

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Many of the 14,000 recently displaced from Kismayo plan to return.
- El Niño phenomenon contributes to major flooding in Belet Weyne.
- IDPs in Mogadishu receive support through their phones.

## FIGURES

### Food Insecurity

# of people in acute food security crisis (Aug. to Dec. 2012)	2.12 m
# of malnourished children under 5 years of age	236,000

Source: (<http://www.fsnaui.org/>)

### Displacement

# of displaced from Kismayo in September	14,000
# of IDPs in Somalia*	1.36 m
# of Somali refugees in the horn of Africa region	1 m

Source: UNHCR ([bit.ly/nWZAPh](http://bit.ly/nWZAPh))  
\*Based in part on January 2012 estimate of number of IDPs in the Afgooye Corridor and likely to be revised.

## FUNDING

2012 Consolidated Appeal  
**1.16 billion**  
requested (US\$)

**51.6%** funded



Credit: OCHA

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## Kismayo tense following capture by AMISOM and government forces

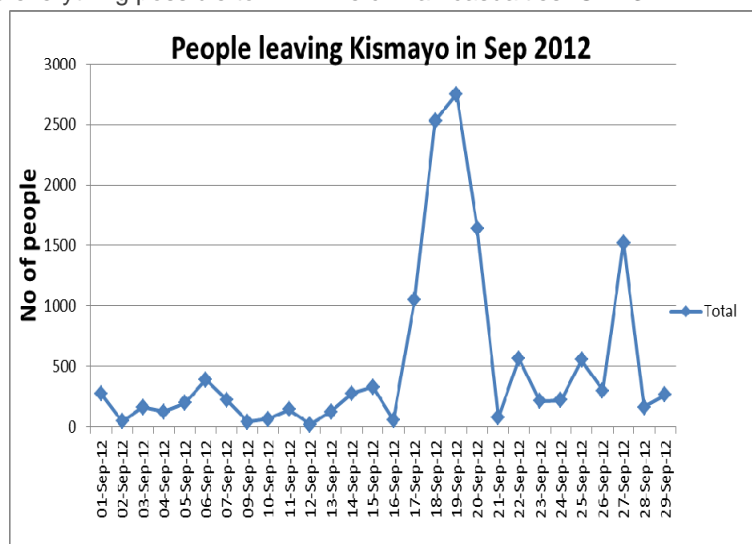
### 14,000 displaced in September, some families expected to return soon

The worst-case scenario of a protracted battle for Kismayo did not materialize. Al Shabaab withdrew from the town a day after Kenyan forces in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) seized the town's port on 28 September. Kenyan AMISOM troops and government forces advancing overland had also reached the outskirts of the town.

However, the situation remained tense at the start of October. Uncertainty over the makeup of a new Kismayo administration is a potential flashpoint. Before AMISOM and government forces moved into the center of the town, masked gunmen assassinated four civilians, including clan elders. A grenade attack injured at least seven civilians on the night of 2 October.

The exact number of civilian casualties inflicted during fighting for the town – and in other parts of Lower Juba – will never be known. After naval gunfire killed three civilians in Kismayo in August, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden, reiterated his call for all sides to make every effort to minimize the impact of the conflict on civilians and allow full humanitarian access to those in need. During a meeting with Bowden on 19 September, Kenya's Minister of State for Defense promised that the Kenya Defense Force (KDF) would do everything possible to minimize civilian casualties. On 23 September, a KDF soldier killed six civilians in Janaay Abdalle, Lower Juba. The KDF promptly arrested the soldier, who is under investigation.

An estimated 14,000 people fled Kismayo in September, a major jump from the 900 who left in August. Most, however, sought shelter in surrounding areas and are expected to return when the situation stabilizes. UNHCR recorded 70 displacements from Kismayo on 1 October and none in the following days.



## Humanitarian response

Humanitarian access to Kismayo has been extremely limited in the past few years due to conflict and the ban on many organizations from working in Al Shabaab-controlled areas. However, some NGOs continued to work in the town, providing health services and some nutrition interventions. Immediate needs of people in Kismayo include food, especially in the very short term, as well as health and nutrition interventions.

The poor nutrition situation has resulted in cases of acute watery diarrhea (suspected outbreaks of cholera are affecting Badhaadhe and Afmadow districts of Lower Juba region which border Kismayo district – see story below).

While the port is expected to provide livelihoods for many households in Kismayo, the ongoing ban on charcoal exports continues to impact families in the area that relied on the trade for their income.

## Confirmed cholera in three districts in South

*Between 5 and 21 September, 180 cases of suspected cholera were recorded in Lower Juba region, resulting in 18 deaths.*

Between 5 and 21 September, 180 cases of suspected cholera were recorded in Lower Juba region, resulting in 18 deaths. Most affected is Hosingo village, Badhaadhe district where 93 suspected cases and 11 deaths were reported between 5 and 16 September. Cholera cases were later confirmed in Hosingo as well as in Afmadow district, Lower Juba and Badale village, Lower Shabelle region.

Health Cluster partners dispatched medical supplies and staff to respond to the situation. With conflict and consequent displacement ongoing and with the onset of the short rains, the risk of sporadic cholera outbreaks in southern regions will remain high.

Acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera is endemic in Somalia with well-defined seasonal transmission and sporadic outbreaks occurring all year round. The first and longest transmission period falls between March and July, coinciding with the *Gu* (long) rains. The second transmission season occurs from October to December during the short *Deyr* rains. The most affected areas are the river basins of the Juba and Shabelle Rivers, as well as Mogadishu and other large urban centres due to the large number of informal settlements found in them.



Credit: ARC  
A patient receives care at a cholera treatment center in Somalia.

## El Niño likely to improve humanitarian situation

### Hundreds of thousands living along rivers could be affected by flooding before El Niño's expected boost to agricultural output is seen

The El Niño weather phenomenon this year is forecast to be mild to moderate, resulting in average or above average *Deyr* rains between now and December, according to the Somali Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). While the rains are expected to have a positive impact on the *Deyr* harvest, SWALIM warned that the riverine areas along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers are likely to experience more flooding than in normal years. The devastating impact of flooding was witnessed in Belet Weyne at the end of September (see story on page 3).

According to SWALIM, which is managed by the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), an estimated 900,000 people living along the two rivers could be affected. By late September, the Shabelle River levels had already risen to the brink of the flood level due to rains in the Ethiopian highlands which feed the river. Traditionally, floods along the two rivers are exacerbated by neglected river breakages created during the dry seasons for irrigation. SWALIM has called for these to be closed immediately to avoid unnecessary flooding and asked organisations to provide sandbags to riverine communities for this

purpose. Those living along the rivers are urged to use existing canals to divert the rising waters. The above-average rains also threaten to damage crops, delay the harvest (normally reaped in January) and cause disease outbreaks among humans and animals.

OCHA helped to develop contingency plans to address the situation, but further funding is needed. At present, funds to prepare for the flooding and respond to the most devastating consequences are insufficient, especially given the large number of people who might be affected. In the meantime, SWALIM is working to alert communities about the possible flooding and ways to mitigate the most negative consequences of the El Niño rains.

Flooding during the moderate 2006-07 El Niño disrupted production and markets, especially in the Juba Valley.

For the latest information on the river levels and related information, go to: <http://www.faoswalim.org/subsites/frmmis/index.php>

## Floods displace 20,000 from Belet Weyne

### Humanitarian response effective, but more flooding expected

Belet Weyne town and surrounding areas were flooded late at night between 27 and 28 September when extremely heavy rains caused the already swollen Shabelle River to overflow. While flooding along the river is always a risk this time of year, the amount of rainfall over such a short period could not have been anticipated. The 188mm rains that fell overnight were equivalent to an entire year's rainfall. Twenty-five people were killed in the flooding, while more than 20,000 others were displaced. AMISOM forces in the area were called in to evacuate people from the town to safe higher ground. Over 5,000 livestock also drowned.

The situation would have been far worse without preparations humanitarian organizations made in advance of the devastating night of rainfall.

The preparations included the establishment of a flood task force, chaired by OCHA. With funding from the Common Humanitarian Fund, UNICEF and local NGOs prepositioned water, chlorine and aquatabs in regional hubs. These critical supplies were distributed in the first days of the crisis by local NGOs. Shelter kits were delivered to the thousands of displaced families that needed them. Water is being trucked in to meet the needs of 4,000 households per day. Some food and food vouchers were distributed in the first days of October, while additional food needs were being assessed. Local NGOs were also running mobile health clinics within days of the disaster.

The flood waters have largely receded, leaving behind mud and waste from collapsed latrines. The unhygienic conditions have increased the risk of disease outbreaks, possibly including cholera. Gaps that humanitarian workers seek to fill as soon as possible include mosquito nets for the displaced families and the construction of emergency latrines.

While an impressive swift response to the flooding in Belet Weyne was witnessed, Somalia is only at the start of the flooding season. SWALIM forecasts more rain in the area in the coming week.



Credit: Midimino  
Displaced families in Belet Weyne move to higher ground following heavy floods.

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## Assessment of IDPs' needs in Doolow

### IDPs in Doolow prefer to remain in Somalia

In order to provide more timely and appropriate interventions for displaced people in Doolow in Gedo region of southern Somalia, OCHA carried out a rapid assessment in the transit town's two settlements of Qansahley and Kabasa. The assessment, based on the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment framework conducted interviews among 750

households in two settlements in September. There are an estimated 1,780 shelters in Kabasa and 890 in Qansahley.

Since 2011, Doolow has been a transit town for tens of thousands of IDPs seeking to cross the border to Dolo Ado, Ethiopia for humanitarian assistance. This year, conflict, the threat of forced recruitment into militia groups and below average rainfall drove people to move both from within Gedo and from the neighbouring regions of Bay and Bakool to Doolow. However, the flow of people has reduced considerably in the past few months, at least in part because people chose to remain on their farms for the planting season. IDPs travel mainly through Luuq to Doolow.

Initial findings highlight that people in the settlements prefer not to go to Dolo Ado because they are not permitted to work there, would have no access to Somalia's telephone networks, and want to retain the ability to move freely in their own country. Their immediate needs include food, livelihoods, shelter and education. The final report will be released soon and shared with clusters and other partners.

### Joint needs assessment carried out in Afgooye district

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster conducted a joint needs assessment in Afgooye district, including in the Afgooye corridor. The cluster noted that at least 14,000 people who fled the corridor to outlying villages during military operations there in May have not returned. The assessment team recommended the distribution of hygiene kits and water treatment filters, as well as rapid repair and chlorination of water supply installations to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.

## Using technology for humanitarian work

### IDPs in Mogadishu are receiving support through their phones

Working in collaboration with a telephone company in Mogadishu, the Food Security Cluster has piloted a project to assist beneficiaries through a mobile phone-based money transfer service. In August, the project began assisting 15,500 IDPs and host communities, including 12,400 women and 3,100 men. The project distributed US\$150 to each beneficiary to help them expand their livelihood options through small business. The beneficiaries received a mobile phone, a SIM card, a charger and training on how to use the money transfer service. With no physical cash transfers, the project will reduce the risk of money being lost or stolen.



Credit: HIJRA  
A woman listens keenly on how to transfer money using her mobile phone.

Fatima Osman, a 30-year-old mother of five who cares for her disabled husband used the money to buy supplies for her catering business. She is now supplying snacks to several tea shops.

Another woman, Madina Mohamoud, a 35-year old widow said, "I purchased a wheelbarrow with the money which I am using to display fruits and vegetables to sell to fellow IDPs." The initiative was launched in nine districts of Mogadishu and will be expanded into Lower Shabelle by late October.

### New products on the OCHA Somalia website:

Press release on Kenya's assurances to minimize impact of conflict on civilians (19 September) - <http://bit.ly/UdwEgn>  
Somalia Humanitarian Dashboard (August 2012) - <http://bit.ly/S7pxWB>  
Mogadishu Humanitarian Dashboard (August 2012) - <http://bit.ly/Siz6SD>  
Humanitarian access report (30 August 2012) - <http://bit.ly/OhhZhE>

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