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Somalia Humanitarian Overview

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- ❑ Despite increasing humanitarian needs, there has been a significant drop in humanitarian funding for Somalia in 2009. While the number of people in need have doubled from 1.8 million in January 2008 to 3.6 million in 2009, humanitarian funding has dropped by nearly 40 percent. This year, the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) has received approximately US\$459 million of 849 million requested (54%).
- ❑ In September, continuous fighting between insurgents and government forces killed an estimated 145 people and injured 285 others in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Belet Weyne. Some 17,000 people have fled the three cities, including 13,000 who left Mogadishu.
- ❑ On 17 September, insurgents launched a suicide attack on the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) force headquarters located within the Mogadishu International Airport, killing 21 people and wounding at least 40 others. This is the second such attack this year.
- ❑ Three aid workers with Action Against Hunger (ACF) were released on 3 October in Somalia. The three were captured in Kenya's border town of Mandera and taken into Somalia on 17 July. Currently, 10 humanitarian aid workers remain in captivity in Somalia.
- ❑ A meeting of the International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia took place in New York on 23 September with representatives of approximately 40 countries. Speakers emphasized the need for immediate support to the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and AMISOM and the continuation of political dialogue with parties ready to renounce violence.



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

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2009 Humanitarian Funding Gap

As of first week of October 2009, the Somalia 2009 CAP was 54 percent funded, having received \$459 million out of \$849 million requested. In absolute terms, the amount received so far is comparable with the total amount received in 2008 of \$476 million. However, some \$215 million or 42 percent of the \$459 million is a carry-over from 2008 while only \$65 million (13.7%) of total funds received in 2008 was a carry-over from 2007. In other words, only \$244 million in new funds has actually been received so far in 2009 while \$411 million was received in 2008.

A large bulk of the \$215 million carry-over from 2008 was mostly due to the late receipt of donor contributions during the last quarter of the year.

As in previous years, funding levels continue to reflect a pronounced imbalance between sectors ranging from 9 percent to 71 percent. Out of \$459 million received, \$338 million is for food and \$121 million for non-food items,

i.e. 26 percent of funds for non-food while 74 percent is allocated for food.

The food aid cluster is funded 71 percent followed by logistics (52%) and nutrition (51%). Five clusters have received less than a quarter of their funding requirements for 2009: WASH and health each at 24 percent, agriculture is 21 percent funded, shelter & non-food items 12 percent and education 9 percent. Considering the deepening drought and water shortage in many parts of Somalia, it is a major concern that Water & Sanitation has so far received only 24 percent of its funding requirement. (See table 1 - page 2). The food aid cluster is already experiencing a pipeline break and urgently needs \$195 million to continue with food assistance for 3.3 million vulnerable Somalis through April 2010.

These figures are even more alarming considering the fact that the number of people affected by the current humanitarian crisis in Somalia doubled from 1.8 million in

January 2008 to 3.6 million in September 2009.

Aid agencies have only managed to keep life-saving humanitarian activities running as result of the carry-over of finances from 2008, through increased private donations and exceptional support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Funding from CERF and the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF), has helped cover some of the most urgent needs in priority clusters, including health, WASH, nutrition, livelihoods and food. Together, the two funds have allocated some \$23.6 million to emergency interventions so far this year.

The low level of funding for planned humanitarian interventions is already affecting programme delivery. For instance, WFP's requirements for September were 48,000 metric tonnes of food aid to assist three million Somalis. Low funding and pipeline breaks forced WFP to cut rations and re-prioritise life-saving interventions.

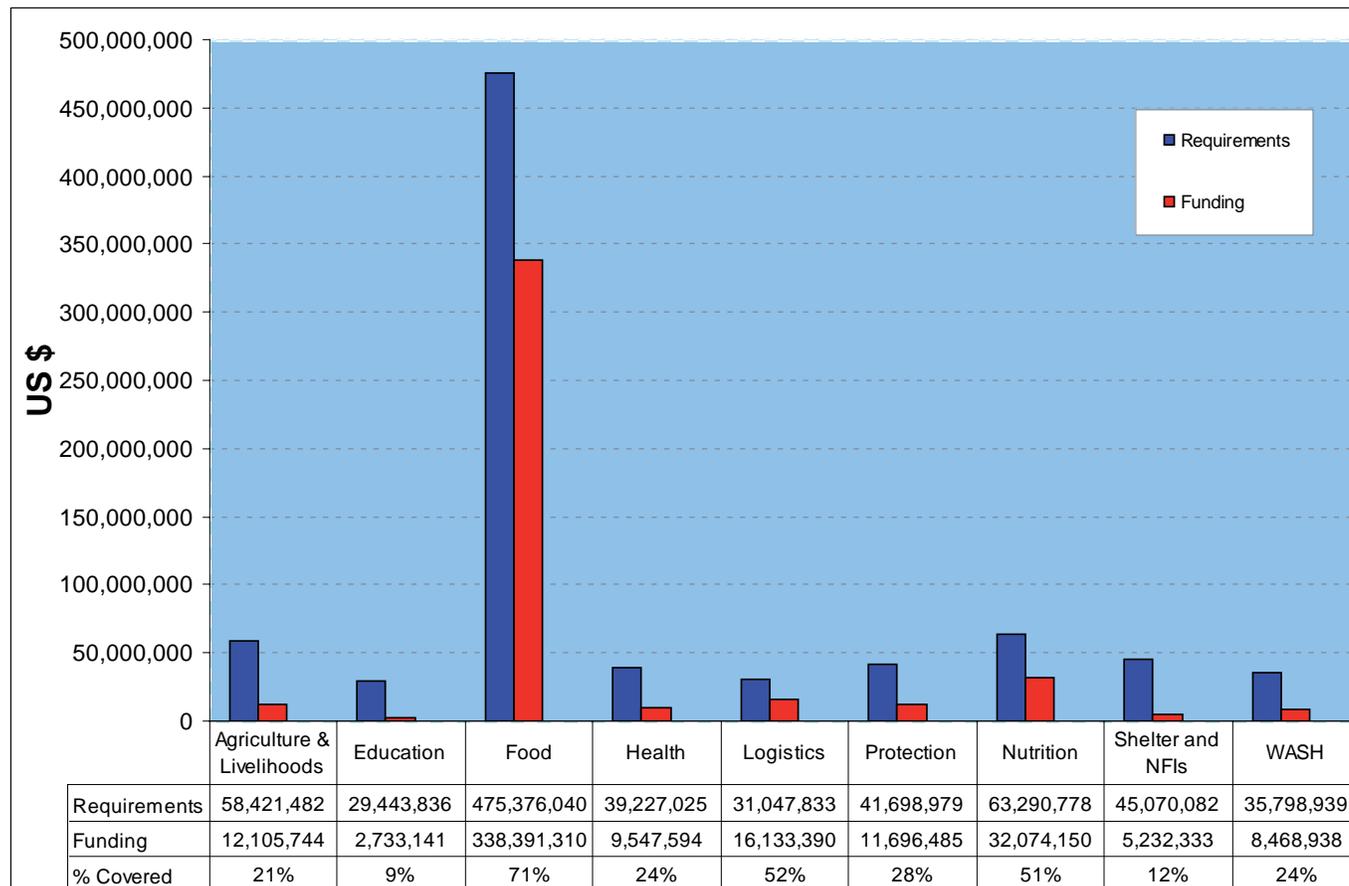


Table 1: 2009 CAP Funding as of 6 October 2009 - Source: The Financial Tracking Service (FTS), managed by OCHA, is a database of humanitarian donor contributions and can be found on www.reliefweb.int/fts.

Other sectors and agencies are equally affected. The low level of donor funding continues to jeopardise health interventions such as mobile clinics for IDPs, and Early Warning and Surveillance (EWARS) of key infectious and communicable diseases. Lack of funding for disease surveillance is a major public health risk particularly in South/Central Somalia. Displacement brings about a greater risk of communicable disease owing to makeshift living conditions including the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation. Funding for disease surveillance and reporting are therefore particularly important in light of the greater risks to health associated with the widespread displacement seen this year.

WHO and UNICEF have vaccinated more than 1 million children under five and 820,000 women against polio, tetanus and measles during the first round of Child Health Days across Somalia recently. But for a second round to take place in South/Central and Puntland, urgent funding to the amount of \$2.5 million is needed. As this is an immunization programme, the impact of the first round will be reduced considerably without the following second round. The

health cluster is currently only 24 percent funded.

Health Concern – Measles

Throughout 2009, WHO and partners have seen a steady rise in reported cases of measles in Somalia. In September, four mobile clinics serving IDP camps in Afgooye corridor and Mogadishu reported 58 suspected cases of measles. This may represent only a fraction of actual cases, since visits to health facilities are difficult and reporting is compromised. Lower Shabelle, including the Afgooye corridor was not targeted by the Child Health Days due to insecurity and limited humanitarian access. The EWARS reporting sites in the region registered another 54 suspected measles cases between 29 August and 25 September. This brings the total of suspected cases to 112, indicating the dire need to advocate for the implementation of targeted age group specific vaccination in the region.

Humanitarian Response

In September, WFP assisted approximately 1.3 million vulnerable people throughout Somalia with 22,168 metric tonnes of assorted

food commodities. WFP's requirements for September were 48,000 metric tonnes of food aid to assist 3 million Somalis. However, limited access to some areas in South/Central Somalia and a funding shortage (see page 2) has affected planned food distribution. In addition, during the harvest season (late July-September); WFP has scaled down its food aid interventions especially in the crop producing districts of Southern Somalia. This is done in order to protect the local crop prices thereby securing the livelihoods of farmers and encouraging them to continue farming. Meanwhile, half rations are provided to IDPs in the Afgooye corridor and Baidoa. The wet feeding programme and programmes targeting expectant women, malnourished children and hospitals were not disrupted as they address the special needs of the most vulnerable groups.

Eight new nutrition feeding centres in Mogadishu started the treatment of acutely malnourished children under five. WFP, UNICEF and Oxfam-Novib are supporting the local partner SAACID to run the centres. In the first week of operation, the centres recorded admissions of about 700 cases and screened at least 3,250 children under five, pregnant

and lactating women. This indicates the dire need for nutrition interventions in Mogadishu.

On 17 September, WHO sent 23 cartons of emergency medical supplies to Bu'aale, Middle Juba, for preparedness of emergency health situations in the areas, as fighting (casualties) and outbreaks (cholera) are anticipated in the area.

Security Situation

Somali civilians continue to be victims of indiscriminate use of force. On 11 September, a hospital in southern Mogadishu was hit by mortar shells killing at least 15 disabled people and wounding 17 others including children. On 20 September, fighting between insurgents and TFG/AMISOM forces killed at least 20 people in Mogadishu as residents celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. More clashes were reported on 22 September killing at least 12 civilians and wounding more than 17 others.

The two main hospitals in Mogadishu, Medina and Keysaney, admitted a total of 407 wounded people in the month of September, bringing the number of wounded admitted to these two facilities in 2009 to 3,901. In addition, since May 2009, the MSF surgical ward in Daynile reported

Of Note:

- According to weather forecasts, much of the country is likely to experience near-normal to above-normal (enhanced) rainfall due to El Nino driven weather conditions during the upcoming Deyr raining season (October-December 2009). In other words, the upcoming season should experience more rains across the country in comparison to last season and thereby generally beneficial to drought-affected populations. However, there is also risk of flooding, flood damage and diseases, including the potential for a re-emergence of the Rift Valley Fever. Clusters have already raised concern over access in some of the areas that may face flooding. They are currently preparing a flood contingency plan.
- Somalia's commodity prices, including rice and sorghum have declined by an average 44 percent since March 2008, which can be attributed to decreased global food prices, food aid deliveries, and a good 2009 crop harvest in parts of southern Somalia. According to a 'Price Watch' report issued on 9 September by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), Somalia is the only country in East Africa where all commodity prices have dipped below last year's level. However, even though prices in Somalia are declining, the cost of living in the country remains very high.
- An agricultural project supported by the European Commission (EU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), started in September and will benefit some 78,000 households in South/Central Somalia. The Integrated Support to Rural Livelihood project is in response to soaring food prices aimed at helping Somalia move towards long term food security. The project will enhance agricultural production, and rehabilitate infrastructure through cash for work programmes.



Women waiting for WFP food aid distribution - Adado district, Galgaduud region - September 2009
Photo Courtesy: OCHA

treatment of 430 women and children, all victims of violence. Among them, were children under 14 years of age, 232 suffered blast-related injuries and 115 were treated for gunshot wounds. In September alone, of the 93 women and children admitted to the emergency department, 67 (56 women and 11 children) were treated for injuries related to shelling and gunfire.

Elsewhere in South/Central Somalia, insecurity continued to be a major concern. On 5 September, Al Shabaab militia recaptured Belet Weyne, Hiraan, from the control of pro-government militant groups. At least 13 people, including nine fighters were killed. The town has been unstable and tense for the past month with the two groups fighting for its control.

On 12 September, three civilians were killed and 10 others wounded when police fired live bullets at protesters gathered at the parliament compound in Hargeysa, Somaliland. There have been political tensions in Somaliland following the postponement of the general elections which were scheduled for end of September.

In the border town of Yeed, Rabdure district, Bakool region, at least 10 people were killed on 20 September following a battle between Al Shabaab militia and pro-government

militants. Al Shabaab is said to have taken control of the town.

During the first week of October, at least 20 people were killed and more than 60 others wounded in Kismayo, Lower Juba, in fighting between two Islamist groups over the control of the town. Unconfirmed numbers of people were displaced and mostly moved to Jilib and Jamaame areas in Middle Juba. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent emergency medical supplies to various medical facilities in Kismayo, Marheere, Doble, Afmadow and Jilib districts in Middle and Lower Juba. The Somalia Red Crescent Society also sent two war surgeons and an anaesthetist to Kismayo to support the local hospital, taking with them 400kg of surgical supplies from the ICRC to treat war-wounded patients.

Displacement

According to UNHCR an estimated 25,000 people were reported to be displaced in Somalia in September. Of these, some 13,000

were displaced from Mogadishu. The major causes of civilian displacement in Somalia remain insecurity and a prolonged drought. During the past three months, more than 6,000 people were reported to have been displaced from rural areas within Galgaduud region due to drought – most travelled to urban areas within the region in search of assistance.

Human Smuggling

On 29 and 30 August, some 16 Somalis died crossing the Gulf of Aden when smugglers pushed passengers to one side of the boat. In another incident, smugglers who feared detection by Yemeni authorities forced more than 40 passengers to swim ashore; three people drowned and three were reported missing and presumed dead. Since January, more than 36,000 people, including at least 16,000 Somalis have attempted the dangerous journey, which costs between US\$ 120 – 130. The state of insecurity and the prevailing drought situation in Somalia are the key factors driving people to seek a

better life in Yemen and beyond; the majority of the migrants are from South/Central regions.

Meeting on Cross Border Issues

On 6 October, a joint Inter Agency Steering Committee (IASC) meeting between IASC Kenya and IASC Somalia took place to discuss border issues. A discussion paper drafted by OCHA Kenya and Somalia was used as the basis for the discussion. Key issues discussed included: the need to define the “cross border areas”; information gathering and sharing without creating additional layers of meetings; advocacy messages; how to harmonize contingency plans; border closure; better assessment of push/pull factors in population movement and how to address these through improved joint programming; ongoing humanitarian operations; and disease surveillance on both sides of the border. It was agreed to revise the paper based on the discussions that took place. Once finalised, the paper will be made public.

Table: HRF Projects approved - August & September 2009

Agency	Project	Amount US\$	Region/District	Beneficiaries
NRC	Emergency Preparedness and Response to fires in Bossaso and provision of temporary shelter in Hargeysa IDP settlement	500,000	Bari	8,532
CISP	Emergency intervention for the improvement of primary health care services and nutrition support in Galgaduud	260,000	Galgaduud	16,500
WHO	Emergency Health Services for women and children in Bay and Lower Shabelle	235,230	Bay and Lower Shabelle	17,000
WHO	Rapid response to outbreaks of infectious diseases and emergency health care to drought affected population	210,644	Puntland, South/Central	170,000
Candlelight	Emergency water trucking	177,204	Sanaag	37,835
SPDS	Emergency water trucking	83,505	Bari	55,626
WVI	Nutrition proposals for Buale	129,160	Puntland, South/Central	4,800
SSWC	Emergency relief response for IDPs in Galgaduud - Part II	164,824	Galgaduud - Godinlabe & Adado	23,703
NCA	Drought emergency response for Puntland	298,455	Puntland - Burtinle, Dangorayo, Garowe and Buhoodle	58,020
KISIMA	Joore Agro-Pastoralists emergency drought survival & livelihoods protection project - Lower Juba	170,026	Kismayo & Badhade	17,150
Oxfam GB	Emergency public health response to assist war-affected communities in Lower Shabelle region	169,607	Xawa Abdi (Af-gooye corridor)	44,723
Merlin	Emergency health care provision - Galgaduud	249,797	Ceel district	94,000
YME	Emergency drilling of deep well and construction of water distribution system in Jilable. Rehabilitation of deep well and water distribution system in Matabaab - Hiraan region	248,966	Mataban district	21,000
CPD	Emergency life-saving water trucking for pastoral villages -Galgaduud region	134,221	Adado district	54,000
MURDO	Sanitation and donkey cart distribution project for IDPs - Middle Shabelle	147,108	Balcad district	21,612
Relief Int.	Selective feeding programme - Puntland	158,368	Bossaso	6,650
Total		3,337,115		651,151