

## Regional News Roundup

### KENYA

Flash floods kill 20 people

At least 20 people have been killed in flash floods in Kenya over the last week following torrential rains that have left thousands in need of aid, according to the Kenya Red Cross Society. Some 30,000 people are in urgent need of shelter, water, food and healthcare, thousands were forced to leave their homes. There is a high risk of the spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases. The heavy rains have been blamed on El Nino weather patterns which have affected an estimated 70,000 people in eastern and northeast Kenya.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87648>  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE6030G3.htm>

### SOMALIA

WFP suspends operations in southern Somalia over insecurity The UN World Food Programme said on January 5 it has been forced to suspend its operation in southern Somalia due to rising insecurity. In a statement issued in Nairobi, the agency said, rising threats and attacks on humanitarian operations, as well as the imposition of a string of unacceptable demands from armed groups, have made it virtually impossible to continue reaching up to one million people in need in southern Somalia. The agency is deeply concerned about rising hunger and suffering among the most vulnerable due to these unprecedented and inhumane attacks on purely humanitarian operations. WFP is continuing to provide life saving food distributions in the rest of the country, including the capital, Mogadishu, reaching more than two-thirds of the hungry it has been targeting - or 1.8 million people.

Read more:

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-statement-situation-southern-somalia>

Thousands displaced by clashes in Galgadud Thousands of families have fled Somalia's central town of Dusamareb, the regional capital of Galgadud, after a weekend of fighting between Islamist groups killed dozens and left many others injured, locals said. The estimate is that between 32,000 and 42,000 people have fled and are now displaced, according to a local religious leader. Most of the displaced are scattered across rural villages and towns in the region and are in dire need of assistance.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87625>

School enrolment up in Somaliland

School enrolment has risen sharply in Somalia's self-declared independent region of Somaliland since 1991, raising the literacy rate from 20 to 45 percent, education officials have said. "In 1991, we had only 1,019 students enrolled in schools but by the year 2009 some 45,223 students were in school," the director of planning in Somaliland's ministry of education said. The director-general of the ministry attributed the increase to rising awareness and the construction of many primary schools. Somaliland, he said, plans to ensure that at least 75 percent of the population is able to read and write by 2015.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87609>

### SUDAN

Success of Sudan peace pact requires redoubled efforts, Ban says Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon used the fifth anniversary of the peace pact that ended more than 20 years of civil war in Sudan to urge the parties to redouble their efforts towards reconciliation and the successful completion of remaining benchmarks. "During the past five years, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the CPA and the strengthening of the relationship between the two parties to the agreement," Mr. Ban noted in a statement issued by his spokesperson. At the same time he pointed out that the final year of the CPA will be an extremely challenging one. "These challenges require the parties urgently to establish the necessary legal, political and institutional framework for the conduct of free, fair and credible elections, referenda and popular consultations. It is also important that they engage now in substantive discussions on

post-referendum arrangements, regardless of the outcome of the referendum,” he said. Moreover, he encouraged the parties to work towards reconciliation.

Read more: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33444&Cr=Sudan&Cr1=#>

Attack leaves 140 dead as agencies issue “wake-up-call”

Violence in Southern Sudan continues to escalate. A senior UN official said on January 7 that at least 140 people had been killed and 90 wounded during an attack on the Wunchai region of Warrap state. Details of the report coincided with the launch of a report by 10 aid agencies who cautioned that the successful holding of elections and a referendum, civilian protection, as well as increased development funding for Southern Sudan were crucial in preventing a return to war five years after the signing of the peace agreement.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87661>

Full report:

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict\\_disasters/rescuing-peace-in-southern-sudan.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/conflict_disasters/rescuing-peace-in-southern-sudan.html)

Drought and insecurity hurting food production in the south

Several states in Southern Sudan are facing food shortages due to widespread drought and conflict, officials said. More than 80 percent of cereal production in the region is grown via traditional methods, and farmers rely heavily on the weather. According to a recently conducted food assessment, six of the 10 states in Southern Sudan are food insecure. Food security improvements that were noted in some of the 10 states were temporary.

Read more: <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=87695>