General Context

In the past two weeks there have been ethno-religious clashes in Northern Nigeria and mud slide in Uganda. The socio-political political tensions in Côte d’Ivoire and Togo have eased. Protracted crises in Eastern DRC as well as several disease outbreaks are still ongoing. There is also high alert in Mozambique regarding the flood situation. Member states are receiving support from WHO for response mainly through the Health Clusters.

Situation in Countries

Acute crises

CAR: After the attack attributed to the LRA rebels in Rafal on the 19th February 2010, another attack of the same rebels with abduction of 30 people was reported in Yalanga, Haute Kotto on the 27th of February 2010.

Chad: Insecurity continues in the East characterized by armed robberies and attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers. Meningitis outbreak was declared on the 19th February 2010 by the Ministry of Health in southern Chad. In week 6, a total of 519 cases with 56 deaths (CFR: 10.8%) were reported nationwide*. Response activities are ongoing with the support of WHO and partners. Measles outbreak: In week 7, a total of 10 new cases were reported in the east and south of the country. From week 1 to 7 in 2010, a cumulative of 75 cases with 2 deaths (CFR: 2.7%) have been reported*.

DRC: Insecurity: In South Kivu, fighting between the FDLR rebels and the national Army (FARDC) were reported on 18th February 2010 by the Ministry of Health. In week 6, a total of 425 cases and 34 deaths (CFR: 8%)* were reported in the country*. The social and political situation in North Kivu remains tense characterized by armed robberies and attacks on civilians and humanitarian workers.

Kenya: The political situation is calm. The heavy rains at the onset of the Long Rains Season have caused flooding in several locations in the country affecting an estimated 8,360 people. Flooding has been reported from at least nine districts in northern and western parts of the country. According to the Kenya Red Cross, 11 people were reported dead, and unknown value of property destroyed. Cholera outbreak: has cumulatively affected 15 Districts nationwide with a total of 571 cases, 15 deaths (CFR: 2.6%) since January 2010. In the last one week, only 2 new districts (Kajiado and Mombasa) reported new cases*.

Niger: Security and Political Situation: The social and political situation in the country is calm; a Government of transition has been formed. Malnutrition: In week 8, a total of 4,655 cases of global acute malnutrition were reported of which 2,668 are acute moderate malnutrition and 2,042 are severe acute malnutrition. From week 1 to 8 in 2010, a cumulative 40,272 cases of malnutrition have been reported in the country*.

Oromia: Meningitis: 140 new cases and 1 death were reported in week 8 making a cumulative total of 1,753 cases with 8 deaths (CFR: 0.4%) from week 1 to 8. In Nord Kivu, 130 new cases were reported in week 8 making a cumulative total of 1,753 cases with 8 deaths (CFR: 0.4%) since the beginning of this year (2010)*.

Ethiopia: Food security and malnutrition: Preliminary report of the joint multi-agency team indicates that the food security situation in North Wollo and Wag Hemra zones (Amhara) requires immediate humanitarian intervention. According to the team, communities have migrated from Sekota and Dehanya districts (Wag Hemra zone) to Mersa, Woldiya, Dessie, Gayint and Bahir Dar due to the consecutive failure of harvests and significant decline of income from livestock and agricultural labour. Acute watery Diarrhoea (AWD): AWD cases continue to be reported from Oromia and Somali regions. This week, 25 new cases of AWD with 1 death have been reported from four different districts (Abaya, Gelana, Melka Soda and Wedera) in Oromia region. Oromia region has reported 884 cases of AWD with 16 deaths since the beginning of this year (2010)*.

Uganda: A land slide has affected eastern Uganda on the 1st of March 2010 with Bududa district as the worst affected. The latest update indicates that between 300 and 350 people are missing (including 1 health worker). The estimated 1,000 displaced people in Bukalasi are now relocated to Bulucheke. The Health sub-sector, with a lead from WHO, developed an emergency response plan for Bududa District and has provided additional medicines and supplies to the designated health centres.

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Sources: "WHO (HAC/EHA country FP, WHO/AFRO), "International Humanitarian press and other partners"
Côte d'Ivoire: The political and social tension is easing after the opposition joined the new government. The Independent Electoral Commission has been reshaped with the participation of the opposition.

Mozambique: The Government of Mozambique declared a Red Alert on 9th March 2010 following heavy rains (between 50 and 100 mm) reported during the past seven days, in the Northern and Central regions of the country, particularly in Tete, Manica, Sofala, Zambezia, Nampula and Inhambane provinces. A total of 13,000 people have been affected according to preliminary assessment but an estimate of about 130,000 people currently live in risk zones and may be potentially affected.

Cholera Outbreak continues; the updated figures gives a total 2,130 cases with 38 deaths (CFR: 1.8%) from January to 27th February 2010 in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Zambezia and Sofala*

Nigeria: A new ethno-religious clash occurred in Rung Forun village, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area, located 30 km from Jos, Plateau State capital. An estimate 1,000 Households were attacked and according to the village chief at least 500 persons mainly women, children and the elderly persons. 28 injured persons are presently receiving treatments in Jos University Teaching Hospital. About 2,000 people are internally displaced and are currently needing urgent attention and support. The Red Cross is the only agency that has carried out partial need and damage assessment in all the affected areas.

Togo: As of 9 March 2010, the situation in this country was calm following the declaration of Togo’s presidential election results on Saturday, March 6 in which the incumbent President was adjudged the winner. Meningitis outbreak: In week 8, a total of 32 new cases with 5 deaths were reported. From week 1 to 8, a cumulative 199 cases with 49 deaths (CFR: 24.6%) have been reported*.

Zambia: Cholera outbreak since week 43 of 2009 has affected five provinces in the country with 1,474 cases and 28 deaths (CFR: 1.9%) as of 10th March 2010*. Preventive and control measures are being undertaken by national authorities with support of WHO.

Zimbabwe: Cholera Outbreak, 7 out of the 62 districts in the country have been affected by the cholera Outbreak. As of 3rd March 2010, a cumulative of 90 cases, with 3 deaths (CFR: 3.3%) were reported*.

Many houses are at risk of collapse

Farm land with cassava submerged with flood