

## Regional News Roundup

### AFRICA

#### **UNDP report corrects migration myths**

Most migrants do not move from developing to developed countries, and when they do, rather than hurting host economies, they benefit them, according to a new report by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP's Human Development Report 2009, launched globally on 5 October in Bangkok, dispels several myths about migration, instead underlining the economic and social benefits for countries. It also calls for several migration reforms, including for states to ensure basic rights for migrants, and the mainstreaming of migration into national development plans.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86431>

**Full report:** [http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR\\_2009\\_EN\\_Complete.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf)

#### **East Africa drought leaves millions hungry**

Drought for a fifth year running is driving more than 23 million east Africans in seven countries towards severe hunger and destitution, according to Oxfam. The most badly hit nations are Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda. Oxfam's East Africa director was speaking of the worst humanitarian crisis the agency has seen for over ten years pointing out that the reasons for the drought are increasingly failed and unpredictable rains and shorter wet seasons due to climate change. In Kenya, 3.8 million people depend on emergency aid, also because food prices have risen to 180 percent above average. In Ethiopia, 6.2 million are in need of aid, according to the agency. In Southern Sudan, 1.3 million people do not have enough to eat, due to poor rain and escalating conflict between communities, according to the Famine Early Warning System Network.

**Read more:** <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LT082635.htm>

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L527935.htm>

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86160>

### KENYA

#### **Conflict and drought force more than 50,000 Somalis to flee to Kenya this year**

More than 50,000 Somali civilians have fled to Kenya since the beginning of the year to escape continuing fighting and a prolonged drought. They have been arriving in north-east Kenya at an average rate of 6,400 a month, adding more pressure on the severely stretched facilities in the three Dadaab camps, currently the largest refugee site of the world. Meanwhile, around 9,600 refugees have been relocated to Kakuma camp in north-west Kenya but there are still 281,600 Somali refugees at Dadaab. At least 5,000 are stuck in Bulo Hawo, a town further north on the border with Kenya, unable to cross the closed border. Most of them are taken care of by host families.

**Read more:** <http://www.unhcr.org/4abce9ea9.html>

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86456>

#### **Last of Eldoret IDPs leave camp reluctantly**

Hundreds of people displaced by Kenya's post-election violence in early 2008 have begun leaving a camp in the western town of Eldoret after receiving cash handouts from the government. The process had stalled because most of the estimated 2,700 IDPs had initially declined to accept 460 USD from the government to help them resettle because they were afraid of returning to their original homes. The IDPs are among the last of hundreds of thousands of people displaced when violence erupted across the country following disputed presidential elections in 2007.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86408>

### SUDAN

#### **LRA attacks escalate in Western Equatoria**

The Western Equatoria State of Southern Sudan has been hardest hit by a recent upsurge in

attacks attributed to the Ugandan rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Since January 188 civilians have been killed, 137 abducted and 68,000 displaced by the LRA in Southern Sudan. Combating the small group of guerillas has become a hard task for the security forces and food is increasingly becoming a magnet for LRA attacks. The Bishop of Tombura-Yambio called on the international community to intervene after the government failed to stop the violence.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86140>  
<http://www.cisaneWSafrica.org/story.asp?ID=4146>

#### **Disarmament raises fears of fresh violence**

After the recent launch of a government campaign to seize illegal arms, critics have warned that forcible disarmament could spark further violence. Security forces had started searching houses for illegal weapons on 9 September. The government plans to roll out the programme across the semi-autonomous region, continuing operations daily. Supporters say the campaign was badly necessary as the region is awash with weapons. 1,000 weapons were collected in Juba alone. More than 2,000 people have died and 250,000 been displaced in inter-ethnic violence across Southern Sudan since January with the rate of violent deaths now surpassing that in Darfur, according to the UN.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86240>

## **SOMALIA**

#### **Insecurity no excuse to neglect IDPs**

Aid agencies should use "traditional structures" to reach long-neglected IDPs living in conflict-prone areas around the capital Mogadishu, civil society officials say. Security issues had been used by agencies as reason for little or no assistance to the IDPs. But insecurity has become a way of life in the country and can no longer be used as an excuse not to help people in desperate need, a local official said. The UN Refugee Agency estimates that there are 896,000 IDPs in the Mogadishu-Afgoye corridor. The agency pointed out that the high insecurity is the main problem; eight aid workers had been killed this year, according to UN OCHA.

**Read more:** <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=86364>