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**REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

The Permanent Representative Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons carried out activities for the second half of the year in accordance with the approved work plan of 2015. These activities included:

1. Assessment missions to Cape Verde and Saharawi Refugee Camps in Tindouf.
2. Regional consultations for South, East, West, Central and North Africa regions on the development of the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, for the WHS.
3. The first session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.
4. Participation in the Executive Council Meeting (EXCOM), of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).
5. Meeting with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

ACTIVITIES:

Assessment Mission to Cape Verde

1. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and supported by the Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Division (HARDP), of the Department of Political Affairs conducted an assessment mission to Cape Verde from on 23-27 September 2015. The purpose of the mission was to assess the effects of the volcanic eruption, which the island experienced in November 2014. H.E. Mr. Gerard Mapango, Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), led the delegation, accompanied by Mr. Olabisi Dare, the Head of HARDP.

2. On 23 November 2014, Cape Verde particularly the island of Fogo, one of the ten islands comprising of the Cape Verde Archipelago, experienced a volcanic eruption, which affected about 1500 persons out of the Island population of 37,000. The eruption destroyed approximately 57,000 meters of road infrastructure and cut off districts from neighbouring or surrounding areas. Air traffic into the island was also temporarily disrupted due to the smoke plumes created by volcanic eruption. Even though there were no casualties as the people who lived in the crater of the volcano were evacuated by the civil and military protection authorities, the erupting lava swallowed up all settlements located in the crater of the volcanic mountain. Residents were moved to three camps located in schools at Mosteriros, Achada

Furna and Monte Grande. Other communities also hosted some of displaced persons. Due to the nature of the after effect of the lava flow and the resultant rock formation following the cooling of the lava, the displaced population will not be able to return in the near future.

3. The delegation was received by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs who expressed appreciation to the African Union on behalf of the Government of Cape Verde. The Minister remarked that the period around the volcanic eruption was difficult one for the country. Following the eruption, a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was put in place in order to know the level of assistance to be provided in terms of recovery and reconstruction. It was also noted that the Government is very much aware of the challenges of post recovery and reconstruction challenges and took concrete steps of setting up the *Fogo* Reconstruction Office, which aimed at implementing the recovery and physical reconstruction programme of the affected areas.

4. During the two days visit to the Island of Fogo, the delegation was received by officials of the municipalities of Cha São Felipe and Chas das Caldeiras regions on the island. It also visited the crater of the volcano, which is a very large area comprising of about three main villages of Bangaeira, Djen Lorna and Protela communities. The three affected villages are some of the most productive parts of Cape Verde. The Island of Fogo is actually perceived as the vineyard of Cape Verde with a vibrant wine making industry. The delegation also spoke with a number of displaced citizens including the very few that refused to relocate as they felt that the lava will not reach their residences. The people praised the efforts of the government in responding quickly to avoid any fatality. There was no fatality due to the timely interventions of the government and other humanitarian actors, particularly, the Cape Verde Red Cross.

5. Press Conference was organized by the delegation in Praia, San Santiago Island upon concluding the field visits. It praised the efforts of the government of Cape Verde and thanked international partners for their efforts in supporting government. The leader of the delegation also mentioned the fact that Africa will always stand in solidarity with the government and people of the country. He expressed the best wishes of H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to the government and people of the country and announced the donation of the sum of US\$100,000.00

6. It is pertinent to acknowledge the positive efforts exacted by the government of the Republic of Cape Verde through its response to the volcanic eruption. The early action by the government in coordination with the Red Cross and other partners is positive step in the right direction.

Assessment Mission to the Sahrawi Refugee Camps in Tindouf

7. Upon the request of the H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr. Aisha L. Abdullahi, the Commissioner for Political Affairs led an assessment mission to the Saharawi Refugees Camps in the Tindouf area of Southern Algeria from 03-06 November 2015. The purpose of the mission was to assess the damages caused by the flooding of the refugee camps in late October. The delegation visited the refugee camps in Tindouf and presented a

donation of US\$ 200,000.00 on behalf of the Chairperson of the Commission and US\$50,000, which was donated by the African Union Staff Association. The delegation also met with the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria, H.E. Mr. Abdelhamid Senouci Bereks, who expressed his appreciation for the prompt response of the Commission to the crisis.

8. The Commissioner for Political Affairs thanked the Government and the People of SADR and expressed the appreciation of the African Union to Algerian, for the support provided to the Saharawi people for over 40 years and the additional support provided after the recent flooding in the area. The Commissioner was accompanied by H.E. Amb. Lamine Baali, Ambassador of the Saharawi Republic to the African Union and Chairperson of the PRC-Sub Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, Mr. Salah S. Hammad.

9. On another note, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs engaged in activities to increase awareness on the plight and rights to self-determination of the Sahrawi people. In this regard, it developed press releases and sent open letters appealing to all Member States and the International Community for increased effort to address the problems of the refugees and displaced person of the Sahrawi People in Tindouf and enhanced support to their rights to self-determination.

Regional Consultations for South, East, West, Central and North Africa Regions on the Development of the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, for the WHS

10. The **Political Process** for the development of the Common African Position on **Humanitarian Effectiveness** is anchored in the Decision of the Executive Council Ex.CL/Dec.817 (XXV) in June 2014. The decision welcome the announcement by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon of the first World Humanitarian Summit scheduled for Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016, during the 68th United Nations General Assembly in September 2013. The Executive Council also "...called on the African Union Commission (AUC) in close collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and IDPs to establish an African Common Position that will be presented at the World Humanitarian Summit...and to continuously make progress report to the Executive Council at each Ordinary Summit leading up to the World Humanitarian Summit..."¹

11. Accordingly, the Commission in collaboration, with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and IDPs organised regional consultations for the five regions of the Union throughout the months May to November. The consultations were inclusive and participatory, involving Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UN Agencies, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), various stakeholders at the national, regional and continental levels among the public and private sectors, civil society organizations (CSOs), women and youth associations, academia and the Diaspora. The consultations benefited from the

¹ [http://www.au.int/en/Executive Council of the African Union/Decision/Ex.CL/Dec.\(XXV\)](http://www.au.int/en/Executive%20Council%20of%20the%20African%20Union/Decision/Ex.CL/Dec.(XXV))

technical guidance of a **High-Level Advisory Group (HAG)**, which comprised high-level personalities in Africa with gravitas. These are:

- i) Amb. Akisanya Olusegun;
- ii) Mme. Bineta Diop;
- iii) Mr. Chrysantus Ache;
- iv) Ms. Gogontlejang Phaladi;
- v) Commissioner Maya Sahli Fadel;
- vi) Dr. Mehari Maru;
- vii) Ms. Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda;
- viii) Prof. John Oucho.

12. The first African regional consultation was held from 27th - 29th May in Midrand, South Africa and the second meeting for the East Africa region took place from 29th - 31st July in Arusha, Tanzania. The consultation for West Africa Region was held from 26th - 28th August in Abuja, Nigeria, whilst the consultation for Central and North Africa regions was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 05th - 06th November.

13. The consultations facilitated and reinvigorated discussions on current humanitarian issues, including global and Africa's humanitarian challenges. The consultations also explored mechanisms for strengthening global and regional governance of humanitarian issues and set out a forward-looking agenda to shape future humanitarian action in the continent. The regional deliberations mainly centred on the following themes:

- The governance architecture for humanitarian action: including normative and institutional frameworks, the role of the State and regional organisations;
- Good governance and human rights;
- The humanitarian and development nexus in the continent;
- Emerging triggers of forced displacement;
- Migration and humanitarian concerns;
- Protection and assistance of affected population: including refugees, IDPs;
- Role of the civil society, diaspora and youth, private sector and partnership in humanitarian action;
- Security and terrorism, radicalisation and extremism;
- Humanitarian financing.

The Development of the Common African Position (CAP) on Humanitarian Effectiveness, for the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016

14. Based on the outcomes of the various regional consultations, the draft Common African Position (CAP) on the Humanitarian Effectiveness was reviewed and endorsed by representatives of the Members States during the first session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, which was held from 16 – 20 November 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

15. The CAP identifies relevant themes and presents the dynamics of the humanitarian architecture in Africa. The CAP recognises the existing gaps and demands for the review and transformation of the global humanitarian system. It calls for a future humanitarian architecture that is more relevant, timely, effective, efficient and fit for future challenges. Moreover, it stresses the need to establish responsive and accountable local, national, regional and global governance architecture, including through the full and equitable representation of African countries in the international arena. It also acknowledges the complex links between good governance, development and peace and security and climate change on the one hand and the humanitarian system on the other. The CAP stresses the need to address root causes of the various humanitarian crises in the continent in line with the long-term vision for sustainable development on the continent within the context of the Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development.

The Celebration of the World Humanitarian Day and the African Humanitarian Week

16. On 17 August, the Sub-Committee along with the Department of Political Affairs and its humanitarian partners commemorated the World Humanitarian day and the African Humanitarian Week under the global theme of '*Inspire the World's Humanity*'. The celebration commenced with the PRC Open session on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa on humanitarian action in Africa. The Open Session aimed to display on-going achievements across Africa in meeting humanitarian challenges and explore ways for strengthening capacities of AU Member States in building resilience, crisis prevention and preparedness. A weeklong photo exhibition that depicted success stories in humanitarian action in Africa was also launched.

The First Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

17. The first session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons was organised by Department of Political Affairs in collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, from 16 – 20 November 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The STC was set up on the bases of the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, **Assembly/AU/Dec.227 (XII)** in February 2009. In its first meeting, the STC carried out the following tasks:

- a) Considered and adopted its Rules of Procedure,
- b) Elected members of its Bureau,
- c) Considered and adopted African Humanitarian Policy Framework,
- d) Considered and adopted the Common African Position (CAP) on Humanitarian Effectiveness to be submitted at the World Humanitarian Summit, in May 2016.

18. Accordingly, the following Member States were elected as members of the Bureau of the STC:

No.	MEMBER OF	REGION	COUNTRY
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	BUREAU		
1.	Chairperson	North	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
2.	1 st Vice-Chair	West	Republic of Mali
3.	2 nd Vice-Chair	East	Republic of Uganda
4.	3 rd Vice-Chair	South	Kingdom of Lesotho
5.	Rapporteur	Central	Democratic Republic of Congo

19. During the five-day meeting, the STC reviewed and deliberated on one of the imperative normative frameworks, African Union Humanitarian Policy Framework which guides humanitarian action in the continent. The Humanitarian Policy Framework endeavours to create and operationalize continental coordination mechanisms of humanitarian actions to support efforts at national level guide humanitarian action. The STC also thoroughly assessed and further refined the draft CAP to ensure that regional subtleties are captured and that it explicitly portrays 'One Africa, One Voice, One Message'.

Meeting of the Executive Council (EXCOM), UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

20. A delegation led by The Commissioner for Political Affairs, H.E. Dr. Aisha ABDULLAHI, participated in the 66th Session of the Executive Council Meeting (EXCOM) from 5th to 9th October. The delegation comprised of Ambassador of the Saharawi Republic to the African Union and Chairperson of the PRC-Sub Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, the Ambassador of the Republic of Somalia, Second Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, the Head of the HARDP Division and Senior Political Officer from the Department of Political Affairs.

21. The Commissioner highlighted the growing concern over the African continent. Restricted access to communities affected by conflict across shifting frontlines remains a significant challenge. Breaches of international humanitarian and human rights law by parties to conflicts exacerbate the situation, endanger civilians trapped in conflict zones and threaten the safety of humanitarian workers. In this regard, the situation on the on-going conflict in South Sudan, Central Africa Republic and Somalia were raised. The Commissioner also raised the situation of Somali refugees in the Dadabb camp, appealing to the government of Kenya to adhere to the principles of non-refoulement, whilst understanding the legitimate overall security concerns of the country. Similarly, the worrying situation of the IDPS in Nigeria received due consideration as the humanitarian consequences of the Boko Haram insurgency continue to cause unprecedented crisis of IDPs particularly on women and children.

22. The meeting set out key displacement challenges facing the High Commission and international community and efforts required to address the increasing challenges. Deliberations focused on assessing the relevance of the displacement agenda to the international community and the root causes of forced displacement. It also examined the funding requirements and burden sharing as well as the shortfalls in financing due to the increasing humanitarian needs around the world.

23. In the same vein, the delegation met with the outgoing chair of the UNHCR EXCOM, H.E. Mr. Pedro Commissario, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the UN Office in Geneva. The former chair of the EXCOM thanked the AU for the support given during his tenure. In particular, mention was made of the chair's visit to Ethiopia and South Sudan in relation to the plight of South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees. The delegation also expressed its appreciation for the work accomplished by the chair during his tenure.

Meeting with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)

24. On the margins of the EXCOM meeting, the delegation led by The Commissioner for Political Affairs, H.E. Dr. Aisha ABDULLAHI, held a meeting with International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC). The meeting highlighted and discussed in great length the humanitarian situation in Africa particularly the need for increased humanitarian response for Lake Chad Basin region, mainly in countries affected by the attacks of the Boko Haram and other armed groups. The other focus of attention was the escalating humanitarian situation in South Sudan. ICRC mentioned that it has been displaced up to 10 times in South Sudan to maintain humanitarian assistance. Despite such attempts, securing humanitarian space continues to be a challenge. The ICRC mentioned that its operations are equally challenged in Mali and Central African Republic. The discussions also focused on equity and burden sharing in relation to absorption capacity of refugees by neighbouring countries of the conflict affected countries in Africa.

Meeting with the Africa Group in Geneva

25. The delegation led by The Commissioner for Political Affairs, H.E. Dr. Aisha ABDULLAHI, also briefed the Africa Group in Geneva, on the process leading to the development of the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, which will be presented on the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 in Istanbul Turkey. Accordingly, the delegation presented the outcomes of the various regional consultations held in South, East and West Africa regions.

CHALLENGES:

26. The Sub-committee was not able to execute some of its planned activities for 2015 due to the reallocation of the anticipated funds by the AUC to bridge funding gaps of the Commission.

PENDING ACTIVITIES:

27. The most of the activities were carried out in the year, some the main activities, which were not carried out, include Assessment to countries affected by Ebola, Conference of State Parties to the Kampala Convention and activities related to enhanced inter-operability and exchange between various Early Warning Systems on the continent. Details on the pending activities are presented in the attached **Annex I.**

CONCLUSION:

28. In spite of its funding challenges, the PRC Sub-Committee of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, successfully carried out most of the activities it set out in the roadmap for the year 2015. It is hoped that some of the remaining activities will form integral part of its work plan for 2016.

WAY FORWARD:

29. The Bureau of the Sub-Committee and the Department of Political Affairs will jointly develop the draft work plan in January 2016 and present it to members of the Sub-Committee for consideration and adoption in February 2016.

**ANNEX I PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED (IDP) FEBRUARY – DECEMBER 2015**

OBJECTIVES	OUTPUTS	ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	Time Frame & Location
1. Assist in the design, developing, defining, harmonizing and coordinating policy on matters affecting refugees, displaced persons and returnees, as well as in matters relating to humanitarian law promotion on the continent	Kampala Convention is signed, ratified and domesticated by more Member States and continued search for durable solutions to the IDP phenomenal	Participate in the IDP Kampala Convention dissemination meetings with CSO's aimed at promotion of signature and ratification of the Convention	Number of Member States that have signed and ratified the Kampala Convention	November, 2015 Addis Ababa
		Facilitate a conference of State Parties to the Convention	State Party Conference held	June, 2015 Addis Ababa
	National legislative and policy frameworks to counter statelessness and the Right to Nationality developed	Member States Experts meeting	Discussion and adoption of the draft protocol	November 2015 Nairobi, Kenya
2. Promote and strengthen collaboration and work with the Africa Union Commission and the UN humanitarian agencies, regional organizations, the Regional Economic Communities and other non-governmental organizations	Institutional revival of the CCAR (Coordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees)	Two coordination meeting on forced displacement and humanitarian situation in Africa with Regional Economic Communities	Report to the Executive Council on the humanitarian situation on the continent	June 2015: Djibouti, Djibouti (Meeting with IGAD) November 2015: Brazzaville, Congo
		Increased inter-operability and exchange between various Early Warning Systems on the continent	Steer coordination meeting of different forum of national, regional and continental Early Warning System	Network for Early Warning System established
	Support mobilization efforts of the Commission to set up a continental humanitarian Early Warning System with assistance from the European Commission		Commitment of the European Union Commission to the African Early Warning System	March 2015 Addis Ababa
	Humanitarian communities	Participate in the forum of	Network of information	

	increased use of localized and modern appropriate technological tools at scale for enhanced humanitarian action	African information technology providers for the humanitarian community	technology providers	
	PRC pronouncements on mixed migration issues for consideration on preventive action to be taken within Africa at levels of countries of origin and better PSC decisions informed by new emerging humanitarian issues on the continent	PRC involvement in the Roundtable on migration	Evaluation of the African Policy on migration	June 2015 Kigali, Rwanda
	The humanitarian Affairs Cluster is capacitated to engage in humanitarian issues on the continent in seeking African solutions to African problems within the African Governance Architecture (AGA)	Participate in the annual High Level Dialogue and operationalize its recommendations	Meeting Report validated with specific references to humanitarian issues	September 2015 Dakar, Senegal
3. Follow-up, analyse and evaluate the situation of refugees, displaced persons and returnees and provide policy recommendations and solutions to the Executive Council for the Africa Union action	Assessment and review of situations of concern across the continent conducted and solidarity with Member States affected by conflict and experiencing humanitarian disasters established	Nigeria	Reports to PRC Sub-Committee on refugees submitted	August 2015
		Ethiopia		September 2015
		Liberia		October 2015
		Sierra Leone		October 2015
		Guinea		October 2015

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Annex**

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE
HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA
JULY - DECEMBER 2015**

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA - JULY - DECEMBER 2015

This report gives a brief humanitarian situation in Africa for the July to December 2015. It provides an analysis of the major trends and challenges resulting from multiple conflicts, population movements and different disasters occurred in the five regions of Africa. The information has been synthesised from Member States, Partners and open sources.

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN AFRICA

1. The African continent continues to suffer the consequences of continued conflicts related to governance deficits. The continuing insecurity and on-going political crisis as well as conflicts in some countries on the continent namely Burundi, Somalia, Central African Republic, Eastern DRC, Northern part of Nigeria and the Lake Chad basin, constitute the root causes of incessant population movements within and between countries, but also pushing many of them to seek refuge in Europe in search for stable conditions. These continuous movements heighten the humanitarian situation on the continent.

2. Since February 2015, El Nino-linked extreme weather events have been observed in Africa. Their direct and indirect humanitarian impacts are expected to perdure with variable intensity though early 2016. The livelihoods of more than 30 million people are threatened. The manifestations of the El Nino phenomenon are noticeable in all parts of the continent.

3. In the Sahel belt, rising temperatures will result in an expansion of the Sahara desert. Severe droughts will affect the livelihoods of farmers and nomadic herders in Niger, Chad, Cameroun, Mali, Sudan and Ethiopia. In North Africa, heavy rainfalls and floods will cause serious damage to crops and infrastructure in Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. In Eastern Africa and the Greater Horn of Africa, 22 million people face a threat of famine. The Excessive rainfalls will sweep across Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan and Sudan, causing flash flooding, mudslides, lightning strikes and water-borne and animal health diseases. In Ethiopia alone, 15 million people will require food assistance by early 2016.

4. In Southern Africa, the El Nino will bring more droughts in already parched areas of Malawi, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana, Madagascar and Lesotho. About 13.5 million people are at risk of food insecurity, especially since prolonged dry spells will cause deficits in maize harvests, accompanied by spikes in food prices. In mining zones (ex.Zimbabwe), the reduction in rains and immense drops in water levels affects hydro-power investments and impinges on productivity and jobs in the extractive industry, with ensuing household poverty.

5. In West Africa, above average rains will bring floods in the beds of the main rivers, destroying crops, washing away urban and rural settlements and leaving thousands of people homeless in Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Mali. In many countries, meteorological forecasts allow to predict instances of cyclical impacts, where severe droughts will succeed to excessive rainfalls or vice versa. This will bear

heavy strains to existing community resilience systems and coping strategies of affected populations. In other countries, the effects of El Nino –linked extreme weather events will be compounded by the conflict (ex. South Sudan, Somalia, Central Africa Republic, and DR Congo) or state fragility (ex. Burundi).

6. Both heavy rainfalls and droughts will spark new waves of economic migrants and affect adversely the most impoverished populations, especially the refugees and internally displaced persons in conflict zones (ex. Dadaab in Kenya, Burundi refugees in the Great lakes region, refugees and IDPs in the DR Congo and the CAR), slum dwellers and makeshift habitats in the peripheries of fast-expanding cities.

7. It is highly recommended that medium and shorter range weather forecasts be monitored for the development of conditions that may alter or strengthen the expectation of the current forecast across Africa. The African Union Commission considers El Nino as a serious humanitarian concern. It will initiate an inter-departmental task force on El Nino to work with partners and coordinate the efforts aimed at supporting countries most affected.

8. Grave concerns persist for some 20 million people in the Sahel. Recurrent conflict, erratic weather patterns, epidemics and other shocks continue to weaken the resilience of households across a region still suffering from chronic levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. An estimated 20.4 million people remained food insecure as at the start of 2015, 70 percent of who are in Niger, Nigeria, Mali and Chad. Epidemics continue to demand urgent attention in 2015. Besides cholera, meningitis, Lassa and yellow fever, more recently, Ebola from the West Africa region.

II. REGIONAL ANALYSIS

North Africa Region

9. Libya continues to remain a transit country for migrants trying to cross to Europe through Mediterranean Sea in which many of them end their lives before reaching their destination in Europe. The most common destination is the Italian island of Lampedusa, barely 300 kilometres away. According to the International Organisation of Migration More than 600,000 people have reached Europe's shores this year making it the continent's worst migration crisis since World War II.

10. The Government of **Mauritania** continue to keep its borders open to new influxes from Mali numbering to 50,266. In addition, efforts are in place to cater for refugees and asylum seekers, from the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

11. Egypt: Registration of Syrian refugees in Egypt by UNHCR continues. By 31 October 2015, the population of Syrian refugees in Egypt registered with UNHCR amounted to 127,681 individuals. By mid-2015, 108,312 individuals had been verified, representing 84.56% of the active registered population. During 2015, 6,264 Syrian refugees have registered with UNHCR. Only 3,082 of those registered with UNHCR in the

course of 2015, represent new arrivals to Egypt, as the entry visa requirement for Syrian nationals remains².

12. Tunisia: Building on successful cooperation, the Government of Tunisia has requested WFP's continued involvement to provide assistance to operationalise its Sustainable School Feeding Strategy over a three year period starting in July 2015. This will consist of three components: i) strengthen regulatory frameworks and tools in the areas of governance, targeting, cost efficiency, school meals' nutritional quality and safety, monitoring and evaluation, and community participation; ii) upgrade the current decentralised school feeding model in select schools to augment the system's capacity to provide nutritious, hot meals; and iii) pilot new implementation modalities that are efficient, accountable, and support local smallholder farmers. Through its activities, WFP will seek to contribute to local development by encouraging links to local agricultural production and community based organisations³.

13. Saharawi Republic: The African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has announced a USD 200,000 donation to alleviate the plight Saharawi people affected by floods in Tindouf camps and US\$50,000, which was donated by the African Union Staff Association. Reports indicate that torrential rains and heavy flooding have destroyed several public buildings, community centres, and homes of refugees in the camps. The donation will go towards providing urgent humanitarian assistance, particularly tents, food and medicine. It should be noted that for over 40 years, the Saharawi refugees have lived in make-shift houses and tents while in exile owing to the illegal occupation of their country by Morocco. Decisions of the AU Assembly and UN have consistently called for the respect of the rights to self-determination of Saharawi people.

14. Last October 2015, heavy rain fell uninterruptedly for more than a week in the Saharawi Refugee Camps in the region of Tindouf, Algeria, caused severe destruction, damage and lose of household food stocks. 17821 families houses had been totally or partially destroyed and more than 80,000 refugees had been affected. The most affected are children and women who constitute 70 to 80% of total refugee population. More than 30% of schools and health centers were severely damaged. The Saharawi refugees continue to live in tents. Yet the aid only covers 45% of the needed tents. Each family should receive 60 meters of canvas to make the tent every 5 years. And since the families are over 28.000 then there is a need for 5.600 tent per year. The gap remains high (13 176 tents). - 47% of the needs in the education sector is not covered by any donors (school equipment, rehabilitation and construction of schools and kindergartens, class tables and chairs...etc). There is no co-funding of hygienic materials, only UNHCR funded kits provided through TRIANGLE (THG), which doesn't have funding now and this will have serious consequences on women health. They are distributing to 38 450 women but the gap remains at 66,67%.

15. Requirements on resources for food assistance to satisfy the minimum needs of 125 000 most vulnerable persons out of 175 000 in 2015 is more than 20 million USD⁴.

² UNHCR, October 2015, 3RP Egypt monthly updates

³ WFP, July – September 2015, Briefing report

⁴ Western Sahara Red Crescent, November 2015, Saharawi

East Africa Region

16. Countries in the region are already seeing the impact of the El Niño climatic change. Localized floods caused by rains have already been reported in parts of Somalia, Western Kenya and at the Kenyan Coast. The peak strength of this El Niño is expected between October 2015 and January 2016. In most countries in the Horn of Africa region and there is an expectation of enhanced rainfall in the south-western parts of the region affecting Kenya and Somalia. Drier than average conditions are also affecting Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti and the east of South Sudan.

17. Sudan: The humanitarian situation in Darfur and eastern part of the Sudan continues to prevail amidst dwindling resources as these and many similar caseloads in Africa become forgotten humanitarian cases. The IDPs in Darfur continue to suffer from insecurity, inadequate food, and medical, water and shelter supplies. A search for a lasting political solution is the only durable solution to this protracted caseload.

18. Kenya: Kenya has been host to refugees from South Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Somalia. Dadaab refugee camp has hosted Somali refugees for over 2 decades. The government of Kenya however raised concern over the changing humanitarian nature of the camp and has called for voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees due to insecurity caused by terrorist group Al-Shabaab who have been using the camp for illegal activities. The government has also appealed to the international community to support the efforts of the Kenya government, the Somali government and UNHCR within the context of the tripartite agreement; and to support Somali refugees in Kenya to accelerate the voluntarily return to Somalia in safety and dignity.

19. Somalia: A pledging conferences organized by the European Union saw the international community commit resources to a plan of action designed to improve socio-economic conditions in Somalia and support Somali returnees refugees. The pledges were made to provide training and job opportunities in Somalia for returnees and support their reintegration. This includes, increasing access to basic services, improving security and law enforcement, rehabilitation of infrastructure and environment, access to education, water and sanitation services, health care, shelter, agriculture and the creation of job opportunities enhancing livelihoods and reducing vulnerability in areas of return.

20. An armed conflict erupted in Gaalkacyo on November 2015, killing approximately 20 people and leaving an estimated 120 injured, according to the Health cluster. The protection cluster members reported over 90,000 people internally displaced to nearby villages and outskirts of the north and south Gaalkacyo, creating overcrowding in many settlement. Since the beginning of the rain season in October, flooding has affected 144,000 people and nearly 60,000 displaced. This comes amid an already fragile humanitarian situation with an estimated 4.9 million people in need of assistance. Over 1.1 million people remain internally displaced and 308,000 actually malnourished children under age 5⁵.

21. South Sudan: Food insecurity remains a serious concern in South Sudan. Throughout the country, reports indicate that 3.9 million people in South Sudan face

⁵ UNOCHA, 3 Decembre 2015, Somalia Humanitarian Snapshot

severe hunger. The effect of the conflict in the country continues to be felt despite the peace agreement signed between the two parties. The conflict continues to be a driver of complex emergency as the humanitarian space has diminished. Access to people in need has continued to be constrained as humanitarian relief cannot reach the affected communities and continued violence restrict access to humanitarian workers. The situation is so dire that there is the looming threat of famine. The country faces effects of war, erratic rainfall, high food prices, fuel costs, inflation, market disruption, conflict-related displacement, and loss of livestock and agricultural production in a generally degraded economic environment.

22. Ethiopia: El Nino phenomenon continues to impact on Ethiopia. Based on the multi Meher assessment results 10.2 million beneficiaries will need emergency food assessment while 400,000 children under five and 1.7 million children, pregnant and lactating women will require specialized nutritional support. Of the total case load 37 percent are in Oromia, 22 percent in Amhara, 15 percent in Somali, 12 percent in Tigray, 7 percent in Afar. A total resource requirement to address 10.2 million relief beneficiaries is estimated 1.4 billion USD of which 1.1 billion is required for emergency food assistance. While the remaining 300 million USD for non-food components. As a first installation for 2016, the government of Ethiopia has committed an additional USD 97 million. The anticipated occasional falls in some areas of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromiya, Gambela, and SNNPR Regions would have negative impact on season's agricultural activities. Therefore, farmers are advised to take appropriate precision ahead of time in order to avoid crop yield losses due to unnecessary moisture condition at harvesting and post harvesting activities⁶.

Central Africa Region

23. Burundi: The third term bid of President Pierre Nkurunziza elicited massive movement of refugees to neighbouring countries, and it is reported that a total of 211,393 Burundian refugees and asylum-seekers have arrived in the neighbouring countries of the DRC, Tanzania, Rwanda, as well as Uganda and Zambia since April 2015. 375 households are IDPs due to the heavy rain in Bujumbura Province while 1480 4persons (2995 households) are IDPs in host families in the provinces of Kirundo and Makamba⁷. The situation in Burundi remains volatile with continued incidents of sporadic violence in the country. While certain parts of the country have been spared by the violence, grenade attacks and clashes between opposition groups and the Government continue to occur on a regular basis in the capital⁸.

24. In Central African Republic, for many years now, lawlessness persists in the central and northern regions of CAR. This is as a result of increased presence of the ex-Seleka, anti-Balaka, Révolution Justice and nomadic pastoralists. These groups are involved in violent killings, rape and burning of houses; rendering the populations in these regions highly vulnerable and living in constant fear of attacks. In Bangui, after months of relative calm, the recent renewal of violence has left people dead, and others seriously injured, resulting in at least 40,000 more IDPs, totalling to more than 399,000 IDPs in the

⁶ Early warning and response analysis, December 2015 – Government of Ethiopia

⁷ IOM report, October 2015 - Burundi

⁸ UNHCR Regional Update 17, October 2015 - Burundi

country. Humanitarian access continues to be hindered, while attacks against aid workers are persistent, including worrying threats of kidnappings.

25. The Eastern part of **DRC** is a humanitarian crisis where more than 1.6 million people are displaced because of attacks and armed violence. With over 744,000 displaced people in the Northern Province, North Kivu remains the most affected. Over the past 18 months, the number of people who returned to their homes in the east of the country has considerably reduced, with many of them claiming fear and insecurity.

Lake Chad Basin

26. **Boko Haram** (“Western education is forbidden”) is leading an insurgency to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Muslim regions of north-eastern Nigeria. BH’s attacks have reached the whole Lake Chad region, also affecting Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The Nigerian authorities have been fighting BH since 2009. Precise numbers are not known, but BH’s strength is estimated at around 15,000⁹. In March, BH pledged allegiance to Islamic State. The group is thought to hide nowadays in the Lake Chad region and the Sambisa forest¹⁰.

27. Boko Haram Violence has displaced close to 2.2 million people¹¹, restricted movement, disrupted food supply, seriously hindered access to basic services, and limited agricultural activities. In **Nigeria**, people affected by violence in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, and neighbouring Bauchi, Taraba, and Gombe states are in urgent need of protection, shelter, food, and access to health services and education. Some 9.7 million people, including IDPs, are staying in the 34 areas worst affected by the Boko Haram insurgency¹². The entire population of northeast Nigeria – 24.5 million people – is indirectly affected; 4.6 million are in need of humanitarian aid including 461,000 children under five. The continued repatriation of Nigerian refugees, in particular from Cameroon and on-going counterinsurgency operations are likely to increase the number of displaced in need of assistance by up to 100,000–250,000. The Nigerian government has announced plans to start closing IDP camps in Adamawa state at the end of the year, and in January in Borno State. There is a risk that IDPs will be forced to return. As of 1 November 2015, 12,592 Nigerians have returned, mostly from spending between eight months and three years in Chad and Cameroon.

28. The security situation in the Lac region, which includes northeast of Nigeria, west of Chad, extreme north of Cameroon and South of Niger continues to displace civilians and impair access to affected populations, especially in remote areas.

29. **Cameroon** hosts 158,316 IDPs¹³. 87% have been displaced by Boko Haram-related violence, and 13% by flooding and other natural disasters. 49% of the IDPs were displaced in 2015. An estimated 84% live within host communities while 16% live in spontaneous settlements. Logone-et-Chari hosts the most IDPs (91,930), Mayo Danay 26,670, Mayo-Sava 18,094 and Mayo-Tsanaga 18,020. The main movements remain

⁹ Amnesty, 13/04/2015

¹⁰ AFP, 23/10/2015

¹¹ OM, 31/10/2015

¹² IOM 31/10/2015

¹³ IOM, 27/11/2015

within the Far North. Some villages empty at nightfall, as residents flee to the bush in fear of BH attacks¹⁴. Cameroon also hosts over 314,000 refugees, mainly from Nigeria and Central African Republic. As of November 30th, 65,109 Nigerian refugees are registered in Cameroon¹⁵. In most locations, the number of refugees and third-country nationals exceed the local population. Host communities and refugees are competing over already inadequate resources and living conditions have become very difficult for all.

30. In **Chad**, Lac region has witnessed at least 52,000 people, which is estimated to have been displaced since July 21 after violence and evacuations increased. The BH conflict in Nigeria has forced around 12,000 Chadians to return since January 2015. 3,400 returnees from Nigeria are living in the Dar Al Nahim site, near Dar es Salaam. Additionally, there are between 5,000–15,000 unregistered returnees. Assesses to affected population remain difficult. Islands to the west and north of Bagasola face major access constraints due to insecurity¹⁶. Populations from these areas face difficulties reaching Bagasola and Bol towns, where important services including hospitals are located.

31. **Niger** faces multiple displacement crises. BH violence has displaced at least 150,000 people in Diffa region, including over 50,000 IDPs and around 100,000 Nigerian refugees. Instability in Libya has prompted vulnerable Niger nationals to return, and migrants of other nationalities to transit through the country, some of whom become stranded in need of protection assistance in transit cities, including Agadez.

32. As of November 25th, more than 2.2 million IDP displaced by conflicts have been, and more than 170,000 have fled abroad. The continued repatriation of Nigerian refugees, in particular from Cameroon and on-going counterinsurgency operations are likely to increase the number of displaced in need of assistance by up to 100,000–250,000¹⁷. The Nigerian government has announced plans to start closing IDP camps in Adamawa state at the end of the year, and in January in Borno State. There is a risk that IDPs will be forced to return. As of 1 November 2015, 12,592 Nigerians have returned, mostly from spending between eight months and three years in Chad and Cameroon. The security situation in the Lac Chad Region continues to impair access to affected populations, especially in remote areas

POLITICS AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENT

33. Armed Islamist group Boko Haram's (BH) insurgency in the northeast reached its peak, in 2014, when 7,711 deaths were reported. Between January and 25 November 2015, nearly 420 BH-related incidents and 8,490 deaths have been reported in Nigeria, the vast majority in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, with others in surrounding states. Nearly half the incidents – 184 – were against civilians, and resulted in 5,215 deaths.

34. Since the end of 2014, the conflict has taken on a more regional dimension, with attacks in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and a strengthened multinational force. Military offensives in 2015 have regained territory in Nigeria from BH, but the group continues to

¹⁴ IOM, 27/11/2015

¹⁵ UNHCR, 30/11/2015

¹⁶ OCHA, 06/11/2015

¹⁷ OCHA, 19/11/2015

have strongholds in areas that are hard to access, including the Sambisa forest, the Mandera Mountains, and the Lake Chad islands. Facing offensives of Militaries Troop from Lake Chad Basin region coordinated by the MNJTF (Multinational Joint Task Force) Boko Haram has changed its tactics focusing its strategy in sporadically attacks of areas it had not previously targeted, including suicide bombings. As of 25 November 2015 more than 90 suicide attacks had been recorded in the region in 2015, compared to 38 in all 2014. In October, at least 548 people died in BH-related violence, including 235 who died in 17 incidents of violence against civilians. In September, 282 people were killed in 13 BH attacks on civilians. July has been the deadliest month since March, with 980 fatalities due to violence.

35. Since the involvement of members states from the Lake Chad region and the African Union Commission in the crisis resolution with the operationalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force in June, several towns have been taken back from BH, and hostages have been rescued, though much of the northeast remains dangerous and attacks against civilians continue. These recent successes in the fight against BH are reportedly improving morale among Military's troops, which had been low. Regional Leadership, changes in command, and improvement of equipment are thought to have increased the army's capacity. But more remain to be done in terms of coordination of troops and other measures to fight terrorism in the Lac region including the improvement of the justice sector, the engagement with local communities and the fight against poverty and radicalisation in the region especially amongst youth.

West Africa Region

36. Nigeria: In addition to the mayhem caused by boko haram, Nigeria experienced heavy rains, compounded by the breakdown of dams in some states, which have caused floods in 11 states across Nigeria. According to the National Orientation Agency, a total of 100,420 have been displaced. Homes and other buildings have been swept away, and agricultural areas flooded. As reported recently by the World Bank, the effects of climate change on the Niger River basin – where many of the flooded regions lie – are expected to be wide ranging, including an increase in the high rainfall variability of the region, exacerbating both flood and drought¹⁸.

37. The volatile security situation in northern **Mali** continues to have a devastating impact on civilians, hampering the return of refugees, affecting markets and preventing the full restoration of basic services. Some 133,000 Malian refugees remain in Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso and more than 80,000 Malians remain internally displaced. High levels of insecurity in northern Mali also greatly impact the ability of humanitarian aid workers to access those in need.¹⁹

38. Niger: The signing of the Algiers Accord has brought significant steps towards peace in parts of Mali, but it has not stemmed the flow into Niger and this is a concern and unexpected development that is putting a strain on humanitarian operations in Niger. The numbers of new arrivals have hit a record high of 54,000 registered refugees in early November with a further 3,000 awaiting registration.

¹⁸ UNOCHA, October 2015, Humanitarian Bulletin Nigeria

¹⁹ UNOCHA, October 2015, Report on Sahel Region

39. In **Sierra Leone**, Sustained heavy downpour of rain in September 2015 burst river banks and caused destruction in eight communities in Bo and two in one Chiefdom in Pujehun District in southern Sierra Leone. Affected communities are reported to loosing properties and being exposed to rain with no appropriate sanitation and some evacuating and taking shelter in nearby schools. The affected communities have been inaccessible and aid has not reached the vulnerable persons. The World Health Organization declared Sierra Leone free from Ebola transmissions in last November 2015.

40. Positively, the West African region has witnessed a significant decline in the incidence of the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease. In the week ending on 11 October, there were no confirmed cases in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. As of 9 October, Liberia had gone for 89 days without any cases. The last Ebola Virus Disease patients in Sierra Leone were discharged on 26 September, while Guinea last reported cases was on 27 September. The Interagency Collaboration on Ebola recognised the importance of preserving strong national and international capacities that have the capacity to respond to flare-ups across the region.

41. Benin: Through a successful school feeding programme, WFP, with its government counterparts, has been establishing school canteens in specifically targeted districts where food insecurity persists and net enrolment is particularly low. Students in the targeted schools are provided with a daily hot meal. The programme aims to increase enrolment and attendance rates, the ratio of girls to boys enrolled in the schools, and reduce dropout rates. This contributes to the achievement of universal primary education and Millennium Development Goals 1, 2 and 3. WFP promotes community ownership of the canteens.

Southern Africa Region

42. This region is typically affected by natural disasters namely drought and flooding. With the current El Nino affecting the continent, the impact on this region is already being felt especially in food production and water shortage.

43. **Malawi**, a typically self-sufficient maize producer, has suffered poor crop performance this year due to a late and erratic start to the rainy season, followed by damage from severe flooding in the southern half of the country, and periods of prolonged dry spells across most of the country for the latter half of the season. The prolonged dry spells and floods affected production of maize, ground nuts and rice, as well as cash crops such as cotton and tobacco; leaving 2.8 million people food insecure.

44. In **Mozambique**, in 2014, Mozambique was hit with flooding which reached historically high levels causing widespread damage to infrastructure and isolating entire communities, thereby needs assessments and distribution of relief items was only possible by air in some locations. Unfortunately, before they can recover fully, El-Niño has already hit the country.

45. In **South Africa**, a severe drought along with a scorching heat wave are hitting South Africa's agricultural sector as the region braces for more fallout from El Niño. Weather experts describe the drought as South Africa's worst in 23 year. The government

has set aside more than \$25 million to deal with the water shortages. This includes sending mobile water tankers to affected communities and drilling boreholes²⁰.

46. Zimbabwe continues to face one of the largest national maize deficits in the region, leading to significant import requirements for the 2015-16 consumption year. So far, about 245,000 MT of grain was formally imported between April and August 2015. Informal imports of both maize grain and maize flour continue to flow in²¹.

47. Namibia: At least 370,000 populations are at risk of food and livelihood insecurity. Impacts of hazards are characterized by reduced agricultural Labour employment Opportunities by 5% - 70% and reduced maize production by 90% in the Lowland Maize and Cattle livelihood zone covering the low land of Zambezi and Kavango East and West regions. There is a limited and late provision of subsidised ploughing services by the Ministry of Agriculture while the less resilient households is due to the cumulative impact of floods and drought over the years. As recommendations, targeted food assistance is to be considered for period up to March 2016, for households facing survival deficit and conditional assistance to be considered for households facing livelihood protection deficit. Productions of improved pearl millet seeds under irrigation by Green Schemes during offseason for the next cropping season to be implemented as approved in the interim drought program. Implementation of the medium to long term measures stipulated in the interim drought program (livestock marketing incentives, transports and lease of grazing, livestock fodder/hay and animal health package to farmers and water provision) to be continued. Regular monitoring of key vulnerability indicators (staple prices, livestock prices, grazing, water, etc).

48. Madagascar, In Androy, Atsimo Andrefana and parts of Anosy Regions, staple food production was significantly below average for the third consecutive year. The high likelihood for the on-going El Nino to continue through the end of the rainy season is likely to result in average to below-average rainfall over southern Madagascar, reducing crop production and associated agricultural labour opportunities²².

49. Zambia: In most parts of the country, Minimal acute food insecurity outcomes are expected to continue. However, in south-western Zambia, where households are depending on markets for staple food access longer than usual, and income from livestock sales is being limited by the ban on cattle movement to contain the foot and mouth disease, Stressed outcomes will persist up to March 2016. Relief food distributions in these areas are ongoing. Maize and meal prices remain higher than the previous year and the recent five-year average, due to below-average staple food stocks and high regional demand for Zambian maize. In a bid to reduce maize meal prices, Government will be releasing maize from the Food Reserve Agency stocks at below market price (K1.7/Kg) to millers starting in mid-November. Although prices may stabilize, they will remain high and above the five-year average up to March. Agricultural households are advanced in land preparation activities, supported by recent widespread rainfall, with some starting to purchase government-subsidized inputs, though these inputs are not yet available in all districts. Households with livestock are selling some livestock to purchase the more

²¹ Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), October 2015, Zimbabwe Food Security Outlook

²² Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), October 2015, Madagascar Remote Monitoring Update

expensive fertilizer from the market as subsidized fertilizer is inadequate (four bags per farmer as in previous years)²³.

III. CHALLENGES

50. Funding remains a major challenge to the humanitarian programmes in Africa considering the attention shift to other parts of the world especially with the influx of refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

IV. CONCLUSION:

51. While natural disasters cannot be avoided entirely, their effects can be mitigated to avoid widespread humanitarian crisis. Durable solutions to conflicts remain the only panacea to humanitarian crisis in Africa, therefore political solutions must continue to be at the centre of humanitarian dialogue. Africa should find an innovative way of funding its own humanitarian programmes and activities, as over reliance on outside aid can no longer be realistic.

²³ FEWS, November 2015, Zambia Food security outlook update

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