



UNITED NATIONS  
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# Somalia Humanitarian Overview

Vol. 1 Issue 9 - September 2008

## Main Developments

- ❑ The security situation in Mogadishu continued to deteriorate during the month of September. In the four-day period between 21-24 September, an estimated 16,000 people were displaced, more than 80 civilians were killed and at least 110 wounded following fierce fighting in the city. Despite the security situation, aid organisations were scaling-up their response efforts for the newly displaced.
- ❑ Canada extended its naval escorts for WFP food shipments, set to end on 27 September, until 23 October. In a statement released on 25 September, WFP welcomed the decision of the extension saying, "Millions of hungry people face a total break in their humanitarian food supply due to the scourge of pirates attacking ships."
- ❑ Despite the dangerous journey, the number of Somalis trying to cross the Gulf of Aden to Yemen continues to increase. In September, more than 100 Somalis seeking security and better opportunities died while attempting the journey.
- ❑ The US\$646 million 2008 CAP for Somalia was 65% funded as of end September. However, there were extreme variations in funding levels between sectors, ranging from as little as 16% for health to 92% for food aid.
- ❑ The International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia met for the first time under the chairmanship of the UN Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, on 16 September in Djibouti. The ICG condemned the continuing violence in Somalia which overwhelmingly affects civilians, particularly women and children.



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

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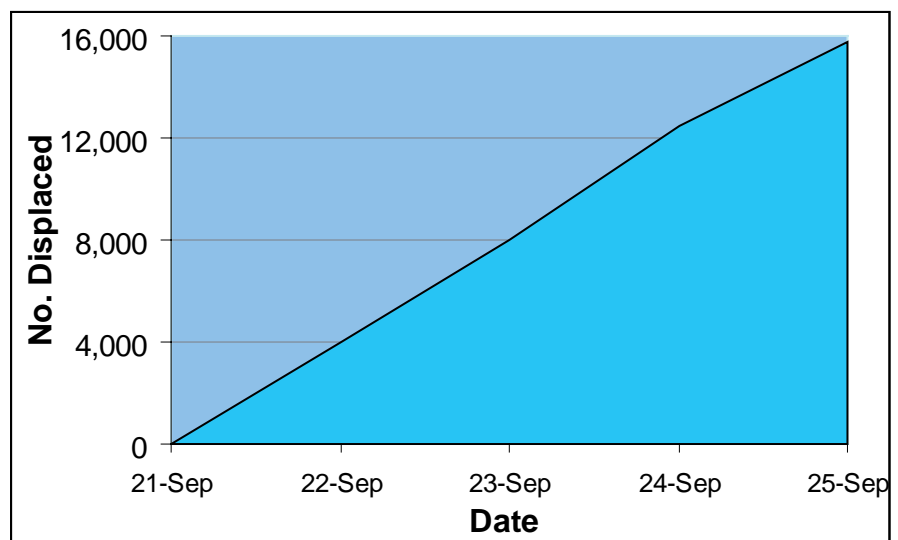
At least 80 civilians died and more than 110 others were wounded in fighting that erupted after an attack on African Union troops by insurgents in late September. The two main surgical referral hospitals in Mogadishu reported that at least 110 wounded people were admitted during the four-day period from 21-24 September. The fighting was triggered by the landing of two aircraft at Mogadishu airport on 19 and 20 September in defiance of a ban on use of the airport imposed by Al Shabaab on 16 September. The districts most affected by the fighting were Hodan, Hawl Wadaag, Waaberi and Wadajir where economic activities were disrupted as people fled for safety.

According to the UNHCR's Population Monitoring Tracking, an estimated 16,000 people were displaced by the fighting. The displaced moved to safer districts within the city, while others fled to the Afgooye corridor, joining more than 300,000 IDPs. Some fled to neighboring districts of Marka, Qoryooley and Jowhar in the Shebelle regions. The newly displaced are in need of shelter materials and food assistance. The recent fighting and the closure of the airport has added to the already bleak living conditions in Mogadishu. Mogadishu Airport was the

lifeline for many of the remaining residents in the city. Normally, at least five commercial flights arrive and depart on a weekly basis to and from the rest of Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti and Dubai.

Despite insecurity there has been no break in ongoing assistance programmes.

Humanitarian organisations stepped up their response for the displaced and vulnerable population in and around Mogadishu following the fighting. WFP and partners distributed food aid to the newly displaced. WFP also reported they are transporting more food to the outskirts of Mogadishu. Hospitals and health clinics have been supplied with



Cumulative Number Of People Displaced From Mogadishu - Source: UNHCR

additional drugs and supplies. UNICEF together with local partners distributed non-food items (NFIs) to 8,000 families.

In a statement on 26 September the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mark Bowden, called on all parties to respect international humanitarian law and cease indiscriminate attacks on civilians neighbourhoods and allow humanitarian access wherever assistance is required. "I strongly condemn the actions which have led to an unacceptable number of civilian casualties and massive displacement," said Mr. Bowden. "Tragically, ordinary Somali citizens, who have no part in the violence, continue to bear the brunt of conflict and insecurity in the country."

The number of civilian war-wounded continued to increase. Reports confirm that from the beginning of January 2008, more than 2,000 war-wounded were admitted to Medina and Keysane hospitals, and given the current level of violence, the number is expected to increase.

The Mogadishu-based Elman Peace and Human Rights Organisation released a report on 16 September stating that nearly 9,500 civilians have been killed in Somalia since early 2007. Of these, 838 were killed between June and August this year. Following the release of the report, unknown armed groups confiscated files and computers of the organisation in Mogadishu.

### Population Movements

Mogadishu was not the only source of conflict-induced displacement in the country in September. Insecurity and fear of clashes displaced a large group of people in Kismayo, Ceel Waaq (Gedo region) and Belet Weyne. In Belet Weyne during the second week of September an estimated 7,000 IDPs of the 70,000 displaced in July returned following the withdrawal of the Ethiopian forces.

While most of the population movement and displacement is taking place within Somalia, many are making their way out of Somalia. As seasonal storms in the Gulf of Aden subsided an increasing number of

asylum-seekers (mainly Somalis) have arrived on the Yemeni coast. On 11 September, at least 29 migrants drowned after smugglers forced passengers to jump out of a crowded boat. Again on 15 September, more than 50 people drowned after a similar incident. According to UNHCR, more than 28,000 people, including 19,071 Somalis, have taken the dangerous sea journey to Yemen so far this year. An estimated 366 people have died during the journey, and another 239 are missing. At the same time last year, there were 16,000 arrivals.

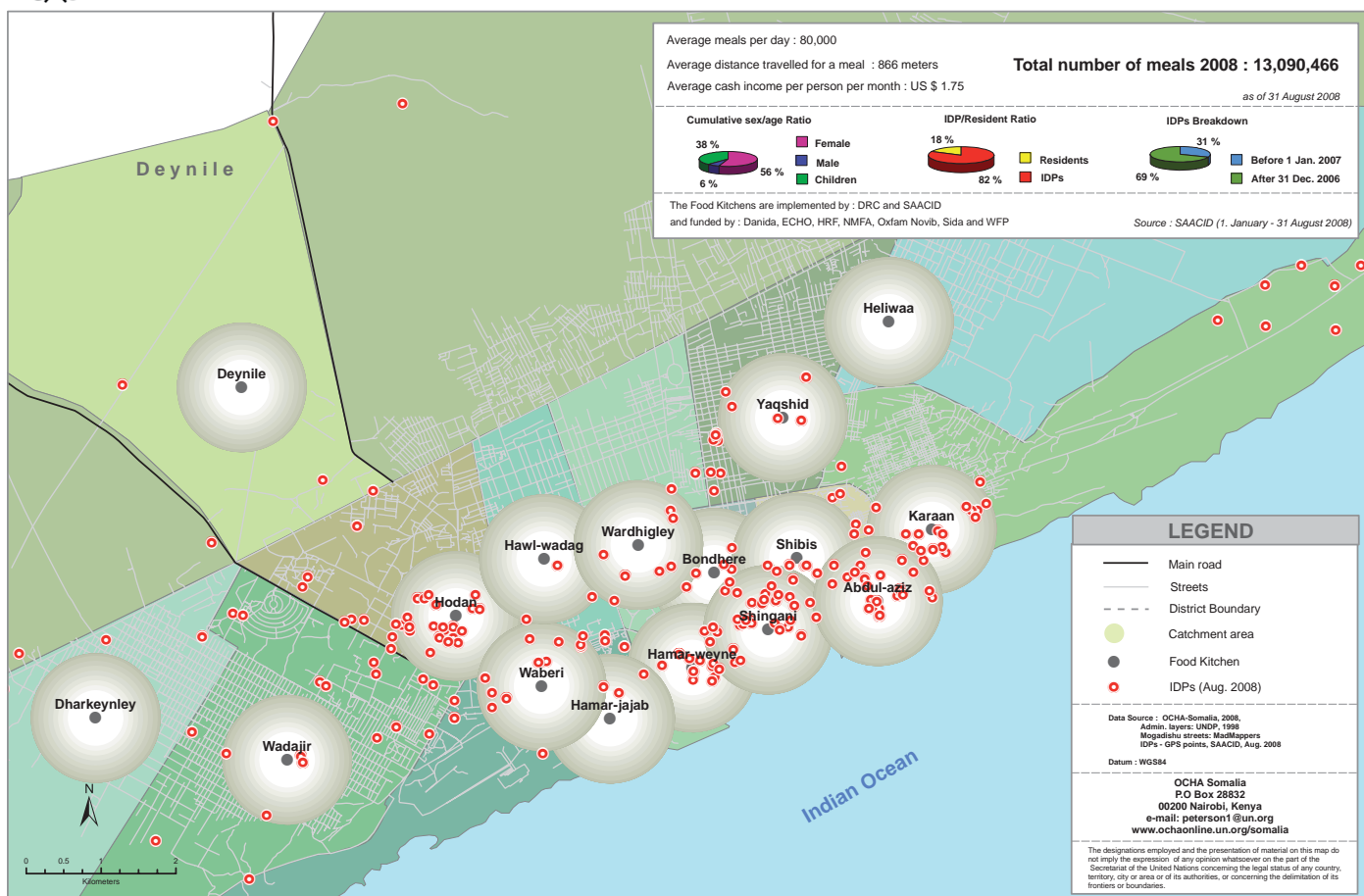
UNHCR also reported that since the beginning of the year, more than 45,000 people had been registered in Dadaab Refugee Camp, Kenya, of whom 96% had arrived from Somalia. There are another 6,000 persons awaiting registration, a majority of whom arrived in August and September. On average, 5,000 refugees are arriving from Somalia every month. The population in Dadaab Camp is now hosting more than 215,000 refugees – a 25% increase since the beginning of the year and more than twice



UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

## SOMALIA - MOGADISHU - Emergency Food Kitchen Programme

September 2008



Mogadishu city is divided into 16 districts. The emergency food kitchen programme was launched in November 2007, is implemented by NGO SAACID and supported by WFP, DRC, HRF, SIDA and DANIDA. The programme provides cooked meals to urban poor and IDPs in all districts of Mogadishu. On a daily basis, some 80,000 meals are provided. An estimated 96% of the beneficiaries are women and children and an increasing number of IDPs from Afgooye corridor travel back to Mogadishu to benefit from the meals.

its intended population. Most of the Somalis arriving in the camp are from Mogadishu. Others are from Lower Juba regions of Kismayo, Jamame and Afmadow. The recent influx has worsened the overcrowding in the camp. UNHCR Kenya, together with the Kenya Government, is planning to expand the camp as well as improve the refugees access to social services.

#### Floods and Drought

On 4 and 5 September, Banadir and the Shabelle regions experienced torrential rains lasting over 48 hours. Nine people, including four children, were killed. Roads and an estimated 66 houses in Marka were destroyed by the rains and movement and trading activities were disrupted. IDPs along the Afgooye corridor appealed for assistance to rebuild shelters and requested blankets. On a positive note, the rains will benefit farmers who rely on rain-fed agriculture. Concern World Wide distributed US\$100 to 151 affected families in Marka .

WHO reported an increase of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases in Marka district since August 2008. As of 24 September, 239 cases have been admitted with moderate to severe dehydration and four related deaths of patients under the age of five years. WHO together with local partners are responding to the outbreak.

While some southern parts of the country

#### Somali Refugees in the region - As of August 2008

Country of Asylum	Number of Somali Refugees
Kenya	227,453
Yemen	120,204
Ethiopia	28,302
Djibouti	7,956
Uganda	6,291
Eritrea	4,753
Tanzania	1,502

Source: UNHCR

experienced heavy rains, the central and northern parts reported a deepening drought. In Mudug region, a large number of pastoral communities have gathered in Jariban district and may overstretch the already limited water sources in the area.

#### Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian assistance continued despite the challenging security conditions during the month. In Afgooye, food aid was distributed to 326,000 IDPs. An average of 80,000 people, mainly women and children, are receiving cooked rations daily from 16 kitchens in Mogadishu. In total in September, food aid organizations distributed monthly

food rations to nearly 3 million people. The Canadian naval escort for WFP food shipments, set to end on 27 September, was extended to 23 October. Since the escort started on 18 August, three WFP contracted vessels with a total of 18,000 metric tons of food aid, have arrived safely in Mogadishu. Some 90% of food shipments to Somalia go by sea and 150,000 mt is planned to be shipped between October and the end of the year. Without the escorts, a critical pipeline will be interrupted.

More than 140,000 children between the ages of nine months to 15 years were vaccinated against measles in the latest campaign carried out in Mogadishu and Afgooye IDP settlements



Floods in Marka town, September 2008 - Credit: OCHA

between 27 August and 4 September 2008. The campaign was supported by UNICEF and implemented by a local NGO, Jumbo Peace and Development Organization, in collaboration with local communities. About 95% of the total population under 15 was targeted. Some 105 vaccination teams undertook the exercise through 85 fixed locations and 20 mobile set-ups in and around Mogadishu as well as the IDP camps along the Afgooye corridor. Measles is a public health problem in Somalia and a significant cause of childhood mortality. Somalia has one of the highest infant and under-five mortality rates in the world at 86 per 1000 children and 135 per 1000 live births respectively. Routine measles vaccination coverage is only about 19% for the whole country. This latest measles campaign is a follow-up of the national campaign in 2007 that reached 450,000 children aged nine months to 15 years. This earlier campaign resulted in measles cases plummeting from 3,836 during the first half of 2006 to 564 cases during the same period in 2007 with only seven deaths reported for the first half of 2007.

In September, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), distributed NFIs to 60,000 IDPs in 10 of the 16 districts in Mogadishu. The NFI kit consists of one tarpaulin, one kitchen set, two blankets, one jerry can, two sets of adult clothes, two set of children's clothes and one sleeping mat. As the remaining districts still need NFI interventions, ICRC is calling upon other humanitarian agencies operating in Mogadishu to fill this gap. In Buale, Middle Juba region, ICRC distributed essential household items and tarpaulins benefiting 1,100 IDP families. Another 1,100 and 1,000 families in Sakow, Middle Juba and Dinsor, Bay region, also benefited from the same kit.

Save the Children UK (SCUK), continued to deliver water to 87,318 IDPs and residents (14,553 households) in and around Belet Weyne. Each person is getting at least five litres of water per day. The project, which will run for 30 days, is supported by the Humanitarian Response Fund. In addition, SCUK distributed soap to 9,323 households as well as 299,880 aqua-tabs used for purifying drinking water to prevent waterborne diseases. SCUK is also constructing at least 333 latrines that will benefit 18,176 IDPs in and around Belet Weyne.

#### Humanitarian Access

The deteriorating security situation in the country continues to slow down humanitarian deliveries and is affecting humanitarian organizations' ability to support populations in need. In September, the some of the field activities of International Medical Corps

(IMC) were suspended in Bay and Bakool by insurgents groups in control of the area. No reason for the suspension was provided. IMC had been implementing crucial nutrition and health activities in four districts of Bakool and Bay regions, including health facilities, supplementary feeding centres (SFP) and several outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP). Suspension of these life-saving activities are a major set back in the response to the severe nutrition situation in these two regions.

On 3 September, 35 trucks transporting WFP assorted food commodities were caught in crossfire between Bakool regional forces and TFG forces at a checkpoint in Baidoa, Bay region. Two people died and one was wounded.

Two WFP staff members were abducted on 14 September in Middle Shabelle region, and were later released the same day. The motive for the abduction was not clear. On 13 September, an armed group attacked and looted a truck loaded with food aid commodities for the cooked meals programme in Mogadishu implemented by the NGO SAACID. With interventions from community elders some of the food items were later recovered. Again on 25 September, armed groups ambushed a convoy of trucks ferrying 1,230 mt of WFP food for Bakool region. One truck was looted. The incident took place at Balcad, 30km north of Mogadishu as the convoy was heading to Bakool region.

On 8 September, two Koranic school teachers were shot and three students injured in Mogadishu by unknown gunmen. The United Nations and NGOs working in the education sector issued a statement condemning the incident. "School premises must be respected as safe and protective environments for children and young people. Such attacks are

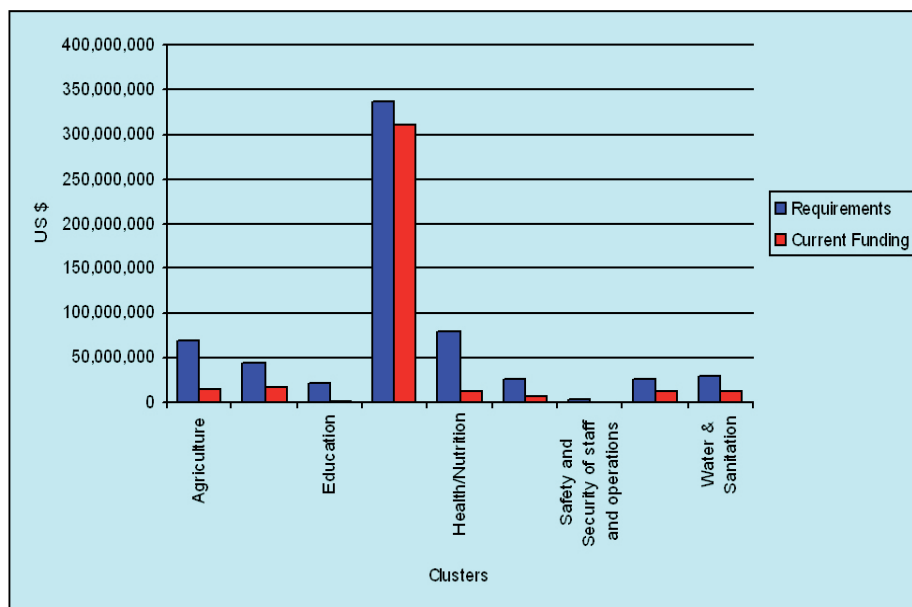
a violation of children's rights and a breach of international treaties, conventions and Somali norms and values," they said. The agencies appealed to traditional leaders, religious groups and other stakeholders to ensure the protection of children and teachers and the safety of school facilities.

#### Funding Update

The US\$646 million 2008 CAP for Somalia was 65% funded as of end September. However, there are major variations in funding levels between sectors, ranging from as little as 9% for education to 92% for food aid. Some key sectors, such as health (16%), nutrition (29%) and safety & security for staff (8%), need urgent attention if the humanitarian community is to undertake an integrated response and maintain the current level of operations. With only 8% of the security sector funded this is a major concern since it has a direct impact on the provision of assistance on the ground

Education is another critical sector, with only 9% of the requirements covered so far, effectively denying education opportunities for children who have been subjected to multiple displacement and other disasters.

Over 100 project proposals have been reviewed by the HRF so far this year, and a total of US\$11.4 million has been disbursed to 43 projects benefiting an estimated 2.1 million beneficiaries in all regions of Somalia. Of the funded projects, the UN received allocations for six projects while international NGOs received funding for 28 projects to be implemented either directly or in partnership with national NGO. The remaining nine projects were initiated by national Somali NGOs.



2008 CAP Funding Status - Source: OCHA