the targeting of vulnerable people such as children and unemployed youths is likely. Moreover, human rights violations such as torture, extrajudicial killings, disproportionate destruction of property and communal infrastructure (e.g. schools) perpetrated by both sides will remain a concern, as will instances of sexual and gender-based violence. In the absence of a unified Lake Chad Basin regional approach, violence will continue to increase in 2016, further limiting access to services and aid for the most vulnerable populations. The nature of Boko Haram's tactics and geographical reach renders it difficult to defeat.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Army has to deal with several ongoing situations across the country including rising tension in the Middle Belt between nomadic herdsman and farmers, increasing Shi'a/Sunni violence in north-west Nigeria, ongoing attacks by Niger Delta militants on oil facilities, and Biafra independence protests in the south-east. There are currently 2.5 million food insecure people in Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states in Nigeria and 2.2 million IDPs within the country. In addition, there are 169,970 IDPs and 64,862 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon; 137,337 IDPs and 138,321 Nigerian refugees in Niger; 48,176 IDPs and 6,641 Nigerian refugees in Chad. Low agricultural production due to the exodus of labour from rural areas, coupled with the large number of refugees and IDPs, have also led to the overexploitation of natural resources in host areas, generating communal tensions. In addition, a general distrust of refugees, IDPs and communities ethnically affiliated to Boko Haram has led to clashes and evictions. Some 194,000 Nigerians seeking refuge in Cameroon and Niger have been served eviction notices by the neighbouring governments. There is a high likelihood that between 250,000 and 500,000 additional people will need humanitarian assistance in the coming six months as a result of the above developments.

PREPAREDNESS

Humanitarian partners continue to scale up their presence and capacity in the north-east. Currently, 35 humanitarian partners are operating in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe States and are part of the 2016 HNO and HRP. While the number of humanitarian partners has tripled since March 2015, the overall humanitarian response is still limited in the face of needs, and lacks rapid response capacity. Nigeria suffers from insufficient staff with coordination, emergency and programmatic profiles, and from an insufficiently stable presence of longer-term personnel. Partners are working to build the humanitarian capacity of national NGOs and local government. Some 13 national NGOs and the National Red Cross/Red Crescent operating in the north-east play a critical response in the delivery of assistance, especially in areas where international actors are not present or have no access. Visa restrictions continue to hinder scale-up by NGOs. The security situation in north-east Nigeria has restricted humanitarian access by international actors in 34 per cent of the territory in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe. Efforts are ongoing to develop a network with local communities and organisations to gather information and conduct operations remotely. Humanitarian coordination has been strengthened at both national and sub-national levels (in particular in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states), and efforts are ongoing to shift the centre of operational coordination to Maiduguri in the north-east. The HCT is operating through two humanitarian hubs in Adamawa and Borno. Two additional hubs are due to be established in Gombe and Yobe, where humanitarian presence is more limited. Most sector coordinators are double-hatted and lack IM capacity. An IM working group has recently been established. The cluster system has not been activated, but sector working groups are in place and chaired by government line ministries. Contingency planning has not been undertaken since the development of the joint government/HCT Electoral Risk Preparedness & Contingency Plan covering the period October 2014 to March 2015. An inter-agency contingency plan is likely to be developed through 2016.

INFORM Risk Value: 6.3

- Hazard & Exposure (Human): 9.0
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 6.6
- Vulnerability: 5.6

Republic of Congo (RoC) Armed conflict involving government forces and opposition armed groups



RISK ANALYSIS

The Constitutional Court's 4 April validation of the re-election of long-term President Denis Sassou Nguesso with 61 per cent of the vote opens the door to a potential radicalisation of the opposition; peaceful options to contest his re-election seem limited. While this would be facilitated by the country's history of violence between paramilitary groups (bankrolled by outside financial interests and the wide circulation of small arms), the population's support is likely to remain limited. Meanwhile, the opposition is being subjected to high levels of intimidation with extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and limited political space all becoming increasingly likely. OHCHR has raised concerns at reports of mass arrests and torture in detention, and both government and security forces are expected to severely crack down on dissent. The government alleged that explosions and shooting in Brazzaville on 4 April were from an attack by the Ninja militia, but most observers believe that the 'attack' was conducted by government forces with fake explosions and attributed to the Ninja group. The 'attack' resulted in temporary displacements and the launch of military operations in southwest Pool, the Ninja leader's stronghold. The issuance of an arrest warrant on 26 April for former Ninja militia leader Pastor Ntumi is likely to generate a further escalation of violence between government forces and the militia. If verified, allegations that the Police Director General recruited ex-Cobra militiamen (supporting President Nguesso during the 1997-99 civil war) are expected to reawaken tensions from the civil war.

The appointment of former opposition member Clement Mouamba as Prime Minister is unlikely to defuse the tension, as decision-making will remain in the President's hands, and key allies from his northern M'bochi ethnic group. While assessed as unlikely, the possibility of a coup attempt should not be dismissed. Military operations in Pool are feared to have displaced thousands, yet no independent confirmation has been possible owing to the government restricting UN agencies from accessing the concerned areas. Initial findings from NGOs and other entities indicate that bombings targeted Ntumbi's properties, but also affected residential areas, schools and churches, with the villages of Soumona, Mayama, Vinza, and Kimba most heavily targeted. In addition, Congo's deteriorating economic situation risks fuelling the conflict. The slump in global oil prices will result in major cuts to public spending and negatively affect already weak living standards, further fuelling civil unrest by mobilising unemployed youth, mainly in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire. Food prices have increased in Brazzaville and its vicinity, with availability of food on the market being affected by the interruption of supply from Pool. By way of comparison, the 1997 civil war displaced hundreds of thousands of people, and such numbers could again potentially flee in the event of large-scale confrontations. Given the population's entrenched fears from the legacy of the civil war, relatively low levels of violence could generate significant displacement. Low-levels of violence will remain concentrated in the opposition strongholds in the south, where most of the country's resources are located, with a clandestine crackdown on opposition elements likely to continue. There is a moderate likelihood that between 20,000 and 100,000 people will be affected by this risk in the coming six months.

PREPAREDNESS

There is low response capacity in-country (only MSF and the Red Cross have operational humanitarian response capacity), though it could be considered medium if surge capacity is provided by UN agencies and partners from across the Congo River in Kinshasa, DRC. Both the UNICEF and WFP offices in RoC have standby agreements for surges with their DRC offices. OCHA's Regional Office in Dakar could also quickly deploy coordination staff in support of the Resident Coordinator's Office and agencies. No humanitarian coordination structures are in place but the inter-agency contingency plan (IACP) includes proposed coordination groups to be activated if the situation deteriorates; the IACP was updated in November 2015. An inter-agency tabletop simulation exercise (SIMEX) took place mid-February in Brazzaville, and focused on election preparedness including a scenario similar to what transpired (on a lower scale) on 4 April. Recommendations from the SIMEX which remain relevant include a requirement to: conduct a programme criticality exercise; develop a common crisis communications strategy; develop business continuity plans; organise refresher training on multi sector rapid needs assessments and obtain agreement on a common assessment tool; carry out a mapping/3W of current capacity and resources; and add epidemic/pandemic preparedness to the contingency plan.

INFORM Risk Value: 3.4

- Hazard & Exposure (Human): 0.2
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 7.4
- Vulnerability: 4.9

The Gambia Electoral violence involving government forces and opposition members



RISK ANALYSIS

Presidential polls will be held on 1 December 2016 and repression of opposition politicians has increased sharply following peaceful protests calling for electoral reform in mid-April. On 14 and 16 April, more than 50 opposition members were dispersed and several arrested during a United Democratic Party (UDP) rally. Three opposition activists reportedly died in detention following alleged torture while 19 members still remain in custody, lacking adequate food and medical assistance. The European Union (EU) - Gambia's largest donor - called for sanctions after human rights violations by government forces during the protests. Recently the EU blocked some EUR\$13 million of bilateral funding to the Gambia due to the lack of progress in several areas of human rights and rule of law.

The Gambia has seen little political contest in the past years, rendering the current wave of protests significant and a potential indicator of public opinion moving towards openly criticising the government and asking for a change in governance. President Jammeh and the ruling party Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) intend to remain in power through intimidation, harassment and crackdowns with heavy use of force. The administration's use of state resources and patronage networks, coupled with the active repression of dissidence and media censorship, makes it difficult for any opposition party to gain influence. President Jammeh has been accused of undermining the power of the opposition by increasing the cost of registering a political party. The brutal repression of any opposition to President Jammeh's rule is likely to backfire in the medium-term as more and more people see active political opposition and even the use of arms as the only way to defend their rights. In addition, some elements of the army are reportedly sympathetic to the opposition movement National Transitional Council of the Gambia (NTCG), exiled in Senegal, which could give rise to a coup attempt with the Gambian opposition rallying behind it. Despite the president's commitment to ensure the loyalty of army officers, a putsch was attempted in 2009 by the head of the armed forces, as well as one failed coup in December 2014. In the lead-up to the presidential elections, limited political space and human rights violations perpetrated by security forces during violent crackdowns are likely to increase sharply. Intimidation, harassment and denied access to services and aid can be expected, with the most vulnerable people such as women and children affected the most. As a political dialogue is unlikely, the already high protection concerns are expected to rise as the presidential elections approach.

PREPAREDNESS

Humanitarian response capacity in country is low. A total of 11 UN agencies have a presence in the country, of which seven have humanitarian mandates. While the HCT and cluster system are not officially established, six sectors headed by the government line ministries, with support from respective UN Agencies, are in place (food security, nutrition, health, WASH, education and protection). However, support could be mobilized within the region through surge capacity of UN Agencies in country and OCHA's Regional Office for West and Central Africa. If the government permits, the ECOWAS Emergency Response Teams could also deploy as needed. An inter-agency contingency plan has been elaborated and updated. The national contingency plan was revised in June 2016. The last table top simulation exercise (SIMEX) of either plan was in July 2014. Following a preparedness assessment mission in February 2016, a plan has now been put in place for Ebola preparedness. Election preparedness is critical and a SIMEX could be planned before the December 2016 elections.

INFORM Risk Value: 2.8

- Hazard & Exposure (Human): 0.1
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 5.4
- Vulnerability: 5.3

Philippines Armed conflict involving government forces and insurgent armed groups, drought



RISK ANALYSIS

The failure of the previous Philippine Congress to approve the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) leaves the implementation of a core aspect of the 2014 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the hands of the new government. While President Duterte has pledged to implement the CPA, constitutional compliance remains a challenge. If the Supreme Court invalidates the BBL then the rebels would be expected to accept a diluted deal - or the government would need to push for a charter change. The new Congress may also demand changes. Any of these scenarios would increase the risk of a sustained insurgency with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), albeit to a lesser degree than in the past. The MILF leadership is likely to remain committed to a political solution for the next 12 months, although support varies across its members. If pressed for concessions, the MILF could seek leverage by aligning with its more radical rivals, particularly the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) who remain opposed to the CPA and will continue their armed resistance against the government as both groups pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS) in 2015. The IS alignment led to a reported influx of fighters from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Middle East and North Africa while popular discontent with the local government attracted local recruits. Increased recruitment, especially of children and the use of child soldiers, is of particular concern as the Islamist groups continue to grow. With the allegiance to IS and the continued radicalisation of the local population, the likelihood of negotiations with the government are slim, making an armed offensive by security forces increasingly likely. While the government has the capacity to respond to the needs of people affected by the armed conflict, there is a risk of aid being denied or delayed to populations deemed close to the insurgents. Of particular concern are the protection rights of women and children during armed offensives, and access to adequate aid. It is estimated that there is a high likelihood that up to 150,000 people will be affected by a continuation of current levels of violence in Mindanao through the next six months, and that this will markedly increase in the event of a substantial breakdown in the peace process.

Many of those displaced would likely be farmers, with a detrimental impact on food production that would compound the impact of an ongoing severe drought. Well-below-average rainfall has significantly affected many provinces in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao. Farmers in central Mindanao have already lost up to three consecutive harvests and half of the population is applying negative coping strategies. Forecasts predict extended drought conditions in the southern Philippines through the main rice sowing months (May-July) with a high likelihood of a severely reduced harvest in September/October - generating an increased requirement for food assistance and potential for further protests and violent demonstrations.

PREPAREDNESS

IASC partners have a high capacity to respond quickly to a sudden, medium-scale emergency and a medium level of readiness to respond to a large-scale emergency. Partners also have a well-established presence in Manila. There are 15 UN agencies, 4 international financial institutions, more than 30 international NGOs with a humanitarian mandate, and a strong Philippine Red Cross that collaborates with IFRC and ICRC. Collectively, partners have stocks, access to internal funding mechanisms and partnerships with local actors to quickly respond during the life-saving phase of a medium-scale emergency. However, this capacity is not sufficient to meet the immediate needs arising from a sudden onset large-scale crisis. IASC coordination structures are well established and functioning; the HCT was established in 2007 and a working group on El Niño was established in October 2015. At the sub-national level, the Mindanao Humanitarian Team (MHT) meets regularly. The HCT's Emergency Response Preparedness Working Group is reviewing response readiness plans, a process which will be finalised ahead of the monsoon/typhoon season. This builds on a review of inter-agency emergency stocks and joint needs assessment procedures as well as consultation with the authorities on their protocols related to international humanitarian assistance that took place over the past six months. The MHT annually updates its contingency plan for a rapid deterioration of the conflict situation in Mindanao. IASC partners are implementing a number of preparedness and disaster risk reduction projects and trainings that will enhance the government's response capacity. The HCT will also meet to agree on protocols and approaches for future emergencies, such as the activation of clusters.

INFORM Risk Value: 5.5

- Hazard & Exposure (Combined): 9.0
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 4.4
- Vulnerability: 4.3

Somalia Armed conflict involving government forces and insurgent armed groups, drought



RISK ANALYSIS

Severe drought exacerbated by El Niño is compounding an already challenging humanitarian and economic situation in Puntland and Somaliland, and has brought the estimated number of food insecure people in both regions to 385,000. A further 1.3 million are also at risk of food insecurity, and brings the total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support to 1.7 million (37 percent of both regions' population). An increased likelihood of near/below normal *Gu* rains (April-June) is predicted for northern Somalia, which will further compound the drought and necessitate additional support in affected areas. This is likely to fuel further street protests against inflation and commodity price increases, and will exacerbate other conflict drivers in Somaliland and Puntland.

The unresolved territorial dispute between Puntland and Somaliland over the northern Somali provinces of Sool, Sanaag and Cayn (SSC), coupled with emerging militias and demands for autonomy will continue to provide a contested space within which insurgent groups will exploit the lack of governance and security. While al-Shabaab (AS) has traditionally maintained a clandestine presence in Puntland's remote Galgala mountains, exploiting links to Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and other armed groups/traffickers in Yemen, there has been a notable increase in the group's activities against government forces in the north. This geographic shift is likely driven by several factors including AMISOM pressure in southern Somalia, the lack of security in remote areas of Puntland, and an intent to counter Islamic State (IS). Recent fighting in Puntland has also revealed that AS is employing and recruiting significant numbers of children which has added a further dimension to the conflict and also requires a human rights compliant response from the Somali authorities when children are captured. AS has increasingly warned its members against defecting to IS, particularly since the pledge of allegiance made to IS by a senior AS commander in Puntland (Abdulqadir Mumim) in October. IS affiliates recently claimed responsibility for two attacks against security forces near Mogadishu in April (unverified) and also released a video claiming to show an IS training camp in Puntland's Galgala Mountains. It is likely that IS will attempt to consolidate in Somalia through 2016, and Puntland offers a potential base from which to launch attacks, build affiliations, recruit disaffected AS fighters and exploit the region's proximity to IS in Yemen. This will be challenged by AS, with potential for conflict and factionalism between both entities and increased attacks against government forces. It is also likely that localised outbreaks of inter-clan and militant Islamist-inspired violence against Puntland's security forces will continue through 2016, with an uplift in intensity predicted around the proposed elections in late 2016 as armed groups seek to discredit the Puntland administration and the Federal Government. Remoteness and lack of reporting make it difficult to evaluate the humanitarian situation, but conflict in Puntland and Somaliland has potential to generate up to 100,000 displacements (including secondary displacement of IDPs) through the next 6 months, compounding the humanitarian impact of the drought, restricting access and exacerbating criminality (including kidnapping, trafficking and piracy).

PREPAREDNESS

The HCT is well established to respond to the protracted crisis and the need to scale-up to deteriorating situations, although funding is a challenge - particularly for the north. In Somaliland, partners are working through a sectoral emergency model to support response efforts. The HCT is also trying to expedite the implementation of the Early Warning Early action trigger mechanism. Response capacity of IASC partners is also good, with 95 national and international humanitarian organisations currently operational in the area, of which 67 are in Puntland and 51 are in Somaliland. Humanitarian partners have also scaled up operations in food security, health, nutrition and WASH interventions, particularly in Somaliland. However, critical gaps remain. Food security partners report a reduction in delivery since January 2016, just as conditions worsened, due to dwindling stocks. While assistance has targeted the most vulnerable communities, an expansion of coverage is required to reach communities at risk of sliding into crisis and in areas where assistance has not been provided. To date, the 2016 Somalia HRP has received US\$145 million, or 16 per cent of the US\$885 million requested. Access remains a problem, further impaired by the high levels of insecurity and underdeveloped infrastructure. The ban on road transportation of humanitarian supplies into Puntland from Somaliland also continues to be a challenge.

INFORM Risk Value: 8.9

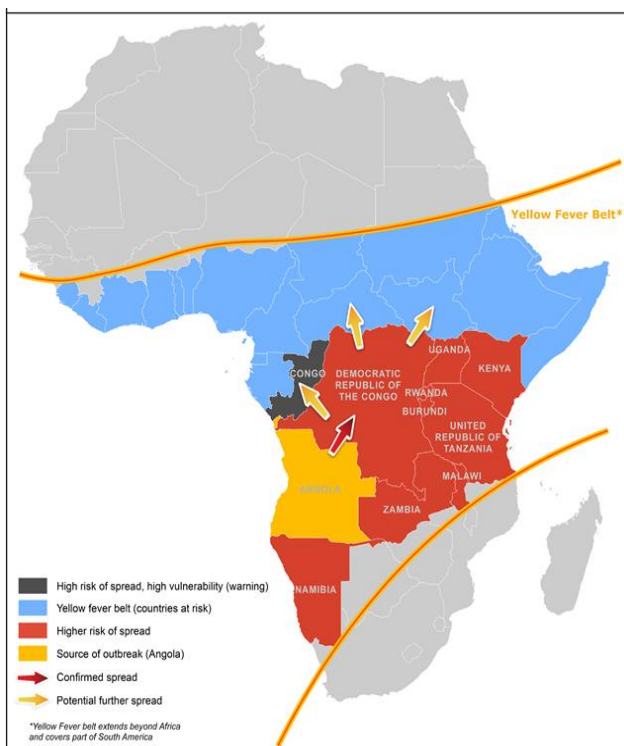
- Hazard & Exposure (Combined): 8.8
- Lack of Coping Capacity Value: 10.0
- Vulnerability: 8.7

Multi-Regional Risk - Yellow Fever



RISK ANALYSIS

Since a yellow fever outbreak began in Angola in December 2015, a total of 2,023 suspected cases and 258 deaths have been reported (as of 24 April 2016), representing the country's worst outbreak in 30 years. The outbreak is of particular concern due to persistent local transmission, low vaccination rates in nearby provinces and countries sharing porous borders with Angola, and a highly competent vector (*Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes). Vaccination campaigns are ongoing, however there have been several challenges in the implementation of response activities which are not keeping pace with the evolution of the outbreak, partly due to a lack of government capacity and resources. As such, there is now evidence of the outbreak spreading to neighbouring DRC. Based on the pattern of spread, further confirmed cases can be expected in neighbouring yellow fever endemic countries within the Yellow Fever Belt. While affected countries have received the vaccines they requested, response to another outbreak, particularly in densely populated urban settings, will be hampered by the current limited global vaccine supply. This will aggravate the already serious public health event.



Kenya, China, Brazil, Peru and Uganda also reported confirmed cases in April, either through local transmission or from imported cases (some of which were not linked to the Angolan Strain). Should imported cases continue to occur, then there could be a risk of sustained transmission and further spread into China given the large Chinese population in Angola, the lack of government tracking, travel patterns and low immunisation rates, coupled with start of the mosquito season in China. Likewise, yellow fever is also a risk in certain urban parts of Brazil given its strong economic ties with Angola. Intensified travel during the Olympic Games in the coming months is another favourable condition to the spread. Weighing preliminary data on vaccination rates with current assessments of country capacity (implementation status of International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacity in surveillance, preparedness and response) of the countries in the current and potential spread zone, as well as current levels of inter-agency preparedness in these yellow fever belt countries, the Republic of Congo (RoC) stands out as being of greatest concern. With ongoing conflict, low national response capacity, a densely populated capital close to the borders, and high levels of displacement, the

situation in the RoC could increase the risk of epidemic spread across the country and beyond, further compounding an already complex situation nearby - with potential to affect between 50,000 and 250,000 people.

PREPAREDNESS

The current scale and severity of the outbreak in Angola is borne in part by inadequate preparedness and prevention measures against the disease as well as low vaccination coverage among children. As of December 2015, Angola's implementation status of IHR was zero per cent for surveillance capacities and 28 per cent for preparedness and response capacities. If the yellow fever outbreak in Angola persists following the recent vaccination campaign, coordinated inter-agency and inter-sectoral preparedness and response activities will be required across the yellow fever endemic countries to support surveillance, vector control and response. The current level of inter-agency multi-sectoral preparedness is low, with many current humanitarian response plans for countries in the yellow fever belt lacking adequate measures to mitigate the risk of a large-scale outbreak. Initial recommendations for the region, and particularly the RoC, include the development of SOPs for logistics support in transporting diagnostic material and cold chain support; increased surveillance and monitoring, particularly of mobile/displaced populations; concerted efforts around waste management; and adapted water and sanitation measures in camp and non-camp settings. At global level, the trigger for increased preparedness will be the first local transmission case (linked to the Angola strain) in an urban setting in any of the endemic countries outside Africa.

Methodology and Process

IASC early warning analysts began by developing a comprehensive inter-agency list of countries where humanitarian situations were perceived to significantly deteriorate over the next six months. All risks identified by the individual analysts and agencies were endorsed by their respective Directors of Emergencies before putting them forward to the analysts group. During a series of meetings held over two days in Geneva, the analysts group collectively assessed each risk and then compared the likely humanitarian impact with the level of capacity and preparedness in country. WFP's Subjective Probability Distribution method was used to understand the probability/likelihood of an event occurring, and to estimate the humanitarian impact.

Subjective Probability Distribution is a tool to consider all possible outcomes of a risk, from the best to the worst case scenario, combining perceived likelihood and associated numbers of people projected to need humanitarian assistance. Featured risks are characterised as conflict, natural hazard, epidemic/disease and economic risks, and sorted by seriousness- reflected in the colour of the risk icon. Seriousness is the geometric average of impact and likelihood; values are rated on a scale from Very High (51-100% likelihood and an impact of more than new 500,000 beneficiaries) through High (31-50% likelihood, new caseload of 250,000-500,000) to Moderate (16-30% likelihood, new caseload of 100,000-250,000). This enabled the group to develop a risk profile for each risk, which was then reviewed against response capacity and estimated levels of preparedness across national governments and the humanitarian community.

All risks were assessed and evaluated for inclusion in the Report against four key criteria:

- **Humanitarian Impact.** Does the risk have a reasonable or high likelihood of generating a significant deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the next six months, causing significant additional humanitarian needs? *Only those risks assessed as having a very high, high or moderate likelihood/humanitarian impact were included in this Report.*
- **Host Government Capacity.** To what extent is the government willing and able to provide a response? Is it likely that humanitarian support will be requested and/or enabled? *Countries assessed as having a high capacity to respond to the projected additional humanitarian needs were not included in this Report.*
- **Humanitarian Capacity.** To what extent does the IASC have adequate capacity in country to respond to the projected deterioration in the humanitarian situation? Is the IASC prepared to respond quickly and effectively if the situation deteriorates? *Only those countries where in-country capacity and preparedness were felt to be insufficient to respond to the projected risks were included in this Report.*
- **Integrated Response.** Will the risk necessitate an integrated inter-agency and multi-sectoral response? *Given the inter-agency nature of this Report, only risks requiring a coordinated inter-agency and multi-sectoral response were included.*

Using these criteria, the report only includes situations: where risks are assessed as having a very high, high or moderate likelihood/humanitarian impact; where there is low national willingness and capacity to respond and/or where in-country humanitarian capacity and preparedness were felt to be insufficient to respond to the projected risks; and where a coordinated inter-agency and multi-sectoral response would be required. The Index for Risk Management (InfoRM) was used as part of the analytical process and relevant risk values are shown in the Report.

It was agreed that risks relating to existing Level 3 emergencies should only be included in the Report by exception, i.e. only where the situation might change to such a degree that existing response capacity would likely be overwhelmed.