

As an IASC early warning tool its sole purpose is to foster enhanced preparedness and early humanitarian response, with particular attention to potentially new crises and to changes in existing emergencies.

SUMMARY and HIGHLIGHTS

- I. Global coverage and issues:** Situations in some 52 countries were reviewed for potential changes in the level of international humanitarian assistance over the next 4 months. Three points deserve special note:
- Dynamic changes continue to unfold within on-going crisis situations, justifying careful reconsideration of adjustments required in the humanitarian response of each.
 - Striking in this review was the number of situations around the world in which rising food prices and food insecurity was perceived as creating increasing humanitarian concerns particularly for the poorest, often expressed as a flash point for civil unrest.
 - Notable also was the shared opinion of reviewers that a change in humanitarian strategy must be considered in many of the long running humanitarian crises, particularly in the face of increasing distress and violations of affected populations to which even the most basic humanitarian response is made increasingly difficult by political and military obstructions and insecurity.
- II. Alert:** Once again, over the next 4 months, the humanitarian situation is projected to worsen in virtually all long-running crisis situations. The need for a potential increase in humanitarian response supported by increased preparedness capacities should be acted upon, in particular, with regard to the continually unfolding humanitarian catastrophes in **Somalia, OPT and Iraq**; for the massive support required for a return/recovery **in eastern DRC** while maintaining full preparedness should conflict again erupt; for the deepening humanitarian crisis in **Darfur, Chad, CAR and Cameroon**; for response to the humanitarian needs related to the conflict in **Afghanistan** and the consequences of tensions in **Pakistan**; for the deteriorating humanitarian situation in **Sri Lanka**; and for a sudden potential humanitarian crisis in the midst of the continuing humanitarian deterioration in **Zimbabwe**; for, optimistically, a return to peace in **Kenya** but for which preparedness and longer term support is still required.
- III. Other situations in which an increase in preparedness and potential increase in humanitarian response are projected** include humanitarian situations in Burundi; Rwanda; Malawi; Comoros; Niger; Mauritania; Burkina Faso, Mali, Syria; Yemen; Serbia; Nepal; Bangladesh; Timor Leste; DPR Korea; Bolivia; as well as for seasonal and seismic natural disaster threats.
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- IV. Projected changes from last report:**
- **Increased to red:** Cameroon, Timor Leste
 - **Continuing in red:** Somalia, DRC, Central African Republic, Chad, Darfur, Zimbabwe, Iraq, OPT, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
 - **Raised to orange or yellow:** Kenya, Mozambique, Comoros, Malawi, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Bangladesh and Bolivia,
 - **Continuing in orange:** Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan and Transitional areas, Uganda, Burundi, Niger, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Serbia/Kosovo, Nepal, DPRK, Myanmar, Haiti, Colombia,
 - **Lowered risk level:** Swaziland, Lesotho, N.Caucasus, Iran, Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, Togo, Ghana.

Early Warning-Early Action Report for IASC Member Agencies

Submitted by the SWG on Preparedness and Contingency Planning on 27 February 2008

GLOBAL		ANTICIPATED HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS: March – June 2008	
Global Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The humanitarian consequences of climate change continue to emerge, including as increased severity of floods, droughts and storms. This trend is projected to continue in 2008 with the beginning of the year already seeing extreme weather events all over the globe. 		
Global Rising Market Food Prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global increases in cereal prices will have wide-ranging effects on food security in 2008, especially among low-income population groups and in food importing countries. International cereal export prices are likely to remain high and volatile reflecting sustained demand, including from the bio-fuels industry, coupled with historically low levels of stocks and insufficient increases in the 2007 production by exporter countries. In spite of an anticipated reduction in imports, the cereal food import bill of low-income food-deficit countries in 2007/08 is forecast to increase sharply for the second consecutive year. Increases in international prices will translate into higher retail prices of basic food in many countries across the world. These increases will in turn continue to affect per capita consumption and food access amongst low low-income population groups in 2008, the impact of which will vary according to regional, national and local circumstances. This trend may result in increased vulnerability, need and unrest, particularly among the urban poor. 		
Global AI/HI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avian influenza is now essentially endemic in six countries, with occasional outbreaks in a growing number of other countries. Human cases and deaths have been reported in 14 countries; Indonesia recently passed 100 human deaths from H5N1. Of particular concern is the likely continuing spread of the disease (in poultry) in Southern Asia, especially in India, Bangladesh and Indonesia. Globally the WHO pandemic alert phase remains at III, necessitating continued preparedness actions by humanitarian country teams and governments. Support actions, including for table-top and functional in-country simulations are being initiated by interagency efforts (OCHA-PIC, UNICEF, WHO and others). New guidance for humanitarians during pandemic is expected to be issued during the upcoming period, with a high-level simulation planned for mid-June. 		
COUNTRY/ SUB-REGION			RISK LEVEL*
EAST / HORN AFRICA			
REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS of the KENYA CRISIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased preparedness is warranted to counter possible regional consequences, should there be further disruptions arising from the Kenya crisis that could impact, in particular, regional logistics, supply and operational bases supporting on-going humanitarian and development programmes. The temporary disruptions of the Mombasa port and regional logistics systems in the recent crisis highlighted potential consequences of disruptions for humanitarian operations across the region. 		RED ↑
SOMALIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate; a further increase in humanitarian response capacities with a possible change in response strategy is likely to be required, in light of growing internal displacement, continuing insecurity and restricted access, increasing malnutrition and food insecurity and political uncertainty. Over one million persons are currently displaced, with the numbers continuing to increase, and with many of the displaced being forced moving to and fro along the three displacement corridors. The potential for new displacement, new security threats for humanitarian operations, and further reduced access is likely, because of the significant risk of increased military activity throughout the country including possibility of increased armed conflict between Somaliland and Puntland, and involvement to previously more stable areas. Food insecurity and high malnutrition rates are likely to increase further due to rising prices of basic commodities, insecurity, increased displacement, lack of access to markets, lack of access to water in some areas, and suspected locust infestation. These factors and poor crop production in the <i>deyr</i> season (October to December 2007) has contributed to pasture depletion. The joint food assessment completed in January projected that over the next months the number of acutely vulnerable people is likely to increase from 1.5 to 2 million people. Due to critical nature of humanitarian lifelines in this situation, Somalia aid operations supported from Kenya may have to be shifted to other locations should the situation in Kenya prove to be disruptive. Insufficient funding threatens humanitarian actions in this critical period. Date Watch: Elections July 2008, <i>Jilal</i> dry season in March and <i>Gu</i> Rainy season in April and May. Potential Triggers: Increased armed clashes between Somaliland and Puntland, increased insurgency. 		RED ↑
KENYA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved targeting and coverage of humanitarian response, supported by sustained preparedness, will be required over the next 4 months as a consequence of the past violence and impacts, including large scale displacement and livelihood distress, a growing food insecurity situation, and uncertainty as to whether or not the situation could again erupt into 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conflict with further humanitarian impacts, compounded by current threats of locust, drought, flooding and epidemics. • Humanitarian response will continue to be required to assist displaced and affected persons, and preparedness must be sustained for potential additional humanitarian needs should the crisis worsen. • It should be assumed that tensions and humanitarian needs may persist even if the political crisis is resolved. Tensions related to economic distress and underlying issues, including equity, land, disparities and power sharing, are likely to continue, necessitating a long term emergency/recovery response in all sectors. The crisis may continue to have serious implications for security, social services, humanitarian access and response. This new context may require an adaptation in approach for humanitarian operations. • Protection will remain a priority due to widespread violence including gender based violence, as are concerns over the interruption of treatment for HIV/AIDS patients. The crisis will continue to affect the health, educational system, and social services systems. • Deteriorating food security is likely for normally food secure populations in the Rift Valley, Western, Nyanza, and Nairobi provinces as well as amongst the urban poor, due to loss of harvested and non-harvested crops due to the crisis, disruptions of the markets, insufficient agricultural inputs, and increasing commodity prices. The situation is exacerbated by the failure of the short rains crops in the low lands of Eastern Province posing threat of drought there. • Humanitarian services need to consider a potential increase in the number of Somalia peoples seeking refuge in Kenya. • There is a high risk that locusts may migrate to the Turkana district, as for the first time in more than 45 years desert locust invaded the North-East causing damage to crops near the Ethiopian border. • Flooding is likely to occur between April and May, as has been the case every year since 2000. Cholera and other water-borne diseases associated with flooding may be compounded by overcrowded sites and lack of WES services, especially in the Rift Valley. Water supply and sanitation assistance will be required in the majority of IDP camps. • It is anticipated that the economic constraints arising from the current crisis will affect Kenya for a longer period of time, increasing general populations' vulnerability. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ORANGE ↑</p>
ETHIOPIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sustained humanitarian assistance, with sustained preparedness, are likely to be required in view of potential displacement from Somalia, tensions related to the situation in the South, restrictions on trade and movements, continued border tensions with Eritrea, food insecurity, locust infestation, and limited humanitarian access.</u> • Further deterioration of the situation in Somalia could trigger some population movements into the South-East. • Insecurity in the South and East will continue to present significant obstacles to movement, markets, and humanitarian access, exacerbating on-going humanitarian needs in the region. A potential escalation of hostilities in the region would lead to increased displacement and disruption of livelihoods, worsening the situation. • The risk of border conflict with Eritrea persists, as an escalation of cross-border skirmishes could potentially lead to additional displacement and increased requirement of humanitarian assistance. • Persistent chronic food insecurity as an impact of insufficient or excessive rainfall and high levels of malnutrition will continue to require assistance, despite good 2007 agricultural season. • There is generally high risk of flooding related to the rainy season from March to June, potentially bringing secondary hazards such as epidemics, disruption of transportation and damage to infrastructure and crops. • Attention must be paid to a possible locust invasion from the east. • Date Watch: local elections in April. • Potential Triggers: Outbreak of fighting in Western and Northern Somalia. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ORANGE ↔</p>
ERITREA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sustained preparedness is recommended within the current limited operational context, in light of the continued risk of food insecurity due to mixed rainfall patterns and a potential locust infestation, as well as the long-standing border dispute with Ethiopia.</u> • Chronic food insecurity and high household-level vulnerability will continue to require attention, especially if insufficient rainfall. • Relations with Ethiopia remain tense, in the context of various tensions on the Horn, overt conflict would lead to massive displacement & humanitarian needs. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ORANGE ↔</p>
DJIBOUTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sustained preparedness is recommended in view of increasing food insecurity, and possible additional influx of refugees.</u> • The overall food availability will be affected by on-going moisture deficit and increase in prices for fuel and basic food imports. As a net importer, Djibouti is especially vulnerable to increase in international food prices. • Regional instability could lead to a further influx of refugees in a country which has already low absorption capacity. • The nutritional situation should be monitored closely, particularly in the North-western zones where (with seasonal variability) the GAM has reached 24.8% and the SAM, 3.5 %. 	<p style="text-align: center;">YELLOW ↔</p>
REGIONAL LOCUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sustained monitoring and control operations continue for locusts, particularly in eastern Africa, where new infestations are possible.</u> There is a risk that locust swarms could breed within eastern Ethiopia or move into southern Eritrea, Yemen, northern Somalia and possibly Kenya. In Somalia insecurity will continue to present a serious obstacle to monitoring and control measures. 	<p style="text-align: center;">YELLOW ↔</p>

GREAT LAKES / CENTRAL AFRICA

<p>DRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A further increase in the level of humanitarian operations is likely to be required, along with a sustained high level of preparedness,</u> over the next 4 months, particularly in the Kivus, in light of the positive potential of a substantial return of displaced and the beginning of recovery activities if peace and security were to improve, or conversely should the peace process again collapse with renewal of a major humanitarian crisis. Other threats include rising food prices, emerging cholera epidemics in Katanga, and the constant threat of seismic activity. • The humanitarian emergency resulting from military conflict in the Kivus and in Ituri remains acute, despite the recent signing of a peace pact between some of the belligerent groups. • Protection needs are increasing, particularly violence against women and girls, and will continue to be compounded by extremely restricted humanitarian access and interventions. • Mass movement of populations remains an acute possibility, potentially ranging to over one million persons. Humanitarian assistance will be required if fighting continues; in the event peace, with security are progressively restored, humanitarian assistance will be required for the significant returns anticipated. • Increasing food prices, especially in North Kivu, are likely to augment global acute malnutrition among vulnerable groups. • Cholera epidemics in Central and North Katanga will require further preparedness to prevent their spread. The area is at constant risks of outbreaks of Marburg, Ebola, Plague, and other emerging diseases. • Preparedness is required in view of the constant threat of earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, as demonstrated by the recent seismic activity in Bukavu. • Date Watch: Local, urban and municipal elections, second half of 2008. 	<p>RED ↔</p>
<p>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation, <u>substantially increased preparedness and response capacities are required</u> to assist rising numbers of refugees from Chad, IDPs from possible increased fighting in the North-West, rising malnutrition, meningitis epidemics in the North-West, potential large scale socio-political conflict related to a growing political crisis, in a general situation in which humanitarian space is threatened and sustaining operations is difficult. • Chad-Sudan tension or a deterioration of Darfur situation could spill over into North-East CAR, adding to the up to one million people affected by conflict, displacement and increased attacks on civilians and kidnapping of children. • Armed banditry, rebel activity, and violence against civilian population continue and hamper humanitarian operations. Humanitarian conditions for some 200.000 people currently displaced in northern areas will remain of serious concern. • An escalation of the sub-regional conflict could trigger the return of CAR refugees and provoke an influx of new refugees from neighbouring countries, increased inter-ethnic tensions, and increased pressure on already scant resources in host communities with limited access. Regardless of whether the conflict improves or worsens, increased capacity will be required to respond to the humanitarian consequences. • January 2008 assessment in the North indicated that 20% U5 children were at risk of malnutrition. • Increased mobilization is needed in response to the emerging meningitis outbreak in the North-West. • Further delays or failure of political dialogue between rebels and the government, strikes over salary arrears, and other civilian opposition could trigger confrontations and spur flare up of conflict, diminishing the already constrained humanitarian space. 	<p>RED ↑</p>
<p>CHAD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ratcheting-up humanitarian operations, with increased levels of preparedness,</u> are recognized as essential in view of potential of increased conflict in the east, and internally, with all the usual humanitarian consequences, in a situation in which substantial logistics and access challenges exist, made worse by food insecurity, a tenuous political situation and the need to act without delay to preposition supplies before the rains arrive. • Humanitarian needs are likely to impacted by a continuing volatile security situation, increasing needs especially in the East where fighting continues, and increased internal tension which may result in additional displacement. • Petty crime, armed robberies and car-jackings are increasing all over the country, further decreasing humanitarian space. • In the event of escalating conflict, interruption of overland supply corridors and grounding of air transport may present a serious obstacle to humanitarian operations, especially in the context of necessary pre-positioning before the rainy season's on-set in June. • Lack of commodities and, in particular corn-soya blend will contribute to the deterioration of the nutritional status of the refugees and IDPs who have limited coping mechanisms to ensure their food security and who entirely depend on food aid. Furthermore, lack of food could cause unrest in the camps and aggravate tensions between the IDPs and the local population over the scarce natural resources in the region. • Assistance to an increased number of refugees from CAR would be required in the event of an escalation of the conflict in that country, or any obstruction of the logistical corridor from Eastern Cameroon. • Potential Trigger: Delay in EUFOR deployment. 	<p>RED ↑</p>

CAMEROON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and contingency planning is considered important in order to ensure capacities to deal with the potential new refugee influxes from Chad and CAR, nutritional crises and the possibility of civil unrest impacting humanitarian needs. • As many as 15,000 new refugees from CAR are expected during the first quarter of 2008, on top of the existing 45,000 from CAR and up to 20,000 recent arrivals from Chad, as a result of upheavals and insecurity in both neighbouring countries. Any continued instability in Chad and CAR will inevitably affect Cameroon. • Nutritional crises in the north (14% acute malnutrition) and in the east (17% acute malnutrition) are nearing emergency levels, with only limited capacity for humanitarian response on the ground in isolated, rural areas. • Social tensions and militancy may be faced in 2008, including clashes on a few borders over the disputed return of the energy-rich Bakassi peninsula, and low-level tensions between Anglophone and Francophone communities. 	RED ↑
SUDAN	<p>Darfur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained high level of humanitarian operations and high level of preparedness will likely remain essential for the next 4 months, in a situation in which the overall numbers of beneficiaries may not change dramatically but the humanitarian situation continues to evolve with the trend reflecting an increase in conflict, insecurity, displacement, food insecurity and the need to reposition before the on-set of the rainy season. • Despite UNAMID assumption of responsibility on 01 January, insecurity, displacement and loss of livelihoods continue as a result of continuing violence. Insecurity and banditry, insufficient funding, and harassment continue to negatively impact the work of the humanitarian community in Darfur. • Escalating sub-regional instability could lead to increased cross-border displacement to and from Chad, especially if military operations are intensified against armed groups. The deployment schedules of EUFOR and UNAMID warrant close monitoring. • Insecurity will continue to negatively impact food distribution to the food-insecure population estimated at 3.5 million people. Specifically, banditry will likely hamper overland operations and the outbreak of open hostilities has the potential to interrupt air operations as well. • Pre-positioning is vital as the on-set of the rainy season (June-September) will likely hinder humanitarian operations. • Date Watch: Possible preparatory meetings of Darfur rebel factions (expected in March 2008). 	RED ↔
	<p>South Sudan and Transitional Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained humanitarian response supported by preparedness is recommended, due to food insecurity, increased displacements, and regional instability and seasonal epidemics. • Two years of poor harvest may increase food insecurity in the upcoming dry season • Assistance will be required for thousands displaced due to sporadic clashes in Northern Bahr el Ghazal between rebel groups. • Should peace talks continue to be stalled, operations to drive Ugandan rebels in DRC towards assembly points in Southern Sudan remain a potential threat that could result in further insecurity and potential new displacements. • Outbreaks of meningitis and cholera are likely to occur, especially in densely populated areas. Experts are warning about a major meningitis epidemic this year. • Potential Triggers: Delay in implementation of Comprehensive Peace Agreement. 	ORANGE ↔
	<p>Eastern Sudan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response is recommended, within the limitations of restricted access, due to continuing food insecurity, and potential cross border displacements from Eritrea and Ethiopia, 	YELLOW ↔
UGANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained levels of humanitarian response will be required to support the continuing return of IDPs and a growing humanitarian situation in the Karamoja area, and appropriate levels of preparedness, for a possible influx of refugees in the East, the possibility of new displacements from DRC in the West, food insecurity in the North-East, on-set of flooding and other natural disasters, as well as threat of increased prices and basic commodities for vulnerable groups. • The need for support of over one million IDPs in the north continues. • Potential violence and insecurity in the DRC create threat of an influx of refugees requiring humanitarian assistance. • Situation of food insecurity in the North-East is particularly worrying and warrants increased response. • Date Watch: Deadline for rebel assembly in Southern Sudan (end February) 	ORANGE ↔
BURUNDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased assistance is to be anticipated; increased preparedness is considered essential due to the possibility of resumed hostilities between armed groups within Burundi, poor expected harvests, the need assist a potentially increased caseload of returnees and migrants from Tanzania and Congolese refugees from the Kivus, and the spread of the cholera epidemic. • Fighting between armed groups, increased political tensions and banditry are likely to continue or increase, in the face of a stalled peace process and deteriorating social conditions. • Food production levels in low altitude regions have been severely impacted by late rainfall, pointing to poor and in some cases no harvest, which is certain to intensify already chronic food insecurity, potentially affected by the economic spill-over impacts of the Kenyan crisis. • Cross-border returnees are likely to continue, as the Government of Tanzania has indicated an intention to close down refugee 	ORANGE ↑

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> camps by mid 2008. Cholera is expected to be a growing threat during the rainy season (March to May). Date Watch: June 2008, deadline by Tanzanian authorities for departure of Burundian refugees. Potential Triggers: Resumption of hostilities between armed groups and Government. 	
RWANDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased preparedness is required, due to the fragile situation in Eastern DRC and the potential for increased cross-border movement, as well as humanitarian needs resultant from the Kivu earthquake. While only a slight increase in refugee numbers has thus far resulted from the deteriorating security situation in the Kivu region of the DRC, humanitarian needs from the growing trickle of refugees will require rapid response, particularly should violence across the border accelerate displacement. Food security remains a concern. Recent seismic activity in the Bukavu area may recur in Rwanda, causing serious human losses and damages to infrastructure. Date Watch: Parliamentary election, mid-year. 	YELLOW ↑
SOUTHERN AFRICA		
SOUTHERN AFRICA FLOODS and DROUGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued humanitarian response and a high level of preparedness will be necessary in coming months due to the immediate and longer-term impacts of flooding in Southern Africa in some areas will other face threat of drought. Meteorologists have warned of an enhanced likelihood of exacerbated flooding as a result of above normal rainfall during the 2007/2008 rainy season in part as a result of current La Niña conditions. Early onset of heavy rains has led to high river levels, water logging and significant riverine flooding earlier than usual. Heavy rains and flooding are forecast to continue at least until March; with possibility of cyclones. Immediate impacts will continue to include mass displacement, loss of assets and livelihoods, and increased food insecurity in affected areas. Impact has been mitigated by coordination and preparedness efforts launched before the onset of flooding, including regional inter-agency contingency planning. Longer-term, degradation of agricultural productivity due to inundation of farmland, loss of livestock and loss of agricultural inputs will likely require coordinated national and international response efforts. Areas not directly affected by flooding may also be subject to loss of productivity with crops suffering from leeching (loss of soil nutrients) on higher grounds and in low-lying ones due to water logging. Increased risk of water- and mosquito-borne illnesses will continue to exist throughout the flooding and as waters begin to recede. 	ORANGE ↔
ZIMBABWE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased response over the next several months is likely to be required to meet increasing humanitarian needs relating to continuing economic collapse, severe food insecurity, disruption of livelihoods, emerging zones of malnutrition, disease outbreaks linked to water, sanitation and power supply problems, and increasing internal and cross-border displacement. Increased preparedness is essential for the possibility that acute crisis could develop around the election process. Widespread food insecurity will continue to affect up to 4.1 million Zimbabweans through to the end of hunger season. A worsening of the food crisis is anticipated until the first harvests in March-April. The efficacy of governmental and international food imports and distribution will continue to be key to avoiding a rapid degradation of food security. Humanitarian assistance will continue to be hampered by difficulties of procurement, transport and delivery of commodities in the region. A normal to slightly above normal 2007/8 agricultural season is forecasted for Zimbabwe, but farmers still face serious challenges associated with the poor availability of agricultural inputs. Livelihoods and household coping mechanisms will continue to be severely affected by hyper inflation, widespread unemployment, and scarce and expensive commodities. The water and sanitation situation in urban areas has deteriorated due to electricity shortages and eroded infrastructure, thereby increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. Cholera outbreaks in Harare and other parts of the country can be expected to continue. Acute threat exists that election related tensions could erupt, creating a new humanitarian crisis. The political and economic situation is leading to increased displacement, both internally and cross-border (estimated 5 million people). Social and political tensions warrant monitoring in light of Government declaration that elections will occur 29 March. Opposition groups have demanded postponement, and threatened demonstrations and a possible boycott. Date Watch: 29 March presidential elections, March-April harvests. 	RED ↑
MOZAMBIQUE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustained preparedness and response will be necessary in coming months in light of food insecurity due to previous flooding as the rainy, lean and cyclone seasons progress, in addition to on-going impacts of current flooding. Some 520,000 people were estimated to have been made highly food insecure in southern and central Mozambique as a result of cereal losses in areas affected by flooding and drought in early 2007. Household food access in certain areas is expected to be more limited than normal until the next harvest in March 2008, while an additional 140,000 people are at risk and may need humanitarian assistance from October 2007 to March 2008. This vulnerability will be compounded in places by this year's flooding, necessitating further coordinated assistance. The southwest Indian Ocean cyclone season runs from November to April, peaking between January and March. Potential impacts from cyclone strike include heavy flooding and wind damage in coastal areas leading to mass displacement and loss of life and livelihoods in worst cases. Longer-term impacts can include loss of agricultural and economic productivity. 	ORANGE ↔

MALAWI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness is warranted in light of flooding, risk of food insecurity, decreasing nutritional indicators and cholera • Some 12,000 households (72,000 people) affected by floods in the country so far with potential of additional flooding. • Some 323,900 persons are “on watch” for food insecurity should economic and environmental conditions further deteriorate. Most affected districts are Karonga, Chikwawa and Nsanje, the last two of which have been significantly affected by flooding. Contributing economic factors include the rising prices of the staple food crop (maize). • The nutritional status of children in southern districts is reportedly deteriorating. • Cholera, which has currently affected seven districts, will likely affect more districts due to the rainy season. 	ORANGE ↑
COMOROS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness is warranted in light of the ongoing political crisis which could erupt into violence, and the continuing threat of eruption of the Karthala volcano. • In January AU sanctions targeting the island of Anjouan were extended by one month to 24 February, in the context of the ongoing dispute between the island and the Union Government. The Union Government has issued further threats to resolve the political crisis by military means, and the situation will warrant close monitoring for signs of further escalation. • Karthala Volcano is on yellow alert. 	ORANGE ↑
MADAGASCAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and sustained humanitarian assistance will be required as the tropical storm season continues. • The southwest Indian Ocean cyclone season runs until March. Potential impacts from cyclone strike include heavy flooding and wind damage leading to mass displacement and loss of life and livelihoods in worst cases. Longer-term impacts can include loss of agricultural and economic productivity. • While overall food security situation in Madagascar is improving, the population in the south is at risk of food insecurity as the September to March lean season progresses. Food security in areas affected by last year’s floods and cyclones in the northwest may still be affected. 	YELLOW ↔
SWAZILAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response are likely to be required over the next several months due to food insecurity resulting from drought during 2007 and the ongoing rainy season. • An estimated 407,000 people are in need of food aid and other support as a result of a prolonged dry spell and high temperatures that ravaged the country’s maize crops in 2007. Food insecurity is likely to remain widespread in coming months, but its severity will be mitigated if planned interventions are timely and adequate, if the 2007/08 rainy season continues well, and if agricultural inputs are accessible to vulnerable farming households. • The impact of heavy rains and potential hailstorms warrants monitoring this rainy season. 	YELLOW ↔
LESOTHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response are likely to be required over the next several months in light of the impact of drought during 2007 and the ongoing rainy season. • An estimated 400,000 people are in need of food aid due to the 2007 impact of Lesotho’s most serious drought in 30 years. Food insecurity is likely to remain widespread in coming months, but its severity will be mitigated if planned interventions are timely and adequate, if the 2007/08 rainy season continues well, and if agricultural inputs are accessible to vulnerable farming households. • The impact of heavy rains this rainy season warrants monitoring, with crops potentially suffering nutrient leaching due to heavy rainfall. 	YELLOW ↔
SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN CYCLONE SEASON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON WATCH as the tropical storm season continues. The southwest Indian Ocean cyclone season runs from November to April, peaking between January and March. The 2007-08 season is expected to be slightly below average with 7 to 9 named storms (average is 10). 	WHITE
WEST / NORTH AFRICA		
REGIONAL FLOODING and MENINGITIS EPIDEMICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meteorological experts forecast higher than average rainfall in West Africa in the next period, increasing the likelihood of flooding in multiple countries, and meningitis epidemics across the meningitis belt (Senegal, Southern Mauritania, Northern Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Northern Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad) between February and May. 	YELLOW ↑
NIGER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and response will likely be required in light of increasing conflict and possible cross-border movement from Chad, widespread nutrition problems, food insecurity and epidemics • Lack of humanitarian access and assistance to some 11,000 displaced persons in the north is an increasing concern, as conflict between rebel and government forces has intensified, and may continue. Security and access concerns are expected to continue in the face of the increasing use of landmines. Humanitarian efforts are also impacted by the necessary pullout of NGOs from the north. • Deterioration of the situation in Chad may provoke population movements into Niger. • Malnutrition rates remain high due to structural problems. The situation is especially worrying for children 6-35 months; the GAM rate for this age group is 14.8%, close to the 15% emergency threshold. Also of concern is the mortality rate for children under five which has been increasing over the past two years and is now at 1.8 deaths/10,000/day. • Cereal prices have been increasing since November 2007 and there are indications that the 2007 harvest might not have been as satisfactory as estimated, resulting in pockets of potential food insecurity. Additionally, lower than expected production in neighbouring Nigeria should be monitored closely for potential impact on markets in Niger. • There have been two early meningitis outbreaks and it is feared the country and the meningitis belt is entering the peak season. The cholera season is expected in July. 	ORANGE ↑

COTE D'IVOIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness is required in light of the potential for political tension as well as food insecurity and malnutrition. • Presidential elections have been postponed repeatedly and while a date has been set for June 2008, uncertainty surrounding this date and the process in general could provoke new political destabilisation, displacement and increased humanitarian need. • Increased armed robbery and banditry, particularly in the north, and land disputes with ethnic connotations in the west, will continue to delay the return of IDPs. • While the general situation in Guinea remains calm but unpredictable, any deterioration may result in cross border movements of populations into Cote d'Ivoire. • Almost a quarter of households in rural Cote d'Ivoire suffer from food insecurity, and malnutrition is spreading. • Date Watch: June 2008 presidential elections. • Potential Triggers: withdrawal of UNOCI peacekeepers. 	YELLOW ↔
GUINEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness is required due to the unpredictable nature of the political situation, while increased preparedness is needed to respond to the cholera epidemic. • Elections for Prime Minister took place in June 2007, however, uncertainty about the political situation and the potential for a power vacuum remain concerns; should there be widespread civil unrest, internal displacement of up to 500,000 people is likely, including third country nationals and refugees. • Continued increases in the prices of basic commodities may cause further civil tension. Outbreaks of violent demonstrations have already occurred in Conakry involving both civilians and military groups. • Cholera outbreaks with high case fatality rate remain a cause for concern, though counter-measures have been taken. • Date Watch: assembly elections (March 2008) • Potential Triggers: resumption of street protests and repressive reaction by security forces. 	YELLOW ↔
MAURITANIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and response is required due to worsening humanitarian indicators and reduced access to food. • Rising cereal prices on global markets have caused food prices in Mauritania to skyrocket, particularly affecting the food access of low-income households. The impact of increasing food prices on social instability bears closer monitoring, as witnessed by violent demonstrations in several towns. Malnutrition could rise in the coming months. 	YELLOW ↑
BURKINA FASO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and response is required due to increasing malnutrition and reduced access to food. 	YELLOW ↑
MALI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness is required due to continued sub-regional instability in Mali as well as potential nutritional deterioration. 	YELLOW ↑
NIGERIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ON WATCH for potential humanitarian consequences of socio-political tensions and malnutrition. 	WHITE

MIDDLE EAST		
IRAQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained high-level of preparedness and increased humanitarian response are likely to be required on the possibility of a further increase in displacement over the next period, on account of extreme violence and civil unrest, widespread interruption of basic services, massive displacement, and prospect of prolonged instability. • Sectarian and generalized violence is likely to continue in Baghdad, neighbouring Diyala and other provinces, causing additional internal and secondary displacements. The resumption of high-intensity violence and internal displacement cannot be discounted. • Population displacement reported exceeds 2.48 million people within Iraq and some 2 million Iraqis in neighbouring countries. • Basic services, electricity, water and transport services will continue to present serious problems. • Humanitarian access is severely restricted by the extreme insecurity, administrative and logistical difficulties. • It is likely that the country will remain politically unstable, necessitating long term humanitarian assistance. • Date Watch: Kirkuk's referendum: June 2008. 	RED ↑
Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased humanitarian response and a further increase in preparedness is likely to be required for the growing humanitarian crisis caused by the disruption of basic services and the security situation, in a situation in which in the next several months could either substantially worsen or improve. • Continued restrictions on movements and border closures, could further disrupt the provision of basic services and humanitarian aid. • The political stalemate is likely to continue, marked by military incursions and attacks, with ensuing humanitarian consequences. 	RED ↑

SYRIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of preparedness and response is required to assist continuing numbers of refugees from Iraq entering into Syria; the complex situation in Lebanon warrants close monitoring on account of its potential effects on Syria. • In Syria, 1.5 million Iraqis depend on humanitarian assistance, including basic services: education, nutrition, immunization, and protection from child labour and prostitution. • Close monitoring is warranted for any potential regional or internal conflict in surrounding countries as this may cause additional displacement. 	ORANGE ↑
JORDAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained level of preparedness and response is required to assist continuing numbers of refugees from Iraq entering into Jordan; the complex situation in Lebanon warrants close monitoring on account of its potential effects on. • In Syria, 1.5 million Iraqis will need humanitarian assistance, including basic services: education, nutrition, immunization, and protection from child labour and prostitution. In Jordan, 700,000 Iraqis face similar needs. • Close monitoring is warranted for any potential regional or internal conflict in surrounding countries as this may cause additional displacement. 	ORANGE ↔
LEBANON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness is warranted in light of continuing political tensions, the potential renewal of internal conflict and the continued vulnerability of displaced communities. • The increased number of political assassinations, political deadlock and delayed of resolution of the issue of the presidency will continue to cause high political tension and contribute to Lebanon's vulnerability to internal and external threats. • Increasing militarization will remain a concern, with militias reportedly training and re-arming and the resurrection of fighter networks. • Refugees continue to represent more than 10% of the total population of the country, the majority of which will still require assistance. • Potential Triggers: high-level assassination, external threats. 	ORANGE ↔
YEMEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased response is required with regards to the rising number of refugees, insecurity in the northern and southern part of country, possible locust infestation and food insecurity. • The refugee caseload in Yemen is 117,000. Refugee arrivals from the Horn of Africa are increasing, with 23,000 new arrivals (14,500 Somali, 8500 Ethiopians) since the last quarter. Iraqi refugees are likely to continue to arrive, though largely absorbed by host communities. • Civil unrest continues to be of concern, particularly in the northern part of country, with fighting and kidnappings. Some insecurity has spread toward the southern part of country, where violent protests have erupted recently. • After last year's serious locust infestation, food insecurity remains high throughout the country, affecting the overall livelihood conditions. 	YELLOW ↑

CENTRAL ASIA & CAUCASUS

SERBIA (Kosovo), Macedonia, Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased level of preparedness is recommended for potential humanitarian consequences that could result from potential ethnic and socio-economic tensions over the declaration of independence by Kosovo, changing role of UN, economic distress. • Tensions related to status determination of Kosovo have the potential to provoke displacement of Serb communities and other ethnic groups from Kosovo into Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia, and breakdown in provision of basic services for minorities. • The threatened imposition of economic sanctions by Serbia, including cutting off water and electricity supplies and imposing a trade and goods embargo, could affect the economy and the food security of Kosovo, requiring international assistance. 	ORANGE ↑
REGIONAL SEISMIC ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness for damaging earthquakes is important across the region, one of the most seismically active in the world. The vulnerability of much of the population combined with the presence of serious environmental hazards (e.g., uranium tailing dumps, aging dams) exacerbates the humanitarian impact of such an event. • Due to heavy snowfall, the risk of avalanches is high and the region is likely to face severe spring flooding with high possibilities for land and mudslides. This in turn heightens the risk of exposing nuclear waste and uranium tailings. 	YELLOW ↔
REGIONAL EXTREME WEATHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and response is recommended, on account of the consequence of extremely harsh winter conditions, severe shortage of fuel and the consequences of this on availability of basic services, as well as the likelihood of flash floods and landslides in early Spring. • The region is experiencing a historically unprecedented cold wave, raising concerns over access to food, water, sewage and heat to vulnerable communities. Electricity cuts related to water scarcity and cold weather could lead to disruption in schools, hospitals and other social services. Prolonged winter may dramatically undermine coping mechanisms of remote and isolated communities. • Both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan are at high risk of floods, avalanches and mudslides, particularly as the winter snows thaw in March and April. This phenomenon also affects Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and other mountainous areas of Asia. 	YELLOW ↑
GEORGIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON WATCH for the possible escalation of unrest around break-away territories and internal political tensions. • Date Watch: 02 March 2008 Presidential Election in the Russian Federation. • Potential Triggers: formal decision on the status of Kosovo. 	WHITE
NORTH CAUCASUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON WATCH for violence, socio-political tension and social unrest. 	WHITE

ASIA

<p>AFGHANISTAN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increased humanitarian response is likely to be required if increased access were to be possible, necessitating sustained preparedness, in a situation of increasing humanitarian needs related to expanding conflict, potential movements of returnees and refugees from Pakistan and returnees from Iran, food price increases, drought and seasonal floods.</u> • Intensified conflict continues to cause population displacement and to hamper humanitarian access over much of the country. Attacks, abductions and killings of civilians continue to impede humanitarian programmes. Cross-border movement of Pakistanis into Afghanistan due to fighting in FATA and NWFP may continue during this period. • The repatriation of Afghan people from Iran and Pakistan is likely to continue. Some 36,000 Afghans, of some 1 million in Iran, have returned to Afghanistan and the returns are likely to continue over the next months. The Government of Pakistan indicate intention to close four refugee camps which, should it happen, would result in over 220,000 additional Afghans returning to Afghanistan. • Afghanistan is facing a food shortage of 500,000 MT of cereals in 2008, with increasing prices and shortages of basic commodities in many areas. About 2.3 million Afghans were recently estimated to be at a high risk of food insecurity. • Late-winter rains and melting snow are likely to trigger floods and landslides in mountain valleys as spring approaches. 	<p>RED ↑</p>
<p>PAKISTAN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increased preparedness and humanitarian response is likely to be necessary due to escalating conflict in the northern tribal areas, growing insecurity and risk of social unrest associated with February 2008 elections, compounded by increasing cereal prices.</u> • Due to the intensifying military activity, the number of people displaced by the conflict in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) is likely to increase. Access to the conflict areas will continue to be extremely limited, raising concerns for humanitarian conditions in affected areas. • Increasing cereal prices will continue to be a major cause for concern nationally & regionally, with food prices pushing daily consumption requirements outside the reach of an increasing numbers. Of 56 million people in urban areas, about 21 million are now deemed food insecure. • The general security environment, characterized by potentially destabilizing acts of terrorism, remains a concern. • The risk of earthquakes and floods in the coastal areas, compounded by a limited humanitarian access, continue to represent a serious threat. 	<p>RED ↑</p>
<p>SRI LANKA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increased humanitarian response, with increased preparedness, are likely to be required over the next four months due both to the deteriorating humanitarian situation causing a growing displacement as a result of escalating conflict, and to recent flooding.</u> • Following the end of the Cease Fire Agreement (January 2008), an escalation of military operations and violence is highly likely in the coming months. As many as 500,000 new IDPs may need protection and immediate humanitarian assistance during this period, in addition to the current caseload of 614,000. Limited humanitarian access is likely to worsen the humanitarian situation of affected populations. • Assistance will be required in support of some 250,000 people affected (40,000 displaced) in the North-eastern districts who suffered significant flooding in December 2007 and January 2008 that caused immense damage to settlements, crops and infrastructure. In Ampara and Batticaloa districts, the worst affected areas, food assistance and recovery activities will continue to be required in coming months. 	<p>RED ↑</p>
<p>TIMOR LESTE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increased preparedness for a potential increase in humanitarian response is likely to be required over the next four months in view of food insecurity and malnutrition, IDP needs, on-going political tensions with related urban violence, and potential floods.</u> • With the Timorese political environment continuing in an atmosphere of tension and uncertainty, including debate over issues relating to control and responsibility of Timorese security forces, potential security flare-ups could still prompt displacement, particularly in eastern districts. • Delayed and irregular rains caused low yield in last season's harvest, while prolonged drought and localized locust infestation has already reduced food production by 30%, leaving one fifth of the population vulnerable to food shortages through the coming lean season. Some 30,000 to 35,000 people were severely affected by locust damage and floods in 2007 and will need food aid from January to March 2008. • The nutritional status of children is an important concern: an estimated 50.3% of children under the age of 5 are suffering underweight (severely 11.19%), 49.9% stunting (severely 17.7%) and 18.8% wasting (severely 2%). • Humanitarian assistance to an estimated 100,000 IDPs (10% of total population) will continue to be required. • La Niña is expected to persist from early to mid-2008, with an increased likelihood of heavier and more sustained rains. Many of the IDP camps in Dili are located in flood-susceptible areas. 	<p>RED ↑</p>
<p>NEPAL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increased preparedness is recommended due to rising political tensions that could undermine the peace process, leading to further displacement and worsened food insecurity, in a context of limited humanitarian access.</u> • Lead up to Constituent Assembly Elections on 10 April could be marked by increased social and ethnic unrest, potentially increasing internal displacement/affected, adding to a current caseload of some 50,000. • Humanitarian access remains a serious concern, particularly in the eastern and southern (Terai) plains, where ethnic-based insecurity, bomb attacks, strikes and armed confrontations are likely to continue. • Price increases for fuel and food should be monitored closely, as riots in January demonstrated. The underlying reasons behind January's attempted fuel price hikes (later reversed) have not been resolved, and the issue may re-emerge. Moreover, possible restrictions on Indian and Chinese rice exports could affect food availability and prices. • Potential drought in food insecure areas of western Nepal could increase malnutrition and cause additional, longer-term migration to India. • Increasing violence, threats and intimidation have been reported targeting Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. 	<p>ORANGE ↑</p>

BANGLADESH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date Watch: 10 April Constituent assembly Elections • Potential Triggers: Failure to hold Constituent Assembly elections; sudden price hikes in fuel and/or food. • Increased preparedness and response are warranted due to the continuing consequences of Cyclone Sidr, rising food prices, political instability and the risk of civil unrest. • Sustained assistance is still required for approximately 9 million people affected by Cyclone Sidr. The cyclone destroyed crops, livestock and fishery infrastructure, and some 800,000 MT of rice are estimated to have been lost. • Rising food prices potentially to affect Bangladesh in coming months could cause explosive civil tensions, with an increase in food assistance potentially required for the most vulnerable populations. • Reconstruction of shelters, public infrastructure, schools, WES facilities and for return of livelihood facilities (agriculture and fishing) will be required in the first two quarters of 2008. • In 2008, the caretaker government will face serious political and economic challenges. Food shortages and rising food prices could potentially fuel social unrest. 	ORANGE ↑
DPR KOREA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and operational plans are required for a potentially huge food shortage situation, impacted by the effects of 2007 flooding. • Widespread food shortages are likely to continue due to a combination of problems including limited arable land and insufficient agricultural inputs, exacerbated by the 2007 floods. Reduced 2007 cereal production will contribute to projected increased cereal import requirements (1 million MT) during the 2007/08 marketing year. Monitoring of the nutritional status of children will be important, due to the high incidence of diarrhoea and food shortages. 	ORANGE ↑
MYANMAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response is recommended with regards to potential humanitarian needs arising from reduced access and long-term displaced populations in the east, compounded by deteriorating economic conditions, internal tensions, and food needs. • Restricted access to up to 500,000 people displaced in eastern Myanmar remains a serious concern, with the possibility of further unrest and subsequent displacement. • Continued monitoring of the economic and political context is recommended within the current human rights environment. • Recent household surveys suggest that as many as 5 million people may continue to be food deficient in Myanmar, despite the country being a net surplus producer of food. Logistical and bureaucratic hurdles will likely continue to hinder access to affected communities. 	ORANGE ↔
REGIONAL CYCLONE SEASON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness is recommended for the current and upcoming cyclone and monsoon seasons. • The South Pacific Cyclone Season typically runs from the beginning of November to the end of April. • The Western Pacific Typhoon Season typically runs from May to November. • The North Indian Ocean cyclone season typically runs from April to December with peaks in May and November. • The monsoon seasons may continue to cause heavy rains, associated flooding and landslides/mudslides. China has flood season in April and May and may face flooding when the snow from winter melt. 	ORANGE ↑
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness is required due to the high risk of natural disasters, compounded by widespread underlying social vulnerability. • The potential for increased humanitarian needs in the event of natural disasters including tsunami, earthquake, volcanic eruption and the November to April cyclone season warrant continued preparedness. • A slow deterioration of socio-economic conditions and increasing vulnerability is expected to result from a degradation of basic services, continued high levels of crime and corruption, and political estrangement of opposition groups. • Potential exists for increased separatist activity along both sides of the PNG – Indonesia border. Security incident statistics in Western and Eastern Highlands, Enga and Simbu Provinces, in close proximity to Southern Highlands, have increased and warrant close monitoring. 	YELLOW ↔
PHILIPPINES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response are warranted due to the on-going insurgency in the South and to constant risk of natural disaster. • Continued stalemate between the Government and opposition groups could lead to an escalation of armed conflict in the South, with a subsequent rising number of displaced. • High risk of seismic and volcanic activity and potential for tropical storms will continue present humanitarian threat. • An extended dry spell during March to May, as experienced last year, may create acute water shortages in some areas. 	YELLOW ↔
INDONESIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response are required due to the high risk of natural disasters such as earthquake, flooding, landslides, forest fires and volcanic eruption, as well as the threat of avian/human influenza. • Increased seismic and volcanic activity has been observed, with the threat of a major earthquake or tsunami continuing. • La Niña phenomenon, which is associated with high rainfall, will likely affect Indonesia until late April. Torrential rains, combined with poor river management, may lead to localized floods and landslides that could affect thousands of people. • Sustained preparedness and response is similarly recommended for those populations made vulnerable as a result of disasters suffered during 2007, including flooding and landslides in northern Sumatra and central Java in December. • The overall food supply situation is stable; however pockets of serious malnutrition exist among the poorest people, particularly in the East. • The spread of avian influenza and the threat of pandemic human influenza remain a source of concern. To date, official figures put the number of human deaths due to H5N1 has passed 100 persons. 	YELLOW ↔

BHUTAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON WATCH due to the risk of socio-political instability as elections approach. • Bomb explosions on 21 January signify an increased security threat, with armed groups suspected of planning further action to disrupt the political process associated with country's first general election on 24 March. • Date Watch: 24 March – Bhutan's First General Election 	WHITE
THAILAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON WATCH due to risk of increased violence in the four southernmost provinces, and potential new displacement from Myanmar. 	WHITE
REGIONAL SEISMIC and VOLCANIC ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON WATCH for earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. Four volcanoes in Indonesia are on Orange alert (as of February 2008), meaning the volcanoes are in eruption or eruption may occur at any time. This is likely to continue during the reporting period. • Seismic risks are concentrated around the circum Pacific seismic belt. Major earthquake risk nations include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, northern India, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Mongolia, Philippines, Timor Leste and Pacific Island States. • Earthquakes may also trigger Tsunamis in the region with tsunami effects potentially reaching as far as the east coast of Africa. 	WHITE

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN		
HAITI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness is required due to the threat of heavy rains, flooding, landslides, earthquakes and potential civil unrest, within the context of widespread poverty and food insecurity. • Food assistance will continue to be required in coming months as well as recovery activities and livelihoods support, in response to rain-induced flooding in November and December 2007 which destroyed hundreds of homes and damaged crops. • Although the security situation slightly improved, the fragile socio-economic conditions, the lack of effective rule of law and the weakness of national institutions could still lead to civil unrest, particularly in Port-au-Prince and Gonaives. 	ORANGE ↔
COLOMBIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response are required to address ongoing high levels of violence and displacement, flood risk and possible volcanic/seismic activity. • Military operations, strengthened paramilitary structures and deadlock in the peace talks are likely to lead to further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Lack of access, forced recruitment of children by armed groups, landmine casualties, human rights violations and increase of the displaced population. Arauca Province, where 2,000 people were displaced by insecurity in January warrant close monitoring. • Heavy rains related to La Niña phenomenon are forecasted to affect Colombia at least until April, followed by the rainy season, which may exacerbate the already precarious situation of the population, in particular those affected by conflict-related displacement. • Galeras volcano, which erupted on 17 January prompting the evacuation of about 8,000 people, remains on high alert. Nevado del Ruiz volcano is also on alert, due to intensified activity. • Potential Triggers: Aerial spraying to control coca crop production, increased military activity to take control of areas formally controlled by insurgents, regional tensions, weaknesses in ongoing prevention programs, reduced humanitarian access to many parts of the country. 	ORANGE ↔
BOLIVIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and response are warranted in coming months due to humanitarian needs resulting from the severe flooding, potential food crisis, cyclical natural disasters and political tension with increasing risk of civil unrest. • Humanitarian assistance will continue to be needed for at least 20,000 families who were affected by flooding across nine Bolivian departments between November 2007 and early 2008. • Heavy rains associated with La Niña conditions and extreme climatic events are expected until April. With harvests and livestock destroyed by floods, assistance and recovery programs could be required over the next months. A combination of natural disasters continues to threaten. • Bolivia's political environment will remain volatile in the context of the ongoing dispute between the presidency and opposition-led eastern departments, some of which have threatened secession. Increased cereal prices represent a threat to food security and could fuel civil unrest. 	YELLOW ↑
ECUADOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness and response are required to address the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing influx of Colombian refugees and possible volcanic/seismic activity. • Continuous violence and aerial spraying of coca crops in Colombia are likely to provoke further cross border movement, with the displaced population (mainly women and children) facing acute humanitarian needs. • The Tungurahua volcano remains active, threatening the lives and livelihoods of about 500 families, including 1,200 children and adolescents. 	YELLOW ↔
REGIONAL FLOODING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased preparedness and response is required in light of flooding and its related humanitarian implications, including risk to life and livelihoods, crops, food security and water-related disease. • This period is associated with heavy flooding is almost all countries of the region, and with associated high risk of land and mudslides and with ensuing waterborne diseases and related illnesses. • The official hurricane season starts on 15 May for the Eastern Pacific. 	YELLOW ↑
REGIONAL SEISMIC and VOLCANIC ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained preparedness is required for potential major earthquakes and/or volcanic eruptions, both in major population centres and rural areas, in particular, in Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba. Particularly vulnerable communities are situated along the "ring of fire" from southern Chile to Mexico, and at the confluence of the various tectonic plates underlying the region. While preparedness for smaller emergencies may exist, further preparedness is required to address the consequences of a massive emergency. 	YELLOW ↔

See attached: Draft 'Minimum Preparedness Actions,' provided as a checklist for possible operational actions, linked to various risk levels.

Key for colors and symbols used

Situations of concern are evaluated with respect to i) risk level and ii) recommended change in level of preparedness / response, as illustrated below:

I) **Level of priority:**

Risk Level	
Red	Priority 1
Orange	Priority 2
Yellow	Priority 3
White	Situations on Watch

Risk ranking based on:

- *threat to life/ livelihood*
- *likely scale*
- *imminence*
- *likely pop movements*
- *regional implications*

II) **Change in Level of preparedness / response:**

Preparedness / Response level as compared to previous reporting period	
↑	Increased levels of preparedness/response likely to be required
↔	Sustained levels of preparedness/response likely to be required
↓	Decreased levels of preparedness/response anticipated

Attachment 1: Minimum Preparedness Actions IASC EW-EA Countries of Concern

No.	RISK LEVEL	CATEGORY/ Priority Level	PREPAREDNESS ACTION	FOCAL POINT/ AGENCY	STATUS	COMMENTS
OBJECTIVE:		MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES OF CONCERN				
1	WHITE	Strategy	Define joint UNCT Strategy to prepare and respond to potential hazard(s)			
2	WHITE	EPR Activities	Establish UN Early Warning (EW) monitoring & Information Management (IM) system (including identification of potential triggers and circulation of EW information/ analysis)			
3	WHITE		Identification of EW/ EPR partners (including local/national partners, specialized institutions, universities, communities, regional bodies, etc. where applicable)			
4	WHITE	Assessments	Update and consolidate relevant baseline and vulnerability data (including mapping)			
5	WHITE	Contingency Plan (C-Plan)	Create/update inter-agency contingency plan (with clear lines of authority/ responsibility assigned between HC, CT and agency staff, coordination mechanism, identification of lead agencies per sector, IM mechanism, joint assessments, etc.)			
6	WHITE	Training/ Capacity Building	Identify EPR training needs for <u>UNCT</u> and implement			
7	WHITE		Identify training needs for <u>implementing partners</u> and implement			
8	WHITE		Identify training needs of <u>government</u> and implement (where applicable)			
9	WHITE	IM	Create information management (IM) repository on EPR for UNCT and IASC use.			
OBJECTIVE:		ENSURE SENSITIZATION & INITIAL COORDINATION OF STAKEHOLDERS TO IMPENDING CRISIS				
1	YELLOW	Review progress of all 'White' level activities and update/ complete as necessary.				
2	YELLOW	HR/ Admin	Identify emergency team members with suitable skills			
3	YELLOW	Stocks	Verify stockpiles (both relief items and operational items)			
4	YELLOW	Security	MOSS compliance (including carrying out security assessments, review security phase, guidelines for			

			evacuation plans)			
5	YELLOW	ICT	Ensure MISTS compliance			
6	YELLOW	Common Services	Determine need for Common Services (including: UNHAS, UNJLC, HIC, FITTEST, etc.)			
7	YELLOW	Partners	Initiate government, inter-agency, NGO, and stand-by partner liaison.			
8	YELLOW	Donors	Liaise with donors (government and private) to secure funds			
9	YELLOW	Advocacy	Undertake preventive diplomacy			
OBJECTIVE:		ACTIVATION OF PREPAREDNESS MEASURES				
1	ORANGE	Review progress of all 'White' & 'Yellow' level activities and update/ complete as necessary.				
2	ORANGE	Emergency Management	Undertake comprehensive capacity assessment of UNCT and partners			
3	ORANGE		Establish directory of useful emergency contacts (UN, Govt, NGO, Donors, etc.)			
4	ORANGE	Contingency/ Operational Plan	Coordinate with IASC SWG for inter-agency EPR activities (including requesting support)			
5	ORANGE	HR/ Admin	Identify emergency team members (verify staffing needs - visas, medical, etc. - , identify team members with suitable skills)			
6	ORANGE	Programme	Review current funding			
7	ORANGE	Security	Identify operational measures to be taken in light of security level.			
8	ORANGE	IM	Verify necessary location information, geographic maps, statistical information and data requirements.			
9	ORANGE		Create information management (IM) repository on EPR for UNCT and IASC use.			
10	ORANGE	Partners	Identify operational partners & establish contacts (including government, NGOs, stand bys, etc.)			
OBJECTIVE:		ESTABLISH RESPONSE CAPACITIES/ MODALITIES				
1	RED	Review progress of all 'White', 'Yellow', and 'Orange level activities and update/ complete as necessary.				
2	RED	Emergency Management	Establish minimum emergency management structure (with clear lines of authority/ responsibilities)			
3	RED	Assessments	Undertake comprehensive multi-sectoral <u>needs assessment</u>			
4	RED	Contingency/ Operational Plan	Coordinate with IASC SWG for inter-agency EPR activities (including requesting support)			
5	RED	HR/ Admin	Identify UNCT members trained on EPR			

6	RED		Identify UNDAC-trained staff in-country			
7	RED	Stocks	Pre-positioning of stocks <i>(both relief items and operational items)</i>			
8	RED	Programme	Prepare draft EMOPs/ project proposals			
9			Identify and authorise discretionary emergency response funds			
10	RED	Information Management (IM)	Establish IM mechanism <i>(including defining work plan, establishing flow of information amongst the humanitarian community, consider establishing Operations Center to manage information flows, GIS support, etc.)</i>			
11	RED		Create information management (IM) repository on EPR for UNCT and IASC use.			
12	RED	Partners	Coordinate preparedness and operational activities with UN inter-agency partners			
13	RED		Establish partnerships with NGOs <i>(identify NGOs, update MoUs, establish preparedness and operational activities)</i>			
14	RED		Establish partnership with Government <i>(Identify national capacity to respond to crisis, negotiate use of government response capacity, LoAs to ensure feasibility of obtaining visas, entry of humanitarian supplies, etc.)</i>			
15	RED		Verify and coordinate preparedness and operational activities with standby partners.			
16	RED		Identify sub-regional bodies that can assist			
17	RED		Establish linkages with humanitarian community <i>(including UNDSS, DPA, etc.)</i>			
18	RED	PR	Update media briefing material, country fact sheets, etc.			

ACRONYMS:	
CPLAN	Contingency Plan
CT	Country Team
EMOP	Emergency Project
EPR	Emergency Preparedness & Response
EW	Early Warning
FITTEST	Fast IT & Telecoms Emergency Support Team
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HIC	Humanitarian Information Center
IASC SWG	IASC SWG on Preparedness & Contingency Planning
IM	Information Management
LoA	Letter of Agreement
MISTS	Minimum Information Systems & Telecoms Standards
MOSS	Minimum Operating Security Standards
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PR	Public Relations
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment & Coordination
UNHAS	UN Humanitarian Air Service
UNJLC	UN Joint Logistics Center