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Somalia Humanitarian Overview

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Main Developments

- ❑ A suicide attack on 3 December at Shamo Hotel in Mogadishu left 24 people dead, including four Transitional Federal Government (TFG) ministers, and more than 46 seriously injured. The hotel was hosting a graduation ceremony for medical students from Banadir University.
- ❑ According to the latest update from Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit's (FSNAU), there are signs of improvement in the overall food security in Somalia, following average and above average 2009 *Deyr* rains. As a result, in 2010, the total number of people in crisis in Southern Somalia is expected to decline.
- ❑ The drought persists in Central Somalia as the rains failed again. These areas are now experiencing a sixth consecutive season of drought.
- ❑ Nutritional surveys completed in October-November indicate a sustained nutritional crisis in Central Somalia with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels significantly above the emergency threshold of 15 percent.
- ❑ Throughout the reporting period, daily clashes between government forces and insurgents continued in Mogadishu. According to UNHCR, an estimated 7,000 people were displaced from Mogadishu in November. In total, 18,000 people were displaced throughout Somalia.
- ❑ On 17 December, Al Shabaab suspended the UN Mine Action programme in Baidoa (Bay region) and took control of the programme's compound.
- ❑ In early December UNICEF, WHO and partners launched the second round of Child Health Days in Puntland. The campaign aims to reach at least 150,000 children under five and 100,000 women of child bearing age with a package of life-saving health services including immunization against measles and polio and nutritional screening.
- ❑ The 2010 Somalia Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) was launched in Nairobi on 3 December 2009 appealing for over US\$689 million from 14 UN agencies and 57 international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs).



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

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Suicide Attack in Mogadishu

On 3 December, a suicide bomber disguised as a veiled woman attacked Shamo Hotel, Medina district, where Banadir University was holding a graduation ceremony for its medical students. Among the 23 killed were four TFG ministers, including the Minister of Education Ahmed Abdulahi Waayeel, Minister of Health Qamar Aden Ali, Minister of Higher Education Ibrahim Hassan Addow, as well as the Rector of Banadir University, two doctors, graduating students and their families and two journalists. Among the 46 injured people (mostly hospitalised at Medina Hospital), the Minister of Sports Saleban Olad Roble was critically injured

and later died of his injuries. Unlike previous suicide attacks, no party took responsibility for this one.

The attack was condemned by among others, the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, Amnesty International, the African Mission in Somalia, and the National Union of Journalists in Somalia.

Food Security Situation

There are signs of improvement in the overall food security situation in Somalia, particularly in the south, following average and above average 2009 *Deyr* rains (October – December). Good rains in many parts of

the country have resulted in near normal crop performance, good pasture/browse conditions and improved water availability. Livestock conditions, trade and prices have all shown improvement. As a result, FSNAU expects that in 2010 the total number of people in crisis in Southern Somalia will decline.

There were however parts of the country that did not receive good rains. These include Galgaduud, Mudug, parts of Hiraa, and parts of northwest Somalia and the Sool Plateau in the north. The failed rains in these areas have impacted pasture/browse conditions and water availability, as well as

crop development. Of particular concern is Mudug and Galgaduud regions that are now experiencing a sixth consecutive season of drought.

FSNAU's latest urban food security assessment (November 2009), showed that urban households' access to food has begun to improve in most regions, with the exception of Galgaduud and Mudug. The deterioration in these regions is mainly caused by increased prices of cereal and transportation costs, and reduced social support. Urban households in the south, the north and northwest are able to cover the cost of the minimum expenditure basket; however, poor households are still reliant on remittances, cash gifts or loans to cover between 20-25 percent of this minimum expenditure basket.

Further details regarding the urban assessment and other FSNAU publications can be found at www.fsausomali.org

Nutrition Situation

In October and November FSNAU with partners, conducted nine nutrition surveys in Togdheer, Mudug, Galgaduud and Hiraaan regions. Results from the surveys indicate a sustained nutritional crisis in central regions with a less critical situation in Togdheer.

In Galgaduud, the GAM was at 19.4 percent and the Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) was at 5.5 percent while in Mudug the figures were 22.3 percent and 6.1 percent respectively. Hiraaan is also in a sustained crisis with Very Critical rates of GAM exceeding 20 percent. These figures are way above the emergency threshold of 4 percent for SAM and 15 percent for GAM and indicate no improvement from the *Gu* season six months ago. FSNAU highlighted that with the continuing poor food security outlook for central regions, all efforts to ensure the sustained delivery of life saving interventions such as food aid, nutrition rehabilitation services, health, water and emergency livelihoods support are essential to prevent further deterioration.

Food Aid

From 1 November to 15 December, WFP and partners distributed 17,973 metric tons of assorted food commodities to 1.9 million beneficiaries mainly through general food distribution, targeted supplementary feeding programmes, wet feeding, emergency school feeding and food for work/training. Some 80 percent of the food assistance was channelled to South-Central Somalia.

Due to resource shortages, WFP has prioritized life-saving activities and reduced



Drought persists in Central Somalia - a pastoralist family in Mareegur Settlement, Galgaduud region, December - Photo Courtesy: UN-OCHA

rations for December. The agency prioritized wet feeding (cooked meals) in Mogadishu, hospital in-patient feeding, and child rations through the targeted supplementary feeding programmes. Additionally, priority will be given to general food distribution (GFD), albeit at a reduced ration, to humanitarian emergency areas and to internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in Afgooye. The revised rations include 37.5kg of cereal and 10kg of Corn Soya Blend (CSB), which for the cereal is nearly a 50 percent reduction. Given the up-coming harvest (January/February), GFD for the southern regions in humanitarian emergency will not be prioritized in the distribution plans for January 2010. Depending on food availability, WFP will focus GFD only in the central regions where there is no harvest and where recent malnutrition surveys show a continuing critical situation, as well as, for the IDPs in Afgooye. The prioritization was made in consultation with the nutrition cluster. WFP already cut rations and reprioritized life-saving interventions and appealed for more funding back in October.

2010 CAP

The 2010 Somalia Humanitarian Appeal was launched on 3 December in Nairobi with the participation of more than 120 people, including donors. The 2010 appeal seeks

US\$689,008,615 for 174 projects from 14 UN agencies and 57 international and national (NGOs).

Somalia continues to face increasingly acute humanitarian needs. However requirements in the 2010 CAP are 19 percent less than the 2009 CAP. This is the result of a reassessment of the food aid requirements and a revised estimate of target populations and the scale of rations required. This reduction is also the result of improved coordination structures and rigorous project vetting.

In 2010, the CAP will focus on four strategic priorities: providing life-saving humanitarian services; protecting and increasing the social economic and environmental assets; providing vulnerable populations with a minimum package of basic services; and strengthening the protective environment for vulnerable populations particularly women and the youth.

Following low funding throughout 2009, delays and imbalances between sectors, the donor community was urged at the CAP launch to provide early funding crucial to respond to humanitarian needs in Somalia. The decline in funding in 2009 also means that agencies have little or no carry-over into 2010. The Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden reiterated that,

“without strong donor commitment from the first week of 2010, humanitarian assistance for nearly 3.64 million Somalis will be delayed and lives will be at greater risk.” As of 15 December, the 2009 CAP was 62 percent funded having received \$516 million of \$849 requested. However, nearly 40 percent of this funding was carry-over from 2008.

Copies of the Somalia CAP 2010 and projects can be found at: <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia/cap2010>

Insecurity & Displacement

November and the first two weeks of December witnessed increased levels of insecurity throughout South-Central Somalia compared to previous months. UNHCR's partners on the ground estimate that some 231 people were killed and 410 others injured from 6 November to 18 December throughout the country (data for first week of November is not available).

Insecurity was also the single greatest cause of displacement in November. According to UNHCR, a total of 18,000 people were reported to have been displaced within Somalia, 7,000 of which, were reported to have been displaced from or within Mogadishu. Trends indicate that most IDPs leaving Mogadishu are continuing to move to settlements along the Afgooye Corridor. Approximately 3,500 have been displaced due to drought, most of these people came

Of Note:

□ The meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia (ICG) was held on 17 December in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Around 45 delegates representing ICG members, observer countries, and international organisations attended the meeting. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference indicated interest, during the ICG meeting, in opening a humanitarian mission in Mogadishu in January 2010, to assist in the reconstruction of Somalia. It also announced that its Humanitarian Affairs Department, along with civil society organisations, will fund US\$50 million worth of humanitarian projects in the field of poverty alleviation, relief and small-scale projects.

□ On 10 December, WHO launched a call for urgent help for Somalia, highlighting how the dramatic deterioration in security and the large funding deficit for humanitarian programmes have brought matters to a critical point. In the CAP 2010, WHO is requesting US\$16 million jointly with UNICEF, UNFPA, Merlin and Save the Children-UK, for seven projects devoted to primary health care, emergency obstetric care, outbreak response and health response coordination.

□ Piracy off the coast of Somalia continues apace with 19 attacks and six successful hijackings in November. According to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), pirates are currently holding at least 11 vessels and more than 265 crew hostage.

□ On 25 November, two international journalists were freed after 15 months in captivity. The journalists were kidnapped in Mogadishu in August 2008 along with their Somali driver and two Somali guards while travelling southwest of the capital.

from rural areas within Galgaduud and travelled to urban areas within the region in search of humanitarian assistance. Conflict between Al Shabaab and Hisbul Islam in Afmadow district, Lower Juba, has resulted

in more than 2,200 displacements.

Humanitarian Access

Insecurity and other access constraints continued to hamper humanitarian operations throughout the reporting period.

In November, there were repeated calls from different authorities for humanitarian actors to register with them. On 4 November the Al Shabaab administration in Baidoa presented a set of 11 conditions to be fulfilled by INGOs and UN agencies wishing to operate in Bay and Bakool regions. These conditions include the payment of security fees and the obligation to dismiss all female workers (except the ones working in health facilities). On 1 November, the TFG Minister for Interior asked INGOs to register with his ministry in Mogadishu and on 3 November, Hisbul Islam in Afgooye asked aid agencies to register for accountability purposes.

On 1 November, Al Shabaab closed down three grassroots women's organizations in Belet Xawa, Gedo. Reportedly, this is to stop women from working. Al Shabaab stated that they should stay at home and take care of their children as Islam does not allow women to go to offices.

On 6 November, Al Shabaab closed an NGO office and ordered a suspension of its

Table 1: Consolidated Appeal for Somalia - 2010

Cluster	Requirements
Agriculture and Livelihoods	42,688,583
Education	23,440,282
Enabling Programmes (security, coordination etc)	11,113,722
Food Aid	332,703,314
Health	45,444,869
Logistics	33,042,357
Nutrition	51,530,233
Protection	41,977,303
Shelter	58,087,544
WASH	47,980,408
Grand total	689,008,615

activities in Belet-Hawa town, Gedo region. The NGO conducted capacity building and cross-border peace initiative support for various community-based organisations and peace committees.

In early November, Al Shabaab reportedly banned WFP from distributing food bearing the US flag in southern Somalia, accusing WFP of supplying US-flagged rations in a bid to undermine farmers and traders during the harvest season. At the end of the month Shabaab ordered WFP to refrain from importing relief food and purchase it from local Somali farmers. They also warned that all local business people contracted by WFP must terminate their contracts before 1 January 2010 and that WFP must empty its warehouses and distribute its food stocks.

On 15 and 16 November, 12 international staff working for WFP, WHO and World Vision International were relocated from Bu'aale, Middle Juba, when fighting between Al Shabaab and Hizbul Islam spread. The two UN agencies and WVI have been operating a field hospital treating civilians affected by the conflict. WFP has been providing food aid to the affected while WHO is providing essential medical supplies including surgical supplies to Bu'aale hospital. In addition, WHO is providing on-the-job training for health workers at the hospital in trauma

and emergency obstetric services, and on disease reporting.

Human Rights Violations

All parties to the conflict in South-Central Somalia continued to commit serious human rights violation. On 16 November, in a villages on the outskirts of Waajid, Bakool region, five women with children out of wed-lock were flogged alongside the fathers of the children; while on 17 November, a woman with a child out of wed-lock was publicly stoned to death, and the father of the child received 100 lashes. The European Union (EU) condemned the executions and called on all relevant parties to refrain from and abolish the practice of executions. The EU also called on all relevant parties to ensure that the practice is effectively and permanently terminated in the country, in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, both of which Somalia has acceded to.

Puntland

The situation in Puntland has become increasingly unpredictable with violent incidents including armed clashes and targeted assassinations and hand grenades hurled at public buildings in Bossaso and Gaalkacyo. On 11 November, Mohamed

Abdi Aware, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who recently sentenced five Shabaab suspects, was assassinated by unknown gunmen. The same day in Garowe, a Member of Parliament from Mudug was also assassinated. On 1 December, unidentified attackers threw a hand grenade into a crowd watching a film in Bossaso wounding at least 24 people. Most of the victims were believed to be Ethiopian.

On 15 December a crowd, close to 300 people, gathered in front the Office of the Bossaso Mayor (Puntland) demanding the expulsion of people from Bay and Bakool regions from Puntland. The demonstration later turned into looting targeted against people from these two regions. Puntland hosts a large number of IDPs from Bay and Bakool regions, who reside in IDP settlements in and around Bossaso town. A growing number from the host community were becoming averse to their presence, linking the IDPs to the increasing insecurity in the area.

Editorial Note: This issue of the Somalia Humanitarian Overview covers the period 1 November to 15 December. The next Overview will be issued the first week of February 2010.

HRF Projects approved - November - 15 December 2009

Agency	Project	Amount US\$	Region/Districts	Beneficiaries
COOPI	Emergency Response to Control Rift Valley Fever (RVF), Protect Livestock Assets & Mitigate the Risk of Transmission to Humans in	191,576	Hiraan,Middle Shabelle,Lower Shabelle & Middle Juba	36,516
CEFA	Procurement of Sand Bags & Placement for Flood Protection	25,000	Jowhar district	23,567
MURDO	Procurement of Sand Bags & Placement for Flood Protection	25,000	Quryooley district	33,514
SRDO	Procurement of Sand Bags & Placement for Flood Protection	25,000	Kurtunwareey district	33,514
WOCCA	Procurement of Sand Bags & Placement for Flood Protection	25,000	Balcad district	39,556
Oxfam GB	Emergency Flood Response Project in South Somalia	123,600	Afmadow district	66,667
DIAL	Kismayo Riverine Flood Control and Farming Support Project	239,144	Kismayo	10,302
Concern	WASH Response	229,942	Lower Shabelle	59,390
ADA	Emergency Integrated Cash for Work and Productive Assets Rehabilitation Project,	121,445	Luuq district	8,230
Islamic Relief	Continuing Emergency Water Trucking in Xawa Cabdi IDP area in Afgooye Corridor	24,726	Afgooye Corridor	22,572
Total		1,030,433		333,828