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Somalia Humanitarian Overview

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Main Developments

- ❑ The 2009 *Gu* rains have failed in 70 percent of the country. Consequently, the food security situation in Somalia is not expected to improve significantly over the next six months and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance will remain high. Currently, the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) estimates that 3.2 million Somalis are in need of humanitarian assistance. This figure could increase when the ongoing post-*Gu* seasonal assessment report is released mid-August.
- ❑ UN supported activities in Somalia had serious setbacks in July. On 20 July, the operations of three United Nations agencies were banned by Al Shabaab. The same day, Al Shabaab militia entered the Baidoa and Waajid UN compounds and confiscated assets including radio room equipment, vehicles, an ambulance and office equipment. Following the incident, the UN relocated its international staff.
- ❑ Throughout July, daily clashes between government forces and insurgents continued in Mogadishu causing great suffering to civilians. During the month, an estimated 52,000 people left the city, bringing the total displaced figure since 7 May 2009 to 240,000.
- ❑ On a positive note, 10 cooked meal sites out of 16 re-opened in Mogadishu on 30 July following a nearly six week closure due to intense fighting in the city. These sites serviced more than 100,000 beneficiaries.
- ❑ The ongoing fighting in Mogadishu has led to an increased need for emergency education in the areas around Mogadishu and along the Afgooye corridor. UNICEF reported a 100 percent increase in enrolment in emergency schools compared to last year. Education partners have the physical access to affected areas and capacity to increase emergency education but are constrained by a lack of funding.
- ❑ The CAP funding level improved in July from only 26 percent as of end June to 52 percent at the end July. Despite this fact several clusters including health, water, education and agriculture/livelihoods continue to face severe funding constraints.



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

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Drought

According to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), the 2009 *Gu* rains that ended in June failed in 70 percent of the country. The *Gu* rainy season (April-June) in Somalia contributes to about 70 percent of annual food and fodder production in most parts of the country. Areas where the rains performed poorly or failed completely include Hiraa, Mudug, Galgaduud, Nugaal, Sool and parts of Sanaag and Togdheer regions. As a result, food insecurity will worsen between July and September in these regions. The central regions of Mudug and Galgaduud are of particular concern as they are experiencing a fourth consecutive season of poor rainfall. With severe water shortage and limited grazing for livestock, many pastoralist families are facing destitution. Most of the traditional water catchments are dry or

drying up, putting additional stress on the few functioning boreholes.

In the south, rains were poor in Gedo region in Luuq, Doolow, Bula Hawa, and Garbahaarey districts. In the southern agricultural regions of Bay, Shabelle, Juba, and in parts of Bakool region, rains were fairly good and a near normal crop harvest is expected from these regions. However, due to insecurity on the main road linking the south and central regions, normal cereal flows will be impeded. The result will be continued high food prices.

In July, UNHCR and protection partners on the ground reported that drought is a major factor in displacement and movement of people in Somalia. For instance, some 2,000 people are estimated to have been displaced

within Ceel Buur district in Galgaduud region due to drought. Many are reported to have lost livestock and moved towards urban areas in search of water and food. Approximately 360 pastoralists were reported to have left rural areas in Laas Caanood district, Sool region, and moved to Buuhoodle district, Togdheer region, due to drought.

Preliminary results from the FSNAU Post *Gu* assessment indicate that drought affected populations have already exhausted their coping mechanisms by taking on excessive debts and consuming their assets. Results from the post-*Gu* seasonal assessment will be released in mid-August.

Drought response is ongoing but still far from meeting needs in the affected areas. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners continue with water trucking initiatives in the north. Emergency water trucking is ongoing in Sanaag, Nugaal and Bari regions reaching 30,000 pastoral, rural and urban communities affected by drought through NGOs Vet aid, Muslim Aid and Horn Relief. Since the

beginning of the year, the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) has funded water trucking interventions targeting an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries in Puntland. Even with the current interventions, emergency water needs remain high in the north.

In 17 drought-affected villages of Sanaag region, Action Aid has started cash for food programmes for about 510 households. Mercy Corps has also started a similar programme reaching 100 households in five affected villages of Maroodi Jeex south of Hargeysa town in Somaliland.

The HRF is currently reviewing more than 20 project proposals aimed at providing quick emergency response to drought affected locations.

Baidoa

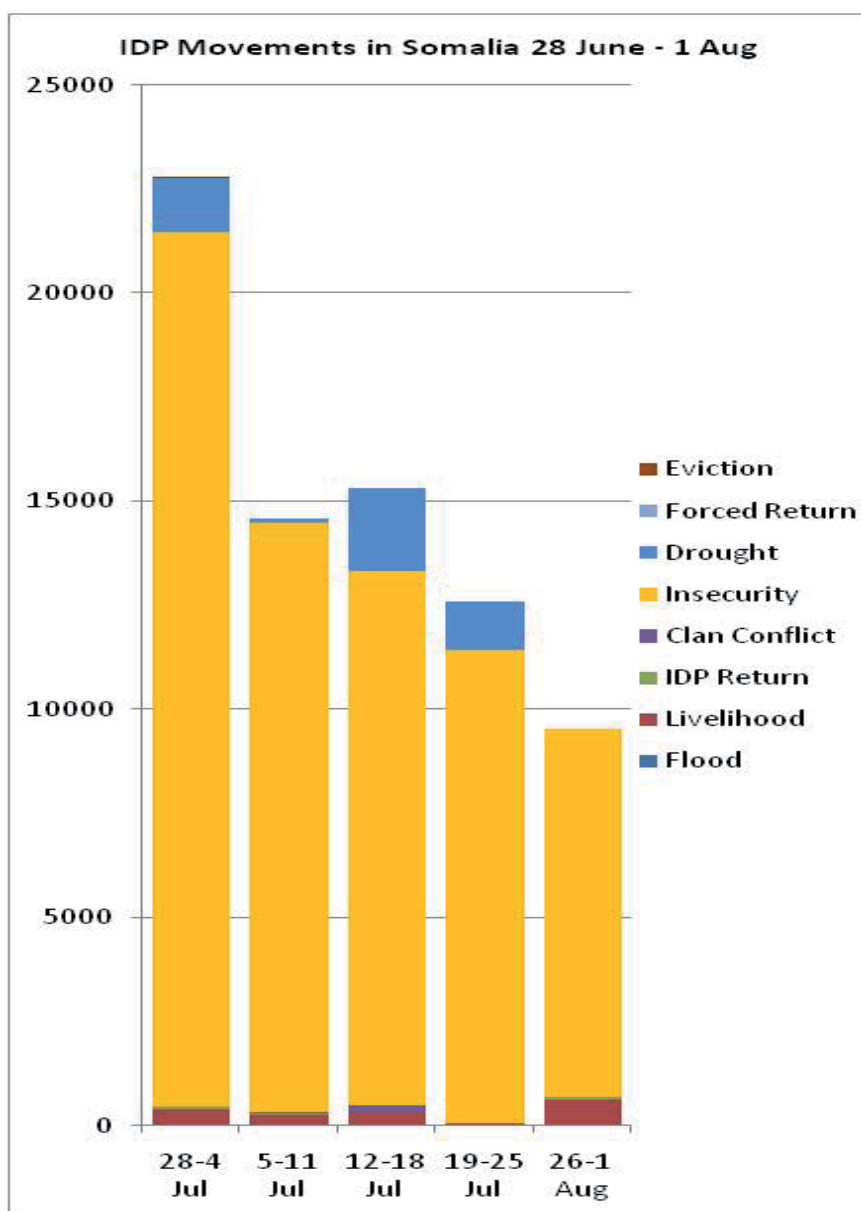
On 20 July, three United Nations agencies – UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) – were banned by Al Shabaab in the areas they control. On the same day, Al Shabaab militia entered the Baidoa and Waajid UN compounds and confiscated assets including radio room equipment, vehicles, an ambulance and office equipment. Immediately after the incident, UN International staff members in Baidoa were relocated as UN security regulations do not allow international staff to remain in a location without an international security officer. A total of 42 national staff remained.

The UN Secretary-General condemned the incident.

Mogadishu Displacement

Escalating clashes between government forces and insurgents continued in Mogadishu, causing high numbers of civilian casualties. The fiercest fighting took place between 11-12 July when at least 50 people were killed and more than 120 civilians and combatants were injured in Abdul-Aziz, Shibis and Yaaqshiid districts in north Mogadishu. A statement issued on 16 July by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), stated that almost 300 weapon-wounded patients were admitted to Keysaney and Medina hospitals during the first two weeks of July.

The displacement from Mogadishu slowed down compared to May and June. In July, a total of 55,000 people were displaced, according to UNHCR – bringing the total displacement since 7 May to 240,000. Out of this total, 70 percent (166,000) have moved towards other regions or to the Afgooye corridor while around 30 percent (77,500) are within the capital or have settled in IDP concentration areas in the periphery of



Causes of displacement in Somalia, July - Credit : UNHCR

Mogadishu.

According to UNHCR, local humanitarian organizations are overstretched and struggling to meet the basic needs of the newly arrived even along the Afgooye corridor. There is a lack of adequate shelter, sanitation facilities and clean drinking water which raises the risk of disease outbreaks. In addition, access to the displaced within Mogadishu remains a concern.

Mixed Migrants & Refugees

UNHCR says some 4,300 Somali nationals registered as new arrivals at Dadaab camps in Kenya in July. There is a noticeable decrease in arrivals from the previous month (6,496 Somali nationals in June). The overall population in Dadaab currently stands at 288,874 persons as of 31 July 2009, an increase of 22 percent since the

beginning of 2009. Should insecurity persist in Somalia, UNHCR projections indicate that some 60,000 – 100,000 asylum-seekers may cross into Kenya in 2009.

The ongoing fighting in Mogadishu has also pushed thousands of Somalis to risk their lives to cross the Gulf of Aden and seek asylum in Yemen. UNHCR estimates some 12,000 people have reached and found temporary shelter in Bossaso, Puntland. Most of them await an opportunity to make the dangerous journey across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen in search of a better life. At the moment the sea is dangerous due to prevailing monsoon winds; hence the majority of the people are camping in Bossaso until September when the winds are more favourable.

In 2008, more than 50,000 new arrivals reached Yemen's shores – a 70 percent

increase from 2007. The trend has continued during the first six months of 2009 with around 30,000 new arrivals – the total for the whole of 2007. So far this year, almost 300 people have died or gone missing.

Food Aid

In the month of July, WFP delivered about 33,725 metric tonnes of food (83% of the planned tonnage) to 2.8 million beneficiaries from South/Central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland. WFP had planned to assist 3.3 million Somalis with 40,460 metric tonnes. However, lack of access in some areas in the south of Somalia including Mogadishu and some minor pipeline shortfalls affected planned interventions. WFP faces critical shortfalls as of the beginning of October and urgently requires 209,000 metric tonnes of food (US\$ 208 million) to cover the current pipeline break until the end March 2010.

At the onset of the harvest season in Somalia (late July-September), WFP has revised its food aid interventions downwards especially in the crop producing districts of south Somalia. This is done in order to protect the local crop prices and thereby secure the livelihoods of the farmers. This is also done to encourage farmers to continue farming. General food distributions will be suspended in August and September while half rations will be provided for IDPs in the Afgooye corridor and Baidoa for at least two months from July. The wet feeding programme and programmes targeting expectant women, malnourished children and hospitals will not be disrupted as they address the needs of

Key Humanitarian Deliveries - July 2009

Food Aid: WFP continued with food distribution throughout the country delivering 33,725 metric tons of food aid to 2.8 million beneficiaries - 83 percent of planned distribution.

WASH: An additional 16,900 IDPs and host communities in Kaq Shiqal IDP camp, south of Mogadishu, were provided with safe drinking water through construction of a two km water network, 40 m³ water storage tank and 10 water kiosks. Over 10,500 people, mainly recently displaced, were provided with 200 latrines in north Mogadishu and 150 latrines in Kaq Shiqal camp. UNICEF and partners continue to support operations and maintenance of 10 water systems for IDP camps along the Afgooye corridor benefiting more than 200,000 IDPs and host communities.

Nutrition: In July, the fourth and last round of Plumpy'doz was distributed to 9,743 IDP children in Bossaso, Puntland. In Somaliland, the third round reached more than 8,200. Country-wide 126,000 children will be targeted.

the most vulnerable people.

Access & Security

In July there was a slight improvement in the security situation compared to previous months in South/Central Somalia including Mogadishu as there were fewer clashes between various groups. Despite this fact the working environment for aid organisations continued to deteriorate. A disturbing development is the increasing number of lootings and attacks on aid workers' compounds. In July several humanitarian aid organisations were targeted by unknown groups of militia in

Mogadishu. As mentioned above, the UN compounds in Baidoa and Waajid were also attacked. The UNICEF compound in Jowhar town that was taken over in May is still occupied by Al Shabaab forces and remains inaccessible to UNICEF staff.

On 17 July, three foreign aid workers were abducted from a Kenyan border town and taken into Somalia by unknown Somali gunmen. Their whereabouts are unknown. On 21 July, a staff member of the Somali Red Crescent Society was killed in crossfire in the centre of Mogadishu while travelling in a public transport vehicle. Since January, eight humanitarian aid workers have lost their lives in Somalia and 19 are still being held in Somalia.

On 29 July, 10 cooked meal sites out of 16 re-opened in Mogadishu following a nearly six week closure due to intense fighting in the city. These sites serviced more than 100,000 beneficiaries. Another positive development is that the WFP office in Belet Weyne in Hiraan region also re-opened following closure on 18 June when a bomb killed at least 24 people. The re-opening of the office will reinforce food aid interventions in central Somalia where more than 930,000 beneficiaries receive aid.

Somaliland

In the western part of Somaliland, there have been several clashes between clans over land. At the beginning of July, clan fighting over land in El Bardaale (Awdal region) took place. A ceasefire was reportedly reached between the two groups. The latest clashes marked the fourth time armed conflict has broken out in the area in the past six months. The two clans are claiming ownership of the same land. According to local authorities, more than 400 families in the area have been displaced due to the conflict.



Drought-affected areas in Galgaduud region, July - Photo Courtesy : UN-OCHA

Tensions have been rising in Somaliland in the period leading up to the 27 September presidential elections. On 30 July, the Head of Interpeace, an organisation contracted by National Electoral Commission (NEC) was expelled from Somaliland, after having highlighted irregularities in the voter registration process.

Funding

As of the end of July, the Somalia CAP was 52 percent funded, having received US\$438 million. The food aid cluster has received the most funds (69%) followed by nutrition and logistics which are 49 percent funded respectively. Coordination is 38 percent funded while protection is 18 percent funded. There are three clusters funded below 15 percent, agriculture/livelihoods (12%), education (12%) and shelter (8%). Two life-saving clusters that remain seriously underfunded are WASH and Health, each funded at 19 percent.

So far this year, the HRF has allocated \$4.9 million to 26 projects benefiting 1,384,490 people. Sixty-seven proposals have been received to date. The HRF has allotted a substantial amount of funds (\$3,737,357) to South/Central Somalia, including Lower Shabelle, Lower Juba, Galgaduud, Banadir and Hiraaan regions. Recognizing the acute water shortages, particularly in the Shabelle and Juba Regions, WASH projects have received the bulk (62%) of the funds representing 18 of the 26 projects. In terms of regional disbursement, six projects were funded in Lower Shabelle, five in Lower and Middle Juba, two in Gedo, three in Galgaduud, one in Hiraaan, two in Mogadishu, one in Mudug, five in Puntland and one in Somaliland. Local NGOs received half the funding with 13 projects, followed by international NGOs with 11 project and UN agencies with two projects.

Of Note:

Between January and June 2009, the International Maritime Bureau reported 148 incidents that were carried out by suspected Somali pirates. A total of 30 vessels were reportedly hijacked in this period: 495 crew have been taken hostage, four killed, six injured and one missing. Presently, Somali pirates are holding 11 vessels for ransom with 178 crew members as hostage.

A journalist working for Radio Holy Quran was shot and killed on 4 July in Mogadishu. He is the sixth journalist to die in the line of duty since January. The National Union of Somali Journalists and Reporters without Borders condemned the killing and called for a cessation of hostilities in the capital. On 12 July, journalist Mohamed Osman Mire, and Ahmed Suleyman Dhuhul, director of Horyaal Radio, were arrested by Somaliland police at the office of the radio station in Hargeysa. In Puntland, two foreign journalists were expelled and accused of entering the region illegally.

According to WHO, more than 43 000 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) were reported between January and June, with at least 135 related deaths. Cholera was also confirmed in Mogadishu, the Afgooye corridor and in several areas in Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Mudug in South/Central Somalia. All outbreaks were contained through rapid response measures and collaboration of health cluster partners.

Consultations for the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) 2010 for Somalia will begin in August. CAP field workshops will take place in Hargeysa, Somaliland and Garowe, Puntland; while the South/Central workshop will be conducted in Nairobi due to insecurity. These workshops will review response so far in 2009 and discuss the needs and the response strategy for 2010.

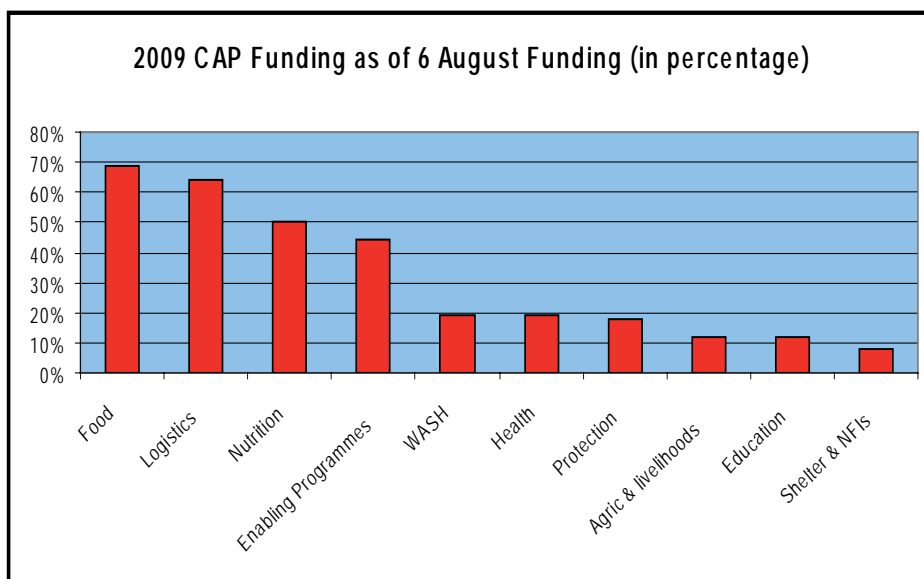


Table: HRF Projects approved - July 2009

Agency	Project	Amount US\$	Region	Beneficiaries
NRC	Emergency Preparedness & Response to fires in Bossaso - Provision of temporary shelter for IDPs in Hargaysa	500,000	Puntland & Somaliland	10,932
CISP	Emergency intervention for the improvement of primary health care services and nutrition support in Galgaduud region	260,000	Galgaduud	65,850
Total		760,000		76,782