

Key Overall Developments

According to the Famine Early Warning Network (FEWSNET), the 2009 *Deyr* rains (October – December) began in late September/early October in many pastoral areas in the north, north east and pockets in central regions of Somalia. This indicates an early onset of the much-needed rains and they are expected to ease the effects of the drought in many parts of Somalia. The rain forecast for the coming week indicates moderate to heavy rains especially in the Ethiopian highlands. This may increase the Shabelle and Juba river levels, which could result in localized flooding, especially in areas with weak river embankments. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is facilitating a Flood Contingency Planning process in response to forecasts of possible flooding. To-date, WASH, Health, Food, and Agriculture and Livelihoods clusters have produced draft contingency plans.

During the week, WHO confirmed two Cholera cases in Banadir hospital in Mogadishu. WHO said that between 26 September and 2 October, 80 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and one related death were reported from the same hospital. Some 65 percent of all cases (52) were children under five years old.

On 9 and 10 October, reports indicate that at least 15 people died in renewed clashes between Islamist groups some 70km south of Kismayo, Lower Juba. The clashes came at a time when Al Shabaab and Hisbul Islam had announced a ceasefire following last week's clashes in Kismayo that left more than 15 people dead and at least 50 others wounded. On 14 October, at least 12 people were killed and more than 22 others wounded in fighting between Islamist factions in Matabaan, Hiraan.

Response

UNICEF, WHO and Somali Public Health Provision Associate are responding to the outbreak of cholera in Banadir. Some 97 water wells have been chlorinated in Mogadishu and the Afgooye corridor. The agencies also completed the pre-positioning of case management supplies and the dissemination of health messages through local radios.

UNICEF is responding to reports of a diarrhea outbreak in Sanaag, Togdheer, Sahil and Awdal regions together with the Ministry of Health and Labor. UNICEF has also pre-positioned diarrhea kits in all the regions in Somaliland. On 8 – 14 October, UNICEF conducted a field mission to the AWD affected district of El-Afweyn in Sanaag region with local authorities. The team visited seven villages and distributed chlorine powder to disinfect water sources, trained local operators and health staff in the chlorination of water sources, and distributed aqua tabs for household chlorination.

WFP and partners distributed 585 metric tons of food to 105,120 beneficiaries under the general food distribution and food-for-training in Nugaal, Mudug and Sool regions and Hiraan region in South/Central Somalia. In Hargeysa, a WFP mission comprising Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and Food Aid Monitors in Somaliland is undertaking a pilot monitoring with the new data collection tools designed to improve monitoring of nutrition interventions and Food-for-Work/ Training projects.

During the week, the Danish Refugee Council started a distribution of non-food items to 7,775 IDP families along the Balcad road, Kaxshiiqaal, Faculty of Agriculture, Arbiska and Dibiley in Mogadishu.

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