



UNITED NATIONS  
NATION UNIES

# Somalia Humanitarian Overview

Vol. 3 Issue 1 - 15 December - 30 January 2010

## Main Developments

- ❑ The recently completed country-wide food security and nutrition assessment confirms that a widespread humanitarian crisis still persists in Somalia. The interagency assessment, led by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), estimates that 3.2 million people or nearly 42 percent of the country's population, will need emergency humanitarian assistance and/or livelihood support for the next six months. This is a nine percent decrease from the post-*Gu* assessment (August 2009) when 3.52 million people were in crisis.
- ❑ The overall Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates for Somalia are down from 19 percent to 16 percent, leaving 1 in 6 children under five malnourished as opposed to 1 in 5 from the post-*Gu* assessment. Despite this overall reduction, malnutrition rates in South Central remain at 1 in 5 children under five malnourished. These acute malnutrition rates continue to be amongst the highest in the world.
- ❑ January 2010 was marked by numerous clashes in South Central Somalia, leading to an intolerable number of civilian casualties and massive displacement. In total, 82,000 people were displaced country-wide, mainly from Mogadishu, Dhuusamarreeb and Belet Weyne.
- ❑ WFP suspended its work in much of Southern Somalia due to escalating threats and attacks against its staff, and unacceptable demands by armed groups controlling the area.
- ❑ In December 2009, Action Against Hunger (ACF) announced the discontinuation of its humanitarian activities in Galgaduud region. Elsewhere in Somalia, ACF intends to increase its current level of assistance in 2010.
- ❑ For the first time ever, UNICEF and WHO supported Child Health Days were implemented in Mogadishu. More than 288,000 children under five years and 296,000 women of child-bearing age were reached with a life-saving high-impact health package including immunization against measles, polio and DPT, Vitamin A supplements, and de-worming.



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

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### Post-Deyr 2009/2010 Assessment

Findings from the recently completed post-*Deyr* 2009/10 interagency assessment led by FSNAU and FEWSNET, indicates an improving overall food security situation in Somalia. As a result, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and/or livelihood support has decreased by nine percent, from 3.52 million to 3.2 million since July/August 2009. The populations in crisis include 1.25 million people affected by a severe drought, 555,000 urban poor, and 1.39 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). The IDPs represents 40 percent of the people in crisis in Somalia. (See page 2 for further breakdown by region).

The decrease is mainly due to a bumper harvest in the agricultural areas of Southern Somalia which are expected to increase

food availability and accessibility to many households, including the urban poor. In particular, parts of Gedo, Juba, Bay, and the Shabelles have experienced significant improvements in food security. Good rains during the 2009/2010 *Deyr* season have replenished water reservoirs and enhanced rangelands and animal body conditions.

The 2009 *Deyr* cereal production of 124,700 metric tons represents the largest *Deyr* cereal production since the 2001/2002 *Deyr* harvest. This represents a 246 percent increase compared to the 2008 *Deyr* cereal harvest, and a nearly 150 percent increase compared to the 2004-2008 average.

According to FEWSNET, even with the above-average production, Somalia is

currently experiencing exceptionally high cereal prices. This could be attributed to the temporary suspension of WFP food assistance in the South and associated food price speculation by traders, coupled with the collapse of Mogadishu's Bakara cereal market. For example in Qorioley market, Lower Shabelle, compared to the same month last year, sorghum and maize prices increased by 83 and 31 percent respectively, while the price of maize in Bu'aale, Middle Juba region, increased by 15 percent during the same period.

The epicentre of the humanitarian crisis continues to be in Mudug, Galgaduud and Hiraaan regions of Central Somalia, caused by six consecutive seasons of drought. In these regions, 70 percent of the total

Population in Crisis - January-June 2010					
Region	AFLC	HE	Total (AFLC & HE)	Total in AFLC & HE as % of total population	IDPs
North	445,000	80,000	525,000	22%	101,100
Mudug	125,000	100,000	225,000	64%	70,000
Galgaduud	85,000	165,000	250,000	76%	149,000
Hiraan	75,000	165,000	240,000	73%	51,000
Middle Shabelle	160,000	35,000	195,000	38%	52,000
Lower Shabelle	50,000	10,000	60,000	7%	825,000
Bay	30,000	0	30,000	5%	40,000
Bakool	95,000	25,000	120,000	39%	6,000
Gedo	70,000	20,000	90,000	27%	66,000
Middle Juba	5,000	0	5,000	2%	7,000
Lower Juba	10,000	0	10,000	3%	26,000
Banadir	30,000	55,000	85,000	9%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,180,000</b>	<b>655,000</b>	<b>1,835,000</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>1,393,100</b>

**AFLC: Acute Food & Livelihoods Crisis - HE: Humanitarian Emergency - Source: FSNAU & UNHCR**

population are classified as being in crisis. Recent conflict and displacement in these areas has also created a double burden for the drought affected populations who find themselves having to support the displaced, with reduced access to assistance from aid organisations due to insecurity.

The assessment also raised concern about the north as a result of ongoing drought – now its fourth season of below-average rainfall. This has left 290,000 from the pastoral and agro-pastoral populations in crisis and in need of both life-saving and livelihood support to recover from the prolonged crisis.

The national median rate of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) for Somalia based on the October-December nutrition surveys is 16 percent, or 1 in 6 children acutely malnourished with 1 in 22 severe acutely malnourished (SAM). These numbers, although still unacceptably high, represent a slight improvement from six months ago when 19 percent or 1 in 5 children was acutely malnourished. The change is due to a slight reduction of rates in the north. For South Central, however, the median rate remains at 19 percent GAM and 4.5 percent SAM, which means 1 in 5 children is acutely malnourished – unchanged from six months ago.

These rates translate into an estimated 240,000 children under five years of age in

Somalia being acutely malnourished, of which 63,000 are severely malnourished. More than two thirds of these children are located in South Central Somalia, the areas most affected by the current conflict.

The main areas of concern continue to be Central regions (Galgaduud, Mudug and Hiraan) where Critical and Very Critical levels of malnutrition exist in the presence of severe food insecurity. According to FSNAU, humanitarian interventions have possibly prevented deterioration but the populations in these areas remain highly vulnerable to future shocks. Another concern is the IDP populations in Gaalkacyo and the Afgooye Corridor, reporting GAM rates of 23.7 percent and 15.9 percent respectively. The IDPs in these locations are in need of large scale integrated humanitarian response to prevent a further deterioration.

For further details on the food security and nutrition situation – see [www.fsausomali.org](http://www.fsausomali.org) or [www.fews.net/somalia](http://www.fews.net/somalia).

#### **Conflict and Displacement**

The last part of December 2009 and first month of 2010 witnessed some of the worst fighting in South Central Somalia in recent months with devastating consequences for the civilian population. According to UNHCR, nearly 30,000 people were displaced by fighting in Dhuusamarreeb,

Galgaduud region, while another 25,000 people fled their homes to escape renewed clashes in Belet Weyne, Hiraan region. In Mogadishu, approximately 18,000 people were displaced in January. In total, at least 82,000 people were displaced in Somalia – this is the highest displacement figure since June 2009. According to UNHCR records, the fighting resulted in the death of 248 people and another 253 wounded in Central regions alone. This makes January the month with the highest death rates since August 2009.

As of early February, the newly displaced in Dhuusamarreeb and Belet Weyne were slowly returning to their homes as there was a break in the fighting. The situation in the whole of South Central remains tense and more fighting and displacement is expected in the coming months.

In a statement issued on 28 January, following a human rights monitoring mission, Dr. Shamsul Bari, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, described the situation in the country as “extremely serious”, where civilians continue to bear the brunt of the fighting between forces of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Islamist armed groups. Dr Bari added that “the suspension of the humanitarian assistance and the discontinuation of the food distribution, with continuing restrictions

by armed groups to humanitarian access by targeting aid workers violate rights to protection, adequate food, medical care and shelter.”

Dr. Shamsul Bari was appointed Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia by the United Nations Human Rights Council in May 2008.

### New IDP Figures for Afgooye

The most recent (December 2009) population estimates indicate there are 366,000 in the Afgooye corridor, a figure representing a decrease in the estimated figure of 524,000 in August 2009. It is important to emphasise that the new figure does not reflect a decrease in the number of IDPs arriving in Afgooye, but rather represents an increase in the accuracy of the methodology used to estimate numbers. This brings the total estimated number of IDPs in Somalia to 1.39 million.

Previous IDP assessments along the corridor have been met with a number of challenges including exaggerated figures, human error and lack of access. IDPs are not formally registered in Somalia and estimates on the population numbers are based on reports provided by NGO partners, and community leaders, among

### Of Note:

- ❑ The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Ould Abdallah, briefed the UN Security Council on Somalia on 14 January and made five recommendations: a coordinated and unified political process under the Djibouti Agreement; strong and full support to the TFG; enhanced support for the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM); management of external and internal spoilers; and finally, establishment of an integrated UN mission in order to improve coherence of UN activities in Somalia.
- ❑ On 28 January, the United Nations Security Council authorized AMISOM to stay in Somalia for another year until 31 January 2011. The 15-member body also requested UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to continue providing logistical support to AMISOM, and technical and expert advice to the AU in planning and deploying the mission.
- ❑ In a press statement issued on 20 January, Amnesty International (AI) called for the suspension of arms transfers to the Somali government until there are adequate safeguards to prevent weapons from being used to commit war crimes and human rights abuses. AI's Deputy Director for Africa, Michelle Kagari, added that, "International concern for the future of the Somali government has not been matched by an equal concern for the human rights of civilians."
- ❑ According to UNHCR, 74,000 people crossed the Gulf of Aden from Somalia and Djibouti to Yemen in 2009. This is a 50 percent increase compared to 2008. At least 309 died during the crossing this year. Roughly 32,000 of the 2009 refugees were Somalis, about the same number as in 2008, while 42,000 were Ethiopians, double the 2008 figure. Around 150,000 Somali refugees currently live in Yemen.

others. Because of the insecurity in many areas hosting IDPs and the consequent inaccessibility of the area, figures reported

are difficult to verify. The humanitarian community is therefore relying on remote technology, such as satellite images to obtain estimates.

### Humanitarian Access

High levels of insecurity and direct targeting of humanitarian workers and assets continue to impede humanitarian response efforts, resulting in reduced access and the delay and/or suspension of relief operations.

On 3 January, WFP suspended its work in much of Southern Somalia due to escalating threats and attacks against its staff, and unacceptable demands by armed groups controlling the area.

Delivery of food assistance is expected to continue in Mogadishu and along the Afgooye Corridor. Operations are also continuing in northern areas and in much of Central Somalia. WFP still aims to feed 1.8 million people – two thirds of its 2010 beneficiary caseload in Somalia - in areas where its operations are continuing as normal. The agency is expected to resume full operation once the security conditions on the ground allow.

According to a joint UN review, the humanitarian consequences of the WFP suspension are expected to be limited in the



Child Health Days (CHDs) in Mogadishu, December 2009 - Photo Courtesy: UNICEF

short term (January-March). Even before the suspension, WFP had planned only limited distributions in the south during the *Deyr* harvest (January-February). However, areas of particular concern include North Gedo, which is largely aid dependent, Hiraan, and the Afgooye Corridor.

Nutrition programming is an immediate concern in several areas, and the WFP suspension will reduce nutrition coverage in certain critical areas. Several humanitarian organisations are looking to increase nutrition activities in the affected areas.

There is potential displacement related to the WFP suspension. The UN roughly estimates that, through to the end of March, 65,000 people could move internally and externally in a most likely case scenario and 130,000 people could move in a worst case scenario. These projections look at the impact of the WFP suspension only and not conflict or other likely causes of displacement.

In December, ACF announced they will discontinue their humanitarian activities in Galgaduud region. The decision was taken after a comprehensive assessment of their presence in the region following the kidnapping of four of their staff in November 2008 in Dhuusamarreeb. The staff were released in October 2009. ACF has been engaged with other organisations in order to assess if their humanitarian activities (mainly in the field of nutrition) in the area can be continued by others. Elsewhere in Somalia, the organisation intends to enlarge its current level of assistance in 2010.

Direct and targeted attacks on aid workers

continued. In the he last two weeks of December, two aid-related workers were killed in Somalia. These murders bring the number of aid-related workers killed in Somalia in 2009 to ten.

In January the body of a man who was working with a local NGO was found abandoned on a road in Mogadishu. The NGO is the main implementer of the wet feeding programme (cooked meals) in Mogadishu. The programme feeds some 80,000 people everyday.

#### The Child Health Days

The Child Health Days (CHDs) campaign that started in Mogadishu in November 2009 reached 288,639 children under five years old and 296,265 women of child-bearing age in all the 16 districts of the city. This is the first time the campaign has been implemented in Mogadishu. In the first round of the campaign in early 2009, Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle regions, and Kismayo district were not reached due to lack of access caused by insecurity. More than 1 million children under five years old and 800,000 women of child-bearing age (84 percent of children and 55 percent of women) were reached in other parts of the country. During the second round, which began in August 2009, a total of 955,699 children and 770,200 women were reached in North West and North Eastern and parts of South Central regions.

UNICEF, WHO and partners aim to reach 1.5 million children and 1.2 million women countrywide in each round.

#### Funding Update

The 2009 Somalia Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) was 64 percent funded, having received \$ 542 million of the \$852 million requested.

In 2009, the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) allocated \$10 million to 52 projects benefiting nearly 2.5 million people in all regions of Somalia. Some 74 percent of HRF-funding went to South Central Somalia, 24 percent to Puntland and 2 percent to Somaliland. More than half of the funding, 53.3 percent, went to WASH activities followed by livelihoods (17%) and health (14.1%).

A total of \$60.5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was allocated to Somalia. Of this amount, some \$33.2 million were allocated in the end of December 2009 and will be used in 2010.

Given the difficult funding environment in 2009, pooled funding ended up being a crucial element for the continuation of relief aid in Somalia: CERF and HRF combined represented the second-largest funding channel for humanitarian organizations, with the US being the largest and ECHO the third-largest.

The US\$ 689 million 2010 CAP for Somalia was five percent funded as of early February 2010.

#### HRF Projects approved December 2009 - January 2010

Agency	Project	Amount US\$	Region/Districts	Beneficiaries
Concern	WASH response	229,942	Lower Shabelle	59,390
ADA	Emergency Integrated Cash for Work and Productive Assets Rehabilitation Project	121,445	Gedo	8,230
Islamic Relief	Continuing Emergency Water Trucking in Xawa Abdi IDP Settlement	24,726	Afgooye/Lower Shabelle	22,572
WARDI	Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in Belet Weyne Town	38,350	Hiraan	13,020
INTERSOS	Emergency Support to Health Center	150,381	Middle Shabelle	48,200
CISP	Emergency Drought Relief for newly displaced people in Dhuusamarreeb town	13,105	Galgaduud	1,627
<b>Total</b>		<b>577,949</b>		<b>153,039</b>