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Somalia Humanitarian Overview

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Main Developments

- ❑ The security in Mogadishu continued to deteriorate with grave humanitarian consequences for the civilian population. There were more than 900 conflict-related injuries in March. Nearly 60,000 people fled the city - more than double the number of people displaced in February - bringing the total displacement from Mogadishu since the beginning of the year to more than 100,000 people.
- ❑ International and local NGOs working in Somalia issued a joint statement raising concerns over the renewed intensification of the conflict and military action in South Central Somalia. In their statement, the organizations requested the international community and all parties to the conflict to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access and strengthen all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.
- ❑ The humanitarian community faces a serious shortfall in funding for Somalia. In the first quarter of 2010, only US\$121 million, or 14 percent of the \$689 million budget of the Humanitarian Appeal has been raised. The non-food portion received eight percent while the Water and Sanitation, Education and Logistics sectors received no funding. Key emergency aid sectors are struggling to respond to needs and maintain regular programming.
- ❑ On 11 March, the United Nations Sanctions Committee's Monitoring Group on Somalia released a report stating that up to one half of food aid to Somalia was diverted from the needy. The report has negatively affected the perception of how humanitarian assistance is delivered in Somalia at a time when humanitarian needs are critical with 3.2 million Somalis in need.



The Somalia Humanitarian Overview is a monthly analysis of the humanitarian situation and trends produced by OCHA Somalia.
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Conflict and Displacement

The security in Mogadishu continued to deteriorate during the month of March. According to WHO, in March, the three main hospitals in Mogadishu reported 920 conflict-related injuries. Around 10-15 percent of the injured were children under the age of five. WHO also reported that the emergency health services in Mogadishu are struggling to provide medical services with the few trained health workers remaining in the city and insufficient supplies. The ongoing conflict is putting a further burden on the already weak health system and with escalating levels of trauma, services are being stretched to the limit.

The displacements from Mogadishu have more than doubled from an estimated 24,000 people in February 2010 to 58,200 in March. UNHCR estimates that a total of 82,200 people have been displaced from the city between 1 February to early April. Out of the total, some 34 percent (28,400)

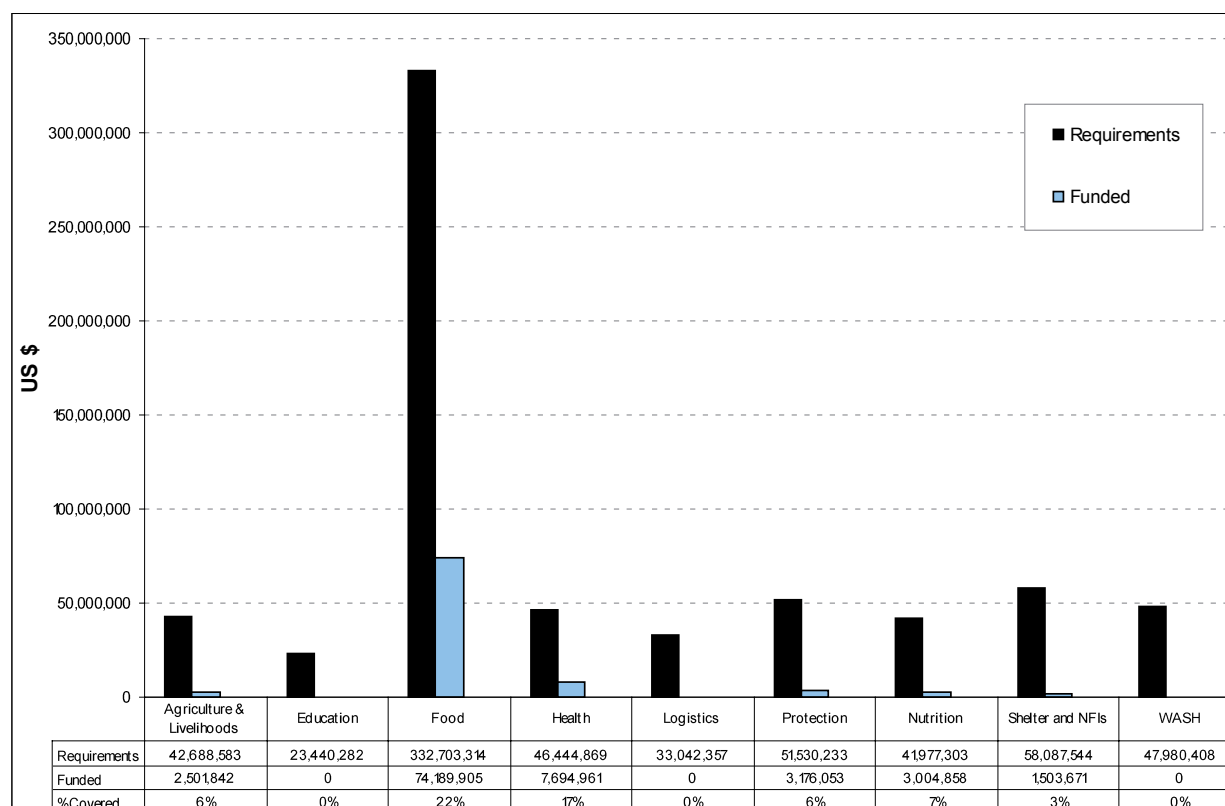
have moved to relatively safer districts within Mogadishu such as Wadajir, Kaaraan, Dharkenley and Hodan, 35 percent (29,250) have settled in IDP settlements on the outskirts of Mogadishu or moved to the Afgooye Corridor, joining the more than 360,000 IDPs who have been living there since 2007, while 31 percent (24,550) have gone to more distant locations including Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions.

Elsewhere in South Central Somalia, the security situation remained tense and unpredictable while clashes between the various warring groups lessened, compared to previous months, and no major displacement was reported. During the month, a worrying increase in inter-clan fighting was noted in the drought-affected regions of Mudug and Galgaduud regions. These inter-clan clashes, which were triggered by dispute over land and water resources, have caused the deaths of more

than 50 people. The worst clashes took place in Hobyo district, Mudug region, during the last week of March in which at least 30 people were killed and more than 60 others injured.

Humanitarian Funding Update

The 2010 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) for Somalia is seeking US \$689 million and was 14 percent funded as of early April 2010. The non-food portion is only 8 percent funded. A total of \$45 million is needed to maintain crucial operations in emergency and shelter, health, WASH, agriculture and livelihoods and nutrition sectors, over the next three months (April-June). Lack of funding is already having serious implications on the ground. For instance, WHO faced a funding gap for its outbreak response system, which is crucial to detect and respond quickly to outbreaks of infectious diseases and prevent further spread. This comes at a time when the number of cholera cases in Somalia has



CAP Funding Status as of 9 April 2010

increased. Another example of a life-saving intervention that was cancelled in March due to lack of funding is the water trucking project that benefits some 38,000 people in the Balcaad Corridor near Mogadishu. By this time in 2009, the CAP was 40 percent funded.

Should security deteriorate further in the next three months due to the escalating conflict in Southern Somalia, 490,000 people could be displaced nationally in the worst case scenario. The humanitarian caseload in Greater Mogadishu is projected to increase by 218,000 people who would need some \$15.6 million for emergency intervention over the next three months.

The HRF has set aside \$3 million for contingency and quick response activities in the south should intensified fighting lead to massive displacement and other substantial humanitarian consequences.

Joint NGO Statement

Some 24 international and local NGOs working in Somalia issued a joint statement raising concerns about the renewed intense fighting and military action in South Central Somalia and the lack of a diplomatic solution by the key stakeholders in resolving the crisis. In their statement, the humanitarian

organizations called on all parties to the conflict to protect civilians, permit humanitarian access and allow civilians safe passage out of the conflict zones. The statement also urged the international community to strengthen all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Humanitarian Access

Insecurity and other access constraints continued to hamper humanitarian operations in South Central Somalia.

Since WFP suspended operations in most parts of Southern Somalia in early January, the agency has sought for its trucks to deliver vital food assistance to 366,000 displaced people to Afgooye Corridor. Despite repeated attempts to make the trip, the trucks were forced to turn back because of the ongoing opposition to the delivery of WFP food to Afgooye by one of the armed groups controlling part of the route from Mogadishu. This raises serious concerns about the situation of the displaced families in the Afgooye Corridor who rely on humanitarian assistance reaching the settlements. UNICEF continues to transport UNIMIX and non-food items from Mogadishu to partners located in the Afgooye Corridor in small convoys,

following a thorough security assessment by transporters.

In Mogadishu, Al Shabaab militia disrupted food aid deliveries intended for five kitchens under the wet feeding programme in Mogadishu. Two trucks were seized on 6 March. The trucks were released the following day after elders intervened. On 13 March, reports from Xudur, Bakool region, said that Al Shabaab took over the compound of an international NGO and asked the national staff to vacate the premises. No looting of property was reported.

Elsewhere in South Central Somalia, the main security incidents directly targeting aid organisations were the taking-over of agency compound premises. These incidents took place in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions. As the Somalia Humanitarian Overview went to press, the WFP compound in Waajid, Bakool region, was taken over by Al Shabaab.

Cross-border Movements

UNHCR reported that the number of people crossing the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea from Somalia has nearly halved during the first quarter of the year in comparison with the same period in 2009. Since the

beginning of the year, some 9,400 people (mainly Ethiopians and Somalis) reached the shores of Yemen in contrast to nearly 17,000 between January and March 2009. The largest drop was registered in the number of Somali arrivals. Some 3,200 Somali asylum seekers in Yemen this year which is approximately a third of their number during the first quarter of 2009. Today, Somali refugees represent every third new arrival to Yemen. During the same period in 2009, considered one of the calmest periods in Somalia's recent past, Somali refugees were the largest number of refugees arriving in Yemen. This trend needs to be analysed.

New arrivals from Somalia are automatically recognised as refugees in Yemen and the country presently hosts more than 170,000 Somali refugees.

Relocation of IDPs in Gaalkacyo

In March, a successful relocation of IDPs took place in Gaalkacyo town, Mudug region. The authorities relocated some 225 IDP households from Sinai IDP settlement to Haloboka settlement after the IDPs were forced to move from Sinai by the land-owner. The local authorities in Gaalkacyo were supportive in helping

Of Note:

- ❑ There is deep concern about the human rights in Somalia. This was expressed at the 13th Human Rights Council session in Geneva on 24 March by the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights for Somalia, Shamsul Bari. He highlighted that the renewed fighting in Mogadishu had once again exposed the vulnerability of the civilian population, especially on women and children, to violence and inhumane suffering. Mr Bari urged all parties to the conflict to come together for the sake of peace in Somalia.
- ❑ On 20 March, following suspicions that insurgents were planning to use the area for launching attacks, the Mogadishu Mayor ordered the approximately 100 families to relocate from areas close to the airport, with no alternative location offered. On 27 March, at least three people were killed and four others injured in Mogadishu during clashes between TFG soldiers and armed protestors opposing the demolition of their houses near the airport.
- ❑ On 26 March, a fire destroyed an estimated 100 households in one of the largest Internally Displaced Person's (IDP) settlements in Bossaso, Puntland. No casualties were reported. The humanitarian organisations based in Bossaso provided immediate assistance to the affected households.
- ❑ A nine-year ban by Saudi Arabia on the export of Somali livestock was lifted in November 2009, which has resulted in a 9 percent increase in the exportation of livestock from Somalia to Saudi Arabia. FEWSNET reports that the demand for export-quality animals, especially in Central, Northwest and Northeast regions, has improved remarkably, leading to an increase in export quality goat prices and improved household income and food access in pastoral areas.



Newly relocated IDPs in Gaalkacyo town, March 2010 - Photo Courtesy: UN-OCHA

the evicted IDPs. The new settlement will be owned by the IDPs themselves. In addition, the authorities also provided transport for the IDPs including a bulldozer for the demarcation of the land, security measures, and short-term access to free water within the host community. UNHCR and INGOs such as the Danish Refugee Council and Oxfam Novib provided immediate emergency response consisting of non-food items and cash relief for a period of three months to the most vulnerable households. After the land demarcation process is complete, each IDP household will get an individual ownership certificate for a 10x10 metre plot of land.

Health concerns

WHO reported that the current Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) trends indicate a significant increase (50 percent) in the number of cases in Banadir (Mogadishu and its environs) and Lower Shabelle regions, compared to the seasonal trends in AWD outbreaks in previous years. Given heightened insecurity and inaccessibility of some regions, IDP communities are vulnerable due to the weak water and sanitation systems and disrupted reporting of cases of disease outbreak. Therefore, sporadic outbreaks affecting larger geographical areas may soon be experienced. Health partners,

with assistance from WHO, are preparing for a rapid response to outbreaks in the two regions and the surrounding areas. WHO has strategically pre-positioned diarrhoeal disease kits (each kit can treat 100 patients) and tents as well as interagency emergency health kits (covering 10,000 people for three months) in Mogadishu, Bu'aale, Marka, in the South and Hargeysa in Northern Somalia.

Floods & light rains in parts of Somalia

In late February and March early and beneficial rains were received in many parts of the country. According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), the rains provided improved water availability and grazing in drought-affected pastoral areas, including the Sool Plateau, and most of the Northwest and Northeast regions. Substantial rains were also received in parts of Central and most of the Southern regions. On 3 March, heavy rains in the Gebiley area (the border between Ethiopia and Somaliland) caused flooding. Somaliland authorities estimate that nearly 40,000 people have been affected by the floods. Most of the water systems and sources and crops in large tracks of farmland were destroyed, while unconfirmed numbers of livestock died.

Key Humanitarian Deliveries - March 2010

Health: WHO and partners conducted on-the-job training for 33 clinical staff members, including nine doctors, 11 nurses and 13 mid-wives in trauma management and emergency obstetric care in Banadir hospital, Mogadishu.

The Child Health Days (CHD) campaign is ongoing in Southern Somalia. To date, over 120,000 children under five and 111,000 women of child-bearing age in Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Bakool and Gedo regions have been reached during the first phase of the second round in the south. Preliminary coverage data shows that over 80 percent of the targeted population of children under five were reached and about 77 percent of women of child-bearing age were reached. Throughout South and Central Somalia, UNICEF, WHO and partners aim to reach more than 1.3 million children and 1.6 million women during each round of the CHD. The CHD campaign provides a live-saving health package, including nutritional screening and immunization against measles and polio.

Food Aid: In March, WFP delivered 8,583 metric tonnes of assorted food commodities to 708,350 people in Somalia. The 16 operational weet feeding kitchens in Mogadishu continue to distribute more than 80,000 meals per day.

WASH: For the first time, 20,000 people in Bad Weyne, Puntland, have access to a piped water source, following the completion of a water project that started nine months ago supported by UNICEF. The water is provided through a 280,000 litre water tank connected to four public water fountains near residential areas. The project also trained a water committee for operations and maintenance.

HRF Projects approved March 2010

Agency	Project	Amount US\$	Region/Districts	Beneficiaries
YME	Emergency drilling of deep well and construction of water distribution system in Wargalo. Rehabilitation of deep well and water distribution system in Guriceel.	268,999	Galgaduud	17,100
WOCCA	Agro-Pastoralist Draught Emergency Survival and Livelihood Protection through Restocking and Farm Inputs (Seeds/Toolkits) Distribution	214,308	Middle Shabelle & Hiraan	14,000
COOPI	Emergency WASH Interventions to Support Populations in Sustained Humanitarian Emergency in Galgaduud and Mudug Regions, Central Somalia	249,278	Galgaduud & Mudug	41,028
WVI	Middle Juba Emergency Health Intervention	233,578	Middle Juba	87,805
WHO	Rapid response to outbreaks of infectious diseases, as part of emergency health care to drought and food insecurity-affected populations including geographical areas identified in Post-Deyr assessment and newly displaced communities	500,000	Puntland and South Central Somalia	-
SOADO	Emergency Agric Inputs To Agropastoral Communities In Jalalaqsi Districts, Hiraan Region	123,104	Hiraan	15,000
Total		1,589,267		174,933