

## Regional News Roundup

### AFRICA

Majority of displaced in eastern Africa become victims of secondary displacement

There has been a general decline in new displacements in seven countries in eastern Africa during the first quarter of 2010, as majority of the affected persons, for instance in Somalia and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), are victims of secondary displacements, following renewed conflict in the area. There were 4,345,275 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. DRC (1.88 million) and Somalia (1.4 million) host the largest number of IDPs in the region. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) estimates that more than 100,000 people were displaced from their residences in Mogadishu during the first quarter of 2010. As at April 2010, there were 1,216,337 refugees in seven countries in eastern Africa. Kenya (379,208), Tanzania (271,746), DRC (185,809), Ethiopia (135,990) and Uganda (135,474) host the largest number of refugees. Altogether, there are 5,561,612 refugees and IDPs in the region in April 2010.

Full report:

[http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&shortid=SKEA-7X7EKF&file=Full\\_Report.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/retrieveattachments?openagent&shortid=SKEA-7X7EKF&file=Full_Report.pdf)

Changing rain patterns wreak havoc in east Africa

Unusually heavy rainfall brought about by the El Nino season has killed hundreds and displaced thousands in the east and the Horn of Africa, worrying aid agencies who say the weather is becoming more unpredictable and destructive. Since the beginning of the year, the rains have caused flooding and landslides in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. "The patterns of rainfall have changed and are becoming destructive to livelihoods," said Nelly Muluka, spokeswoman for the Kenya Red Cross Society. She said 100 people had been killed since the start of the year and 67,000 had been affected.

Read more: [http://www.alertnet.org/db/an\\_art/55866/2010/04/4-141221-1.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/db/an_art/55866/2010/04/4-141221-1.htm)

### SOMALIA

Neighbouring countries feeling the strain as Somalia's emergency grows

A top-level delegation of the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) visiting Somali refugee and IDP camps has seen for itself evidence of the growing humanitarian tragedy facing many thousands of uprooted people. The delegation, led by UNHCR's Deputy High Commissioner, T. Alexander Aleinikoff, examined increasingly overcrowded and under resourced situations in sprawling camps in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and inside Somalia during a two-week visit that has just ended. "The burden for these countries is enormous," Mr. Aleinikoff said, noting that government officials he met all expressed growing anxiety about being able to cope with a massive influx of refugees with so many basic needs. Security concerns were repeatedly identified. Thousands are expected to cross into Kenya this year, and if the fighting gets worse, there could be many thousands more. Others are expected to cross into Ethiopia even though the border is officially closed.

Read more: <http://www.unhcr.org/4bde90856.html>

Sudan and Somalia dangerous for minorities

Somalia and Sudan are ranked first and second respectively among countries where minority communities face the greatest risk of violence from armed conflict, political violence, displacement and absence of the rule of law, according to Peoples under Threat 2010, a new report by Minority Rights Group International (MRG), a London-based NGO. "With the absence of an effective state authority or an accepted rule of law in Somalia, marginalised minorities outside the clan system, like both the Bantu and Gaboye, are at particular risk of persecution," said Marusca Perazzi, spokeswoman for MRG. The minorities at risk in Southern Sudan include the Murle, Kachipo, Anyuak, Jie and Longarim, Didinga and Boya. They face the risk of attacks

from the dominant Dinka, MRG said, clashes between groups, land and cattle-related conflicts, poor or no government representation and climate change.

Full report: <http://www.minorityrights.org/?lid=9889&bid=115>

## SUDAN

Security Council extends UN presence in Sudan for another year

The Security Council on April 29 extended the mandate of the UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for one year, until 30 April 2011, with the intention to renew it for further periods if required. Deploing the persistent localised conflict and violence, especially within Southern Sudan, the Council underscored the importance of UNMIS= making full use of its authority and capabilities to provide improved security to the civilian population, humanitarian and development actors and UN personnel under imminent threat of violence. It called upon UNMIS to implement a mission-wide civilian protection strategy and tribal conflict-resolution mechanisms. Regarding the referendum in 2011 the Council requested that UNMIS be prepared to play a lead role in international efforts to provide assistance to support preparations for the referendums, including an advisory role related to security arrangements.

Read more:

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-84YNRX?OpenDocument&clickid>