

# Summary

## 2006: A Year of Emergencies

### JANUARY

#### Palestinian Territories

As a result of the Hamas victory in parliamentary elections, international aid to the Palestinians was drastically reduced. There are over 4.4 million Palestinian refugees living in Gaza, West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review; UNRWA)

#### Côte d'Ivoire

Supporters of President Gbagbo engaged in violent protests in Côte d'Ivoire over what they consider to be UN intervention. As a result, 500 humanitarian and peace-keeping workers were forced to leave the country. As of 2006, there were an estimated 750,000 IDPs as a result of the conflict. (WHO, Annual Report; BBC; OCHA)

#### Malawi

Flooding displaced more than 40,000 people in Malawi and impeded the distribution of much needed food aid following the drought. (BBC; CAFOD)

### FEBRUARY

#### Algeria

In Tindouf, heavy rains and floods in south-western Algeria left approximately 60,000 Sahrawi refugees without food or shelter. (MINURSO)

#### Bolivia

Heavy rains caused floods and mudslides, resulting in serious damage in the provinces of Santa Cruz, Beni, and La Paz. At least 19 people were killed and according to official data, over 38,800 families were affected, 4,200 of whom were living in temporary shelters. Houses, farming activities, and road infrastructure incurred severe damage. The government estimates damages of over US\$260 million. President Morales secured several million dollars of aid from international agencies and foreign governments. (BBC; ReliefWeb)

#### Zimbabwe

After five years of drought the hope for a better harvest was destroyed by torrential rains at the beginning of the February. Life expectancy in the country is just over 30 years and 20 percent of adults are infected with HIV/AIDS. (IRIN News; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### MARCH

#### Liberia

Charles Taylor, Former President of Liberia was arrested on 29 March 2006 in Nigeria and faces charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Taylor led the opposition group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia in the civil war from 1989–1997 which left 150,000 people dead and approximately 850,000 refugees (BBC; UNMIL)

#### Horn of Africa, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique

An estimated 11 million people in the Horn of Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and Mozambique) faced food shortages as a result of severe drought. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### APRIL

#### Timor-Leste

A strike by dismissed soldiers degenerated into a series of riots, looting, and clashes between political opponents over the following months, which left 37 civilians dead, 1,650 homes destroyed and 2,350 damaged, and 150,000 people displaced (15 percent of the population). (DARA Crisis Report)

### Ecuador

Over two months of intensive rain flooded the coastal provinces affecting over 140,000 people, 55,000 of whom were displaced and required humanitarian assistance. (ReliefWeb)

#### Guinea-Bissau

Following the fighting between the Senegalese separatist group in Casamance and Guinea-Bissau soldiers, 20,000 people sought humanitarian assistance. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review; BBC)

### MAY

#### Colombia

President Uribe won a second term in office on the promise to end 40 years of internal conflict. Colombia continues to suffer from decades of internal conflict, resulting in the displacement of more than 215,000 people in 2006 alone. It is estimated that, after Sudan, Colombia has the highest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world. (DARA Crisis Report; *Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento* [Organisation for Human Rights and Displacement]; BBC)

### Indonesia

An earthquake of 6.2 magnitude on the Richter scale caused at least 6,500 deaths and injured 50,000 more. Over 60,000 houses were destroyed and an estimated 300,000 damaged, leaving over 200,000 homeless. (WHO, Annual Report; IFRC, 2006 Annual Report)

#### Pakistan

The government of Pakistan closed camps housing victims of the October 2005 earthquake. It was reported that at least 73,000 people died (including 1,300 in India and 4 in Afghanistan), over 128,000 were injured and more than 3,500,000 were left homeless as a result of the earthquake. (USAID, 2006 Annual Report)

#### Sudan

Despite a peace accord signed in May by the Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in Darfur, the fighting continued. The security situation deteriorated, halting the delivery of humanitarian aid. The number of humanitarian workers killed since May rose to 13, with an estimated 4.5 million IDPs across the country. (BBC; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre)

### JUNE

#### Iraq

According to the United Nations, some 100 civilians per day were killed in violence in Iraq. Since the beginning of the war in 2003, some 655,000 civilians died and an estimated 60,000 were forced to leave their homes each month. (UNHCR; BBC)

#### China

An estimated 5 million hectares of winter crops were lost or damaged due to increased temperatures and drought in the provinces of Yunnan, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Hebei, among the poorest regions in China. The drought affected 18,000 people. (ReliefWeb; FAO)

#### Chechnya

After Chechen separatist Abdul-Khalim Saydullayev was killed by Russian government forces, Dokka Umarov took over the leadership. Despite improved security in 2006, there continued to be over 160,000 IDPs in Chechnya. (ReliefWeb; BBC)

# 2006

## JULY

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

The first free presidential and parliamentary elections in 40 years were held. Described as “forgotten” and “the deadliest conflict since World War II,” 4 million people died between 1996 and 2003. In 2006, an estimated 1,200 people continued to die each day and 1.4 to 1.6 million persons were still displaced and unable to return to their homes due to the continuing violence. (DARA Crisis Report)

### Lebanon

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah from 12 July to 13 August ended with the deaths of some 1,200 Lebanese militants and civilians and the deaths of 19 Israeli soldiers and 43 Israeli civilians. Over 4,000 Lebanese and 894 Israelis were injured, and more than an estimated million in both countries were displaced. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review; *Guardian Unlimited*; BBC)

## North Korea

Major floods washed away thousands of hectares of cultivated land, increasing the country's severe food shortage. North Korea stopped emergency assistance in 2005 and ECHO was allowed to resume its activities in April 2006. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review; UNICEF)

## AUGUST

### Uganda

A Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army was signed on 26 August 2006, ending 20 years of violence by the LRA. Two million Ugandans were internally displaced and were living in camps in Northern Uganda to escape the threat of violence. (UN News Centre; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### Afghanistan

Some 2.5 million Afghans were affected by drought, while over 6 million suffered food insecurity. (OCHA, CAP: WHO, Annual Report)

## India and Bangladesh

Torrential rains and floods killed an estimated 1,000 people and affected at least 20 million in India and Bangladesh. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### Central African Republic

Tried in absentia, exiled Former President Ange-Félix Patassé of Central African Republic (CAR) was found guilty of embezzlement and fraud and sentenced to 20 years of hard labour. Almost 1 million people were affected by violence in CAR, and approximately 220,000 have been forced to leave their homes. (ReliefWeb; BBC)

### Ethiopia

More than 630 people died, 196,000 were affected, and over 34,000 were displaced in Ethiopia following heavy rains and flooding. The regions of South Omo and Amhara were reported to be the worst affected. (OCHA; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

## SEPTEMBER

### Niger

Over 46,000 people were affected by a cholera epidemic caused by floods. Niger was ranked last of 177 countries for a second year in the UNDP Human Development Report. In 2005–2006 over 2.5 million Nigeriens faced a food shortage, followed by a nutritional and health crisis. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that 63 percent of the population were living below the poverty line, while UNICEF estimated the 2005 under-five infant mortality rate at 256 for every 1,000 children. (DARA Crisis Report; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### Burundi

The last active rebel group, the Forces for National Liberation (FNL), signed a ceasefire agreement with the government in Tanzania after 13 years of civil war. The conflict caused the internal displacement of some 117,000 Burundians as well as an estimated 30,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. (BBC; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

## OCTOBER

### Burma

The Burmese army launched an offensive in Northern Karen State, forcing thousands of civilians to seek refuge in the eastern border refugee camps in Thailand. Some 150,000 Burmese live in Thailand as refugees. (UN News Service; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### Sri Lanka

Peace talks in Geneva between the Tamil Tigers and the government failed. Since December 2005, more than 3,000 people have been killed and 200,000 are internally displaced. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review; BBC)

### Nepal

A ten-year internal conflict that had killed over 12,000 and displaced 100,000 people was ended after the Nepalese Prime Minister and the Maoists had reached an agreement and signed a peace accord. (BBC; ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### Haiti

Heavy rainstorms caused major flooding affecting 18,000 people. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review; IFRC, 2006 Annual Report)

## DECEMBER

### Chad

The UN evacuated its humanitarian staff from eastern Chad after increased attacks. As a result, aid was reduced significantly for an estimated 250,000 refugees and affected people, including 75,000 IDPs. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

### Philippines

Typhoon Durian struck the Philippines, causing more than 1,000 deaths. Some 300,000 people were affected during the typhoon season. (ECHO, 2006 Annual Review)

1 In 2006, the World Health Organization declared a cholera epidemic.