



Economic and Social Committee

Securing basic healthcare, water and food supplies for North African countries in conflict

Introduction

The recent events in the area of North Africa have caused a vast humanitarian crisis. Not only is the number of the casualties growing higher as well as the number of refugees. Those who are still able to stay there suffer from a shortage of necessary supplies, such as water, food and medicines.

Yemen

Yemen is currently being torn apart by a conflict between forces loyal to the president Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, and those allied to Zaidi Shia, rebels known as Houthis, who forced Mr Hadi to flee the capital Sanaa in February of 2015. Both President Hadi and the Houthis are opposed by al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which has staged numerous deadly attacks from its strongholds in the south and south-east.

The picture is further complicated by the emergence in late 2014 of a Yemen affiliate of the jihadist group Islamic State, which seeks to eclipse AQAP and claims it carried out a series of suicide bombings in Sanaa in March 2015.

Between the 26th March, when the Saudi-led coalition began bombing rebel forces, and the 16th October, the UN recorded 7,655 civilian casualties, including 2,577 killed and 5,078 wounded. Just under half of Yemen's population is under 18 and at least 505 children are among those killed.

The conflict has reached 21 out of 22 of Yemen's provinces and shows no sign of ending. More than 2.51 million people have been displaced internally - more than four times the number recorded at the beginning of 2015. An additional 121,000 people have fled the country.

Yemen's malnutrition levels are among the highest in the world. The number of people internally displaced rose significantly in 2014 as a result of recent conflicts, with over 334,000 people registered as IDPs across the country. In addition, Yemen hosts 246,000 registered refugees, 95 per cent of whom are Somalis.

South Sudan

South Sudan, which became independent from Sudan after a referendum in 2011, has since experienced conflict in multiple locations, including between different ethnic groups in the Jonglei state. On December 15th, 2013, civil war broke out in South Sudan. Despite multiple cease fire attempts and ongoing peace negotiations, violence continues to consume much of South Sudan. Insecurity throughout the country has disrupted agricultural activities and exacerbated food shortage, bringing South Sudan to the brink of famine and a humanitarian crisis. Though the major conflict has been resolved in August 2015, the local population still suffers from a lack of basic resources as well as infighting. On February 26th 2016, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-wha Kang called for an end to the suffering of civilians in South Sudan. This report states that: "Civilians who had sought safety

in the PoC (UN Protection of Civilians site) have been attacked, killed, traumatized and displaced once more, with whole sections of the PoC completely and systematically burnt down and destroyed, including medical clinics and schools. Those responsible for these heinous acts must be held to account.”

Libya

Libya has suffered a number of crises in recent years, including armed clashes that have led to thousands of people being killed and injured, large-scale displacements and damage to vital infrastructure. On 24th December 2014 it was estimated that 2.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance. The Humanitarian Country Team estimates that the 435,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are particularly at risk. The total number of IDPs in Libya is now 435,000 according to OCHA. The majority is in the western part of the country.

Access to health services has become a major concern. The fighting has restricted the movement of health workers and those seeking health services in the areas affected by the conflict. The infrastructure is being destroyed, further reducing the availability of health services. For example, Al Zahra Kidney Hospital near Tripoli was severely damaged and looted during the April 2015 clashes.

Syria

The humanitarian situation in Syria remains extremely challenging. In the fourth year of the conflict, there are more than 3 million Syrian refugees in the region. In addition, over 50,000 Syrians have sought asylum in more than 90 countries outside the region. Inside Syria, an estimated 10.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including some 6.5 million of internally displaced people.

Sources and links:

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- Yemen Crisis:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34011187>
- Humanitarian crisis in Libya Public health risk assessment and interventions (WHO):
http://www.who.int/hac/crises/lby/libya_phra_may2015.pdf
- Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs call for an end to the suffering of civilians in South Sudan:
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/160226_Press_Release_ASG_Kang_calls_for_an_end_to_the_suffering_of_civilians_in_South_Sudan.pdf
- 2016 South Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview:
<http://reliefweb.int/report/south-sudan/2016-south-sudan-humanitarian-needs-overview>

Resolutions:

- Resolution 2254 (2015) Adopted by the Security Council at its 7588th meeting, on 18 December (Syria) 2015:
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2254\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2254(2015))

- Resolution 2265 (2016) Adopted by the Security Council at its 7619th meeting, on 10 February 2016 (Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan):
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2265\(2016\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2265(2016))
- Resolution 2266 (2016) Adopted by the Security Council at its 7630th meeting, on 24 February 2016 (Reports on the situation in Yemen):
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2266\(2016\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2266(2016))
- Resolution 2259 (2015) Adopted by the Security Council at its 7598th meeting, on 23 December 2015 (Situation in Libya):
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2259\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2259(2015))