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# Somalia Humanitarian Overview

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## Main Developments

- ❑ In October, fighting over control of territories outside Mogadishu escalated. The month was marked by numerous clashes in south central Somalia causing civilian casualties and displacement. In total 20,900 people were displaced country-wide, mainly from Belet Xaawo (Gedo), Mogadishu, Belet Weyne (Hiraan) and Rab Dhuure (Bakool). More fighting is expected in the coming months.
- ❑ Mogadishu was not the main source of conflict-induced displacement in October unlike in previous months. Belet Xaawo town recorded the highest displacement with 60 to 80 per cent of the town's residents forced to flee following clashes between pro-government forces and Al Shabaab. The majority of the displaced crossed the Kenyan border to Mandera town.
- ❑ Clusters have revised their contingency plans in the event of increased conflict and displacement. Nonetheless, as the recent events in Belet Xaawo demonstrated, limited access continues to constrain humanitarian response.
- ❑ On 28 October, two young Somali women accused of spying for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) were publicly executed by Al Shabaab in Belet Weyne town. The UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, strongly condemned the execution stating that "The public summary execution of these two young women, with no recourse for legal defence protection, is a horrific act which demonstrates the extremists' complete disregard for human life, particularly of the vulnerable."
- ❑ The start of the *Deyr* rains (October-December) is delayed in south and central Somalia with the exception of patchy and localised showers in parts of Bakool, Bay and Gedo regions. Though it is still too early to predict the overall outcome of the *Deyr* rains, this late and below normal start has raised concerns. Medium range forecasts continue to suggest a below-normal rainy season due to the impact of the current *La Niña* weather phenomenon.
- ❑ Hardly any new funding has been received for the 2010 Consolidated Appeal (CAP) in the past three months. As of early November, the Somalia 2010 CAP was 62 per cent funded. The CAP was 60 per cent funded in August. To date, US\$367 million has been received out of the \$596 million requested. Funding levels vary from cluster to cluster with key life-saving clusters such as Water Sanitation & Hygiene, Health, and Nutrition all less than 50 per cent funded.
- ❑ The preparations for the second standard allocation of the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) are ongoing. The allocations will take place in February 2011. Two guidance notes on the allocation providing details on the timeline and process as well as individual project submission requirements have been prepared. The CHF is a strategic fund that provides support to high-priority under-funded projects in the CAP through a twice-yearly allocation process.



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

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18 October. Most of the displaced fled to Mandera town in northern Kenya. Only small numbers of families moved to rural villages in Somalia. Displacement figures were unclear as of early November. Various assessments estimate that 65 to 80 per cent of the estimated 15,000 residents in Belet Xaawo have been displaced. In Belet Aamin settlement, the estimated number of displaced was 1,000 to 2,000.

The only confirmed figure available is the number of displaced registered by Kenyan Immigration Office and UNHCR at Border Point 1 (BP1) of 7,100 people (mostly women, children and elderly). BP1 is some 500 meters inside the Kenyan border.

Due to security concerns, UNHCR is urging the Kenyan Government to allow the relocation of the displaced at BP1 into Kenya as soon as possible. A suitable site called Garbakole, some 11km inside Kenya,

### Belet Xaawo (Gedo region)

The civilian population in Belet Xaawo district was hard hit by the recent upscale in fighting for control of territory in south central Somalia. On 17 October, fighting broke out between pro-government forces and Al Shabaab in Malkaariyey village 7km north of Belet Xaawo town in Gedo region.

The same day, the pro-government forces took control of Belet Xaawo town without major confrontation. No civilian casualties were reported during the fighting.

Residents in Belet Xaawo and Belet Aamin (see map on page 2) started to flee on

# GEDO REGION - Conflict and Displacements

as of October 2010



### LEGEND

-  Area of Origin
-  IDP Concentration Area
-  Clash Area

-  Regional capital
-  District capital
-  District boundary
-  Regional boundary
-  International boundary

Creation Date: 29/10/2010  
 Projection/Datum: Geographic/WGS 84  
 Web Resources: <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia>  
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 Nominal Scale at A4 paper size: 1:1,450,000



Map data sources:  
 IDP Data: ASEP, NAPAD, IDF, GPC  
 All Admin. layers: UNDP Somalia (1998)

**Disclaimers:**  
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has been identified but permission from the Kenyan government to begin moving the displaced was still pending as of early November.

International NGOs operating in the area reported that they had the capacity to scale up humanitarian response through their local Somali partners and could cover most of the identified water, shelter, food, and health needs. So far, only limited assistance has reached the newly displaced within the Somali border due to access constraints. Aid workers have not been able to move around easily due to security concerns. For instance, on 28 October, a truck belonging to one INGO was shot at while delivering supplies to the displaced at BP1. The incident resulted in a temporary suspension but aid delivery resumed the next day.

On 29 October, the pro-government forces left Belet Xaawo and the day the town was recaptured by Al Shabaab. As of 1 November, the situation in the area remained tense and unpredictable. Most of the displaced are expected to return to Belet Xaawo as soon as the security situation stabilises.

The recent fighting has also impacted the economic activities of the whole of Gedo region. During the last two weeks of October, commercial trucks travelling from Mogadishu via Baidoa to Gedo region

### Of Note:

- ❑ On 18 October, Amnesty International (AI) expressed concerns about the widespread violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, including war crimes, and the dire humanitarian situation that civilians face in south central Somalia. According to AI, civilians are at high risk of being killed and injured in indiscriminate attacks by all parties to the internal armed conflict, and as a result of a situation of generalized violence and collapse of the rule of law. In addition, certain categories of persons also face targeted attacks, including unlawful killings, torture and other ill treatment, abductions, death threats and harassment. In areas where there is currently no fighting, civilians bear the brunt of arbitrary and repressive rules, violating their human rights, enforced by armed Islamist groups.
- ❑ WHO says that lack of skilled health workers in Somalia is hampering the delivery of much needed health services. There has been a massive brain drain of skilled health workers during the long-standing conflict in the country. Currently, Somalia has only around 250 qualified doctors, 860 nurses and just 116 midwives. This comes to a mere 0.11 health workers per 1,000 people, well below the 0.23 threshold required to conduct essential health care services, such as maternal care and ensure adequate immunisation coverage.
- ❑ As of October, WFP ceased general food distributions in Somaliland due to good rains received during the Gu season (April – June) throughout the region. The focus is being shifted to increasing food-for-assets projects to take advantage of the gains over the past two seasons.

are reported to have stopped at Baidoa for fear of being caught in the fight. They also stopped due to heavy rains that have rendered roads impassable. This may lead to an increase in food prices in Belet Xaawo that could jeopardise the coping mechanisms of the local population.

### Conflict and Displacement Elsewhere

In addition to the situation in Belet Xaawo, fighting for control of territory occurred in Ceel Gaal town near Belet Weyne (Hiraan region). At least 1,500 people were displaced by the fighting. In Bakool region, heavy fighting erupted in Rab Dhuure town between Al Shabaab and pro-government forces. An unknown number of people were displaced. In Belet Weyne, tension remained high as there was fear of possible clashes between pro-government forces and Al Shabaab. The situation in the Juba regions was also tense with increasing military build-up of various factions.

Field reports state that more clashes are expected in south central Somalia in the coming weeks and months. From a humanitarian perspective, besides Mogadishu, Belet Weyne town is most worrying due to the size of the town with the population estimated at nearly 100,000.



A family fleeing Belet Xaawo town with a hired donkey cart - 19 October 2010 - Photo credit: NAPAD

In 2008, brief fighting in the area caused the displacement of more than 70,000 people for nearly two months.

The clusters have revised contingency plans in the event of increased fighting but humanitarian access will remain a major challenge for response.

Fighting continued in Mogadishu but at a much lower intensity compared to previous months. According to UNHCR, displacements within and from the city also reduced from 16,800 in September to 13,300 in October. Of the total displacements in October, 8,200 have left Mogadishu while 5,100 have relocated to relatively safer areas in Mogadishu.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that the number of war-wounded patients in ICRC-supported hospitals in Mogadishu has sharply increased since 2009. The two referral hospitals for war casualties in the city – Keysaney and Medina – admitted 5,000 such patients from January through September 2010. Among them were 1,900 women and children. During the same period last year, a total of 4,000 war-wounded patients, including 1,100 women and children, were admitted to the two hospitals. These figures represent an increase of 25 per cent in the total number of war casualties – and 72 per cent in the number of war-wounded women and children – admitted to the hospitals.

#### Abduction and Release of Aid Workers

On 14 October, an international and a Somali national working with Save the Children were taken by armed gunmen from a guesthouse compound in Cadaado, Galgaduud region, a Somali town near the Ethiopian border. A statement issued on 15 October by the organisation said that the mission was assessing the feasibility of starting a humanitarian programme to help malnourished and sick children and their families in the area when the incident occurred. The Somali national was released on 16 October and the international was released three days later. The release was negotiated by the local Himin and Heeb Administration.

#### Food Security Outlook

According to Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET), the start of the *Deyr* rains (October-December) is delayed in south and central Somalia with the exception of patchy and localised showers in parts of Hiraan, Bakool, Bay and Gedo regions. In central regions of Mudug and Galgaduud, there were few showers with limited impact on water

and pasture resources. Though it is still too early to predict the overall outcome of the *Deyr* rains, this late and below normal start in south central is of increased concern. Medium range forecasts continue to suggest a below-normal season due to the impact of the current *La Niña*.

The situation looks more promising in northern Somalia. Most regions of northwest Somalia received early *Deyr* rains in September. Well-distributed, light or moderate rains were received in Sahil, most of Awdal and Galbeed regions and parts of Hawd zone of Togdheer region. In parts of northeast, localised, low intensity precipitation was reported over pockets of Gabi valley and some parts of Sool plateau in Laasqoray and Qardho districts, as well as in the Hawd of Gaalkacyo and Burtinle districts. These initial rains have replenished water sources and improved grazing,

especially in the northwest.

#### Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)

The preparations for the second standard allocation of the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) are ongoing. The allocations will take place in February 2011. Two guidance notes on the allocation providing details of the timeline and process as well as individual project submission requirements have been prepared and shared with the humanitarian community. Subsequent information sessions with the clusters and the Somalia IASC will be held between November and January to facilitate a smooth second allocation process. The CHF is a strategic fund that provides support to high-priority under-funded projects in the CAP through a twice-yearly allocation process. All information on CHF can be found on <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/chf>.

#### Key Humanitarian Deliveries - October 2010

- ❑ **Food Assistance:** In October, WFP delivered 6,885 metric tons of assorted food to 647,448 beneficiaries in Somalia through general food distribution, food-for-work/training, school feeding and nutrition programmed. Food distribution for October achieved 74 percent of WFP's distribution plan for the month. Some 40 per cent of the beneficiaries were in Mogadishu and Afgooye, 37 per cent in central region, 13 per cent in Puntland and 10 per cent in Somaliland. *(Note: these figures are preliminary estimates due to the early issuing of the current overview)*
- ❑ **Health:** From 14 to 21 October, WHO provided on-the-job training on surgical repair of obstetric fistula in Baidoa Hospital. Somalia health workers assisted in conducting 14 operations, including 11 cases of fistula. Fistula is often caused by a prolonged and early childbirth.
- ❑ **Health:** At Gaalkacyo, Hospital on-the-job training was provided to 63 health workers including three doctors and 50 nurses covering emergency medical services. The training is part of a package of activities carried out by WHO Somalia to improve access to emergency medical services for populations living in conflict-affected areas. Emergency medical services in south central Somalia struggle with few trained health workers and insufficient supplies. Health workers often lack specialised training in trauma management and often do not get the opportunity to receive training on medial and surgical advances. The recent intensified fighting puts a further burden on the already weak health system.
- ❑ **Education:** In October, UNICEF and partners launched a three-week in-service teacher training for 146 primary school teachers of whom 30 are female from 32 schools in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region. Participants are expected to gain knowledge and skills about teaching techniques, psychosocial care and life-skills in education which will benefit 7,451 children, 3,780 of them girls. Teaching and learning materials were distributed to 13 emergency affected schools in Bay and Bakool for 1,320 children of whom 431 are girls. These schools were recently damaged by windstorm which removed roofing from the schools and also destroyed some school supplies that were temporarily kept in the store.
- ❑ **Logistics:** In September (October figures not available yet), the United Nations Humanitarian Aid Services (UNHAS) provided air services to 48 agencies including 14 UN, 33 NGOs and one diplomatic mission. It flew a total of 1,011 passengers and 19,172 kgs of humanitarian cargo from Kenya to Somalia and within Somalia. It operated 128 flights with 212 flight hours covering 46,858 Nautical Miles.