

provide an urgent stop-gap measure to prevent further deterioration and more children falling into the 'acute' category, key WASH interventions such as construction of shallow wells, rehabilitation of existing water systems, support to sustainable operations and maintenance, continued hygiene education activities, short-term water trucking and construction of latrines in IDP areas are required.

A US\$10 million boost to the humanitarian response in Somalia was received from the CERF allocation from the ERC. The funds have been apportioned by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to priority life-saving programmes, including water and nutrition, livelihoods support and funding for common services such as the UN Humanitarian Air Services.

The CERF funds allocated for Somalia were part of some \$75 million in allocations to support under-funded programmes in emergency situations around the world. A total of \$11.7 million from CERF was allocated to Somalia in 2008.

Mogadishu

According to UNHCR, at least 50 civilians were killed and over 90 others wounded in Mogadishu when fresh fighting broke out between insurgents and Transitional Federal Government/AMISOM forces. According to media reports, the death toll was even higher. The fighting flared up just days after the new President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed returned to Mogadishu. Civilians continued to be victims of attacks between warring groups in the city. According to the ICRC, 360 war-wounded people have been treated in the two main hospitals since the beginning of the year.

Reports state that between 25,000 and 40,000 IDPs have already returned to Mogadishu since 15 January, taking advantage of a lull in fighting following the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces in December 2008. This is just a small percentage of the more than one million people displaced because of violence in Mogadishu since January 2007. The humanitarian community is in the process of developing strategies to address the needs in preparation for an increased number of returns. The strategy will bear in mind the fact that Mogadishu has many destroyed or looted neighborhoods, and that both those who remain displaced and those to return require assistance and services until now unavailable or limited.

Earlier in the month, AMISOM troops were accused of allegedly opening fire in densely populated civilian neighborhoods in Mogadishu, subsequently killing at last 32

people. The alleged indiscriminate shelling was triggered by a roadside bomb which exploded near an AMISOM convoy on 2 February, killing at least 18 people. A similar incident occurred on 24 January, killing 14 people. This attracted criticism from international human rights groups calling for prompt, independent and impartial investigations into the allegations.

Humanitarian Access

Following the killing of two WFP staff members in January, humanitarian workers in Somalia remained apprehensive during February as many regions still remained inaccessible. Different groups continued to struggle for control of the various regions following the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops

in January and the absence of a strong presence of government forces in South/Central regions.

WFP secured guarantees from authorities in Mogadishu, Tieglow district, Bakool, Belet Weyne, Hiraan, Gedo and Middle Juba regions allowing them to operate in safety. With such a guarantee in Gedo, WFP will continue its relief activities and expand nutrition programmes in the wake of urgent humanitarian needs in the region.

There were a couple of incidents affecting humanitarian activities during the month. On 4 February, a European Union flight was turned away by local militia who shot in the air, at Belet Weyne, Hiraan airstrip



ICRC installed 10 water reservoirs close to major settlements of the displaced in central regions, and began delivering water by trucks to 60 different locations for an estimated 72,000 people - Credit: ICRC

soon after landing. The EC suspended its flights, but resumed after a week following security assessments. A five-truck convoy transporting 115 metric tons of WFP food destined for Hudur, Bakool, was recovered after being hijacked by armed militia on 2 February at Balidogle, 100 km north of Mogadishu.

By the end of January, the number of roadblocks rose slightly to 307, up from 226 in December 2008, hampering the smooth flow of humanitarian assistance. However, following reports of an operation to reduce roadblocks in Mogadishu by the new administration, the number may have decreased in February.

Humanitarian Response

To forge relations with the new government to improve access to vulnerable populations, on 23 February, a UN mission traveled to the outskirts of Mogadishu. The mission comprised of WFP and Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) who meet with government representatives regarding humanitarian access. Productive discussions on WFP's re-engagement strategy and expansion in light of CARE International's withdrawal were held. The mission also expressed concern over access to Mogadishu given the potential return to the capital of IDPs currently in the Afgooye corridor and in central region. The mission also visited El Maan (100km north of Mogadishu) where WFP is constructing the road and a storage hub for food deliveries.

WFP continued with food distributions throughout the country delivering over 43,900 metric tons of food – 77 percent of planned distribution. In Gedo region where there is a worsening nutrition situation, Bay, Bakool and Hiraan regions, some 58,000

people under the Supplementary Feeding Programme and nutrition relief benefited. In Tieglow, Bakool region, some 1,800 people received ready to use supplementary feeding under a nutrition intervention. Some 137,696 people in Marka, Lower Shabelle and Mogadishu also benefited from supplementary and wet feeding programmes.

By the end of February, around 76,000 metric tons of WFP food shipments had safely been escorted into Somalia under European Union naval escort mission since 14 December, 2008.

WFP Somalia is set to increase the number of strategic food storage facilities across Somalia in 2009 in order to respond to the deepening humanitarian crisis. With the plan to provide a monthly average of 42,000 metric tons of food to assist a at least 3.5 million people mainly through relief and expanded nutrition interventions in several parts South/ Central regions. An additional 24,000 metric tons of food storage capacity (54 percent increase from last year) was erected between January and February 2009. The total current storage capacity within the country is now about 70,000 metric tons. The Government of Somaliland has also agreed that WFP would use an additional 20,000 metric tons storage capacity at Berbera port for the WFP Ethiopia food corridor. WFP has already set up a 10,000 metric ton storage facility at El Maan. An eight kilometer stretch of a 30 km road between El Maan and Mogadishu was cleared and prepared for layering of the top surface during the month by WFP.

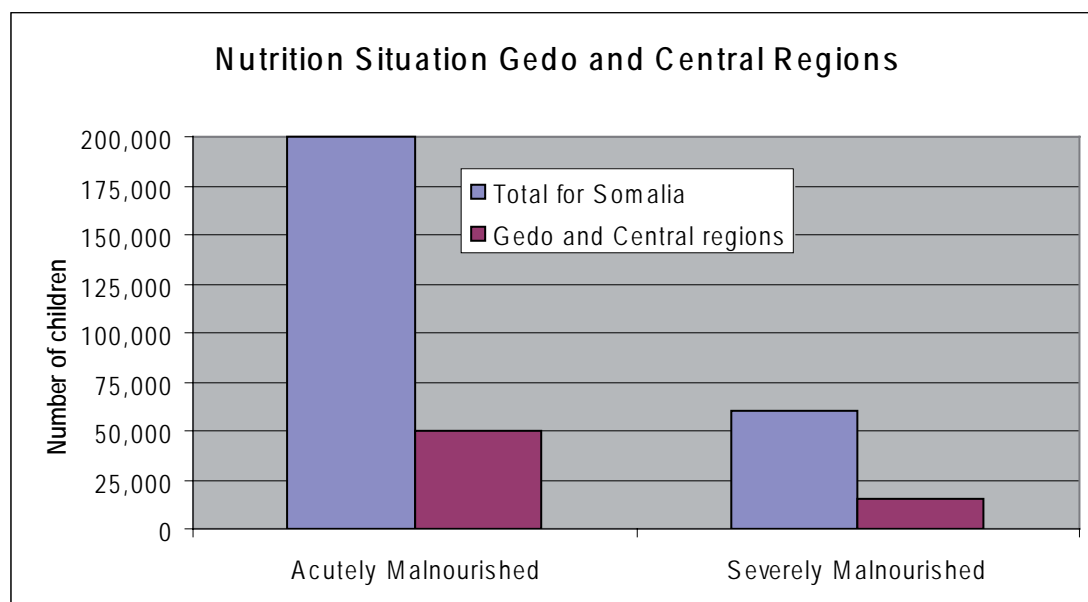
In Bossaso, Puntland, the INGO Danish Refugee Council completed a distribution of 1,632 metric tons of food to around 96,700 (45,156 IDPs and 51,600 urban poor).

DRC completed the construction of 500 latrines at Hawa Abdi and at the Faculty of Agriculture settlements, boosting sanitation facilities along the Afgooye corridor. Since 2007, Water and Sanitation cluster partners have constructed at least 5,000 latrines out of 15,000 needed to cater for nearly 400,000 IDPs on the corridor.

UNICEF completed the lay out of an eight-and-a-half kilometer pipe system, rehabilitation of four wells, construction of three water tanks and drilling of a borehole, to serve at least 180,000 IDPs in Lafole, Agricultural University, Arbiska and KM 15 IDP settlements in Afgooye corridor south of Mogadishu. These areas will no longer require water trucking. The construction of the pipe system started in November 2008 and ended in February 2009. Another pipe system is being laid to serve Hawa Abdi and Northern Mogadishu IDP settlements which still rely on water trucking. This system is expected to be completed by June 2009.

Health and nutrition

The Child Health Days campaign that started in December 2008 was completed during February in six regions of Somaliland. Preliminary reports indicated 69 percent received Oral Polio Vaccine, while 68 percent received measles vaccination. The figures do not include parts of Sool and Sanaag regions that are yet to be finalised. Among women of child bearing age, 34 percent benefited from tetanus vaccines. The actual number of beneficiaries reached indicates a major improvement over routine immunization achievements at fixed-site health facilities during 2008. The campaign was made possible through a huge logistical effort including 876 teams (of 5–6 people each), 4,996 vaccinators, health educators, recorders, monitors and supervisors and



986 vehicles which transported the teams to various sites. Preparations for the Puntland and South/Central regions are ongoing using a phased approach due to lack of health personnel and security constraints.

Health partners contained an Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) outbreak in Golweyn in Marka and Bulo Marer, Kurtunwaarey in Lower Shebelle region. AWD is caused by drinking from dirty and untreated pools of water. This happens frequently during Jilaal dry season before the onset of the long rains in mid-April to mid-June. At least eight people died from related symptoms while 46 others received treatment. UNICEF, WHO and INGO COSV conducted a rapid assessment to the area and distributed 500,000 aqua-tabs and carried out awareness activities to control the outbreak. In 2009, health partners will be working with eight NGOs in South/Central regions to support communities in formulating prevention strategies and emergency response plans.

Aerial Photography Survey

The Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), completed an aerial photography project on the Juba and Shabelle rivers and associated main irrigated areas in southern Somalia. High

Of Note

□ During the month, journalists were targeted, drawing condemnation from several media and human rights organisations. On 4 February, The Director of HornAfrik radio, Said Tahlil Ahmen was killed in Mogadishu's Bakara market in the company of his colleagues. In solidarity with HornAfrik, all radio stations based in Mogadishu went off air on 5 February. On 7 February, a radio director of a local radio station in Abudwaq town in Galgaduud region was stabbed during a reconciliation meeting. A statement by Amnesty International said, "Attacking and killing of journalists have become a way by parties to the conflict to settle scores about local media reporting, and have a chilling effect on freedom of expression in Somalia." Since the beginning of 2007, 11 journalists have been killed in Somalia.

□ During the month of February 2009, the HRF disbursed a total of US\$80,940 to a project dealing with primary and emergency health care to be implemented by Muslim Aid UK. The project will benefit an estimated 252,000 people in the Afgooye Corridor.

quality topographical photographs of the two rivers were taken, showing contour lines drawn at 50 cm interval and 25 cm vertical accuracy and a digital terrain model was generated. The contours are 80 times higher in accuracy as compared to existing 20 metres topographical maps. The survey was carried out over a band along the two rivers with an average of five kilometres in width. The use of detailed aerial photography in times of humanitarian crisis will have a significant impact on improving a planned and coordinated response. The project was implemented as a component of the FAO's

emergency support to Somalia under the 2007 CAP and funded with a grant from the Government of Sweden (SIDA).

Two staff contracted by Genesys International Ltd, the main contractor for the project, were abducted 10 months ago as they undertook the assignment. The two remain in captivity along with 14 other humanitarian aid workers abducted in Somalia in 2008, and the humanitarian community calls for their release and safe return home.



The Aerial photography project carried out by SWALIM will enable the identification and provide data for key hydraulic structures including barges, weirs and bridges along the Juba and Shabelle rivers - Credit: FAO/SWALIM Somalia