



UNITED NATIONS

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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – SOMALIA

Situation Report # 33 - 22 August, 2008

Main developments

This week, the United Nations is mourning the death of another of its humanitarian workers. A WFP staff member was kidnapped and later killed in Diinsoor, Bay region, on 15 August. The WFP Executive Director expressed shock and sadness at the killing in a press statement issued on 18 August. A total of 23 aid-related workers have lost their lives since January 2008.

The level of insecurity in Somalia is limiting humanitarian space by the day. World Vision International temporarily relocated its international staff members from Waajid, Bakool region, following the killing of a national staff member on 12 August. He was caught in a shootout between two militia groups.

Civilians continue to be the victims of the conflict in Somalia. In Belet Weyne, fierce fighting erupted when the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) attacked Ethiopian bases on 16 August. Approximately 11 civilians were killed and more than 60 wounded. An unconfirmed number of people were displaced from their homes adding to the estimated 70,000 displaced in the past month. On 20 August, two hand grenades were hurled at Ethiopian soldiers, reportedly killing one person and wounding three others, creating more tension in the town.

During the week, more than 50 civilians died as fighting between Ethiopian/Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces and insurgents continued. The killings resulted from indiscriminate shelling by Ethiopian/TFG forces following the explosion of three roadside bombs. At Arbiska, along the Afoooye road, more than 40 civilians, mostly Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), were killed on 15 August. Water trucking activities, that assist more than 300,000 IDPs in the area, were reportedly disrupted following the incident. Also in Afoooye, 13 civilians were killed and more than 20 injured on 16 August. In Mogadishu's KM4, Hodan district, five people, including a child, were killed on 15 August.

In the town of Kismayo, Lower Juba, tension was reportedly high on 20 August following fighting between ICU and local militia, allegedly in control of the town. An unconfirmed number of people were killed and dozens wounded.

Response targeting three IDP settlements in Bossaso, Puntland, affected by fires in the past month, took place on 18 August. Equipment, including wheel barrows, shovels and forks, was distributed to collect the debris of burnt shelters, in preparation for rebuilding. During the week, WFP distributed 278 metric tons of assorted food to 2,877 people through a Food for Work programme in Mudug region. Tuberculosis patients in Bossaso Hospital, Garowe, and Mercy centres in Puntland benefited from the same distribution.

Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) 2009

The CAP consultations for South Central were held in Nairobi on 21 August due to security constraints in-country. An estimated 80 participants contributed to discussions on: scenarios for 2009, including possible variations of environment; impact on populations and on humanitarian actors; Humanitarian Response in 2008 and outlining priorities for 2009; improving access to vulnerable populations in 2009; and ways to adapt assistance to the changing environment.

Consultations for Puntland will take place on 28 August in Garowe. A final workshop will take place in Nairobi on 8 and 9 September primarily to finalise scenarios, priorities and implementation strategies for 2009. Following this workshop, clusters will work on response plans and agencies on project sheets.