

Key Overall Developments

A Storm Alert for North-eastern Somalia

On 20 May, the Somali Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) issued a storm alert saying that a tropical storm developed in the northern Indian Ocean and had hit Alula and Bargaal areas (400km and 350km east of Bossaso) in the North-eastern parts of Puntland. In Bargaal, some buildings collapsed and unconfirmed number of people died when lightning struck in one of the villages. The storm is bringing strong winds and heavy rains along the coastline of Bari region, and is expected to diminish by 22 May. However, the rains are expected to extend inland and may cause destruction especially of weak structures. Flash floods are foreseen in Bossaso, Qandala and Caluula areas.

Following the alert, humanitarian agencies and Puntland authorities met in Bossaso to discuss preparedness in the wake of the storm. Two crisis centres were established for coordination and information sharing and local authorities embarked on alerting the communities of the storm and to move those in risk areas at the coast to safer locations inland. Partners have also pre-positioned essential supplies.

Conflict and Displacement

Mogadishu

Heavy fighting was reported on 16 May in Mogadishu between insurgents and the Transitional Federal Government/African Union Mission in Somalia soldiers killing at least 30 people and wounding more than 60 others. The majority of those killed were civilians at the busy Bakara Market. The fighting was triggered when insurgents attacked the parliament building prompting TFG and AMISOM to retaliate. On 20 May, a remote-controlled bomb went off in Hamarjajab district in Mogadishu as AMISOM soldiers patrolled the area. Reports indicate that an AMISOM lieutenant was killed in the explosion.

Following a controversial TFG parliamentary session on 16 May, the Speaker announced the collapse of the government triggering political turmoil. On 17 May, the president dissolved the cabinet and sacked the Prime Minister (PM) – causing a major rift within the TFG officials. Later in the week, the president reversed the decision to sack the PM and he was reinstated. A United Nations-led conference to discuss reconciliation and reconstruction of Somalia will be held in Istanbul, Turkey starting this week.

WHO says between 20 March and 6 May, at least 676 casualties were treated in two main hospitals in Mogadishu; 24 others died while undergoing treatment. Of concern is that 94 (21 percent) of the casualties were children with weapons-related injuries. In April, a third hospital reported 351 trauma cases including 117 female casualties.

UNHCR estimates that 15,000 people have been displaced from Mogadishu since 1 April. Of these, 8,000 have left the city, including 2,610 who have moved to the Afgooye Corridor. Another 7,000 people are displaced within Mogadishu.

WFP contractor killed

On 14 May, a WFP-contracted driver was shot and killed by an unknown gunman in Gaalkacyo town, Mudug region, Puntland. The incident was reportedly a revenge killing motivated by a clan dispute.

World Vision International refutes allegations of disruption of activities

On 19 May, WVI issued a press statement and clarified that the organisation remains fully operational in Southern Somalia despite media reports of an alleged attack of its offices in Waajid, Bakool and Baidoa in Bay. The WVI Program Director, Chris Smoot said, "I want to confirm that no confrontation has taken place in any of our offices that are mentioned in a media report" (Sic).

Suspected Whooping Cough in Central regions

During the reporting week, WHO visited Belet Weyne and Jalalaqsi districts, Hiraan, and collected information and samples following reports of at least 493 cases of whooping cough with no related deaths. Other cases amounting to 82 were also reported in Guri el in Galgaduud.

UN Humanitarian Air Services seek urgent funding

The UNHAS is urgently seeking donations of US\$5.5 million to keep vital humanitarian flights to Somalia operational until the end of the year. The funding currently available will run out by the end of June jeopardizing humanitarian operations of the UN, NGO and INGO.

Response

Health

During the week, WHO, UNICEF and health partners started social mobilisation campaigns and training of those who will support the third round of the Child Health Days (CHDs) in Somaliland. Phase one of the campaigns will start on 22 June in ten districts including six major towns and the second phase will start on 29 June covering the remaining districts. The campaign is targeting 450,000 children under five and 390,000 women of child bearing age. The CHD delivery strategy has been successful in raising the measles vaccination coverage from roughly 30 percent to over 90 percent.

In response to the whooping cough reports in Central regions, WHO provided medical supplies including medicine to health partners to treat those affected. During the reporting week, WHO and WVI conducted health response activities including chlorination of water sources in flood-affected villages in Bu'aale, Middle Juba.

Food Aid

During the week, WFP and partners distributed 227 metric tons of food to 26,800 beneficiaries in Burco, Togdheer in Somaliland. Another 8,500 people benefited from 88 metric tons of food distribution under General Food Distribution, Tuberculosis and Food-for-Training in Mudug, Nugaal and Bari regions in Puntland.

In Bossaso, WFP trained 30 partners and government counterparts on Standard Operating Procedures expected to improve coordination in implementing various food assistance programmes.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

World Vision International Somalia is currently responding to needs resulting from heavy rains and flooding through the distribution of NFIs including plastic sheets, blankets and water treatment kits in Bu'aale, Middle Juba.

Agriculture and Livelihoods

During the reporting week, the International NGO COOPI distributed 20 metric tons of sorghum seeds to farmers in Diinsoor, Bakool. More than 1,000 poor farmers were targeted.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Following heavy rains in Gardo, Puntland, which caused floods last week, UNICEF is responding to the needs of 200 mostly IDP households in Gardo and 675 households in Gosol through the distribution of mosquito nets, Oral Rehydration Salts and aqua tabs. Hygiene promotion messages as well as community mobilization on protection issues and psychosocial support were conducted.

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