Feature

Crisis management

As 2014 began, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs faced four major emergencies. While each is unique, all comprise a range of humanitarian challenges. From supplying food and water to health services and education, frontline agencies face a testing year

CENTRAL AFRICAN

REPUBLIC







SOUTH SUDAN

Central African Republic

After months of unrest, Séléka rebels ousted President François Bozize in March 2013. Violence has since spread across the country, with clashes between Christian militias and Muslims they accuse of involvement in Séléka. In January 2014, Catherine Samba-Panza, former mayor of Bangui, was appointed interim president and tasked with steering the country out of the crisis.



of the population has been displaced



- 714,000 people are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 280.000 are refugees
- OCHA is appealing for \$552m for the crisis
- 100,000 IDPs are sheltering at the airport in the capital, 90 per cent of whom still need shelter, buckets and soap
- An estimated 2.4 million people need urgent health services
- Over 100,000 children in the country will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2014
- 25 cases of sexual violence against girls in Bangui IDP sites were documented during one week in February

UN ACTION

World Food Programme (WFP) trucks with food for over

155,000 people were blocked at the Cameroonian border due to instability.

WFP is using airlifts as an alternative





Since December 2013, the UN Refugee Agency has distributed



Since May 2013, UNICEF and partners have secured the release of children associated with armed groups

Philippines

Despite being familiar with natural disasters and extreme weather events, the devastation was catastrophic when Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November 2013. The typhoon - believed to be one of the strongest ever to make landfall - brought sustained winds of up to 250kph (160mph), a 5m (16 foot) storm surge, and at its widest point stretched 600km (372 miles) across.



of the population has been displaced



- 4.1 million people are IDPs
- OCHA is appealing for \$788m for the crisis
- 14.1 million people have been affected 13 per cent of the
- 33million coconut trees were damaged in one region alone. Previously the world's second largest producer of coconuts, the industry has been set back six to nine years
- 5.9 million workers lost their sources of income and livelihoods
- An oil spill caused by Typhoon Haiyan has left 550 nearby residents homeless

UN ACTION

Over

310,000 people have received tools to help rebuild over

1.1m damaged homes





affected rice farmers have received enough rice seeds to feed

800,000 people for a year

UNICEF has provided water treatment kits for three provinces

South Sudan

Since independence, South Sudan has experienced frequent disputes with neighbour Sudan. But tensions within South Sudan itself erupted in December when an apparent power struggle between President Kiir and Vice President Machar descended into clashes between government and rebel forces and along ethnic lines. Both sides have since signed a ceasefire agreement, though violence continues.



of the population has been displaced



- 716,000 people are IDPs 75,000 of which are sheltering in UN bases - and 166,000 are refugees
- OCHA is appealing for \$1.2bn for the crisis
- 24,700 people have fled to neighbouring Sudan, which has requested assistance from the UN Refugee Agency
- The global emergency standard is one toilet for every 50 people but at one IDP site there is just one toilet for every
- WFP estimates that some 4,400 tonnes of food has been looted, enough to feed 265,000 people for a month

UN ACTION



of 200,000 at risk children have received vaccinations against measles





267,500 people have received food aid

since start of the emergency

400 students were able to sit their Primary School Leaving Exams in a UN compound in Juha



In January, over

Syria

Since anti-government protests began in 2011, Syria's conflict has become increasingly brutal and intractable. Three years of intense fighting between President Assad's armed forces and various rebel militias has brought the country close to collapse. To date, the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons is behind schedule and UN-brokered peace talks have made little progress.



of the population has been displaced



of the appeal has been funded

- 6.5 million people are IDPs and 2.3 million people have become refugees, mainly residing outside formal refugee camps
- OCHA is appealing for \$6.5bn for the crisis
- Over 60 per cent of public hospitals have been damaged
- Over 9 million Syrians nearly half the population are in need of humanitarian assistance
- A negotiated ceasefire allowed 1,400 people to be evacuated from Homs Old City after two years under siege and without receiving any aid. However, around 1,000 remain trapped

UN ACTION



In 2013, the UN Population Fund provided maternal health services to more than

2 million women and assisted with over

10,000 deliveries and 5,000



WFP has provided IDPs with over 13.000

litres of emergency fuel for heating and cooking



The UN seeks to assist 915,000 Syrian refugees in

Lebanon, comprising almost

25% of its population

Sources: OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR, UN News Service (correct at time of writing)

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