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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

September 28, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated July 22, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Fighting between Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG) forces and armed opposition groups that commenced on August 23 continues to intensify in Mogadishu. As of September 17, violence had displaced more than 32,000 people, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Human rights staff working in the area reported approximately 640 injuries and 300 deaths due to the fighting. Violence included an August 24 suicide attack on a Mogadishu hotel that resulted in more than 150 deaths, including four TGF Parliament members. On September 18, armed combatants seized control of two radio stations, cutting off a source of information for Mogadishu residents regarding safe travel areas.
- Newly released U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) assessment results indicate that more than 1.9 million people in Somalia will likely require humanitarian assistance between July and December, representing a 28 percent decline compared to January 2010 estimates. The decrease is largely a result of temporary improvements in food security in northern Somalia due to successful April to June *gu* rains, as well as a revised system of counting internally displaced persons (IDPs) that avoids double counting IDPs who move during assessment periods. Humanitarian agencies are able to access approximately 60 percent of the affected population.
- On August 19, more than 250 members of the humanitarian community met in Nairobi, Kenya, to define strategic priorities for humanitarian assistance to Somalia in 2011. Priorities include the provision of life-saving humanitarian services to the most vulnerable Somalis, as well as fostering a safer environment through advocacy, dialogue with local authorities, community mobilization, and increased access to services.
- Despite security constraints and limited access, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$16.6 million to support humanitarian assistance programs in Somalia in FY 2010, benefiting up to 1.1 million people. The U.N. Consolidated Appeal requested \$689 for humanitarian assistance activities for 2010.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population in Need of Emergency Assistance in 2010	1.9 million people	FSNAU – August 2010
IDPs in Somalia	1.4 million people	UNHCR – September 2010
Somali Refugees in East Africa and Yemen	614,127 people	UNHCR – August 2010

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia	\$16,667,075
USAID/FFP¹ Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$14,500,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$31,167,075

CONTEXT

- Since 1991, widespread violence, endemic poverty, recurrent droughts, and floods have generated a complex emergency in Somalia. From December 2006 to January 2009, fighting between the TFG, backed by Ethiopian forces, and armed militias opposed to the TFG led to further deterioration in humanitarian conditions. Following January 2009 Ethiopian troop withdrawals, conflict between armed militia groups in Somalia continues to displace populations and limit access to affected areas.
- The combined effects of consecutive seasons of failed or poor rainfall, conflict, floods, rising inflation, displacement, and diarrheal disease outbreaks have exacerbated food insecurity and resulted in significant acute malnutrition rates in Somalia. U.N. and partner agencies have coordinated efforts to improve humanitarian access, but insecurity and targeted attacks against relief staff continue to hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- On October 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Somalia for FY 2010.

Displacement, Insecurity, and Humanitarian Access

- In August and September, armed opposition group al-Shabaab banned six humanitarian agencies from al-Shabaab-controlled areas, according to international media sources. Two of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) report that the suspension of programs will affect more than 1.4 million people. Other humanitarian agencies continue to provide assistance in the areas.
- As of September 17, fighting among Somali militant groups continued to extend into Kenya's North Eastern Province. Between August 9 and 13, increased violence prompted more than 1,800 Somalis residing along the Somalia–Kenya border to seek refuge in the Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya, reflecting the highest number of new Somali arrivals at Dadaab since January, according to UNHCR. Between January 4 and July 23, the average rate of Somali arrivals at Dadaab was 902 per week. As of July 23, more than 260,000 Somali refugees resided in the Dadaab refugee complex.
- As of September 15, the majority of the more than 2,000 households displaced from Widwidh District, Sool Region, between May and July 2010 had returned to areas of origin, according to the U.N. Clashes between Somaliland forces and the Sool, Sanaag, and Cayn (SSC) opposition group caused the displacement. Somaliland forces are maintaining security in the area.
- Between August 20 and September 13, fighting between Puntland security forces and armed opposition groups in Bari Region displaced an estimated 1,800 people from Galgala, Bari Region, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Between August 7 and 11, landowners in the Afgooye corridor in Lower Shabelle Region evicted more than 10,000 IDP households following the sale of land on which IDPs had established settlements, according to UNHCR. Some IDPs relocated within the corridor, while others moved to TFG-controlled areas of Hodan and Dharkenley districts, Banadir Region.
- As of August 6, Puntland authorities continued a deportation campaign that commenced in July targeting IDPs from southern Somalia, Ethiopian refugees, and asylum-seekers residing in Bossaso, Bari Region, to Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region, citing increasing security concerns. OCHA noted that the July/August deportation operation—impacting approximately 1,000 people, or 2 percent of the estimated 47,000 displaced persons residing in Bossaso—was significant in scale compared to previous operations.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Most areas of Somalia experienced average to above-average April to June *gu* rains. As a result, the 2010 July to September *gu* harvest has been the most productive *gu* harvest since 2002, moderating high levels of food insecurity in the country, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- Noting that 65 to 70 percent of Somali livelihoods are livestock-based, FEWS NET reported that recent *gu* rains have improved pasture conditions, resulting in healthier livestock, improved livestock milk production, and decreased near-term household food insecurity in pastoral areas of Somalia. In addition, livestock prices and export volume have increased due to the November 2009 suspension of Saudi Arabia's livestock import ban imposed in 2000. From January to June 2010, livestock exports through Berbera Port, Woqooyi Galbeed Region, increased significantly compared to the same period in 2009. Sheep and goat exports increased by approximately 42 percent from 437,000 to 622,000; cattle exports increased by approximately 62 percent from 62,000 to 100,000; and camel exports increased by an estimated 400 percent from 9,000 to 45,000.
- As of August 12, food prices in Mogadishu had increased by more than 30 percent, according to international media sources. Insecurity, as well as high taxes imposed by the TFG and al-Shabaab, continues to impede traders from accessing markets. FEWS NET reported that the suspension of food aid distributions in areas of central and southern Somalia, as well as increasing international market prices for imported grains, have contributed to increasing food prices. Violence continues to prevent residents of high-conflict areas from leaving homes to buy food.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA supported innovative programs designed to increase income levels of up to 876,000 individuals in Somalia, including IDPs and host community members. Initiatives included cash-for-work projects and training in fisheries management and sanitary livestock slaughter techniques.

Nutrition

- On August 23, FSNAU reported improvements in the nutritional situation in northwestern and northeastern Somalia compared to January, due largely to improved pasture conditions. However, FSNAU reported little change in southern and central Somalia. The overall global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate in Somalia is 15.2 percent, exceeding the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) GAM emergency threshold of 15 percent. The national average severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate in Somalia is 2.4 percent, exceeding the WHO SAM emergency threshold of 1 percent. However, in southern and central Somalia, the average SAM rate is 4.5 percent. The figures represent approximately

230,000 acutely malnourished children under five years of age, including 35,000 severely malnourished children, nearly 90 percent of whom reside in southern and central Somalia.

- FSNAU reported that the nutrition situation remained critical in the Addun and Hawd pastoral livelihood zones of central Somalia as of August 20, with GAM rates of 24 percent and SAM rates of 7.5 percent. In addition, Bay and Bakool regions continued to record high malnutrition rates despite the areas' significant sorghum production. FEWS NET noted that poor water quality and health practices likely contributed to the high malnutrition rates.
- In response to malnutrition among vulnerable populations in Somalia, USAID/OFDA supported emergency nutrition interventions benefiting up to 189,000 people in FY 2010, including programs designed to train health workers to manage acute malnutrition cases.

Emergency Food Assistance

- In August, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to approximately 939,000 of 1.8 million planned beneficiaries, reaching approximately 52 percent of the targeted population.
- As of September 9, WFP continued to provide emergency food assistance to an estimated 350,000 people in Mogadishu, including 177,000 IDPs.
- WFP resumed targeted supplementary feeding programs in Bossaso town, Bari Region, after suspending activities in late July due to the lack of Puntland security forces to protect distribution sites. An estimated 15,104 individuals from 26 IDP camps and 15 host settlements received monthly food rations.
- In FY 2010, USAID/FFP provided approximately \$14.5 million through WFP for emergency food assistance in Somalia.

Health

- Health services in Mogadishu remain overburdened and unable to effectively treat trauma cases. Between August 23 and September 9, two of the main hospitals in Mogadishu treated more than 200 weapons-related injuries, representing more than double the previous weeks' average caseload, according the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- USAID/OFDA continues to monitor conflict-related health indicators in Mogadishu. In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA supported programs in Hiran and Lower Shabelle regions that increased access to essential health services for up to 118,000 vulnerable Somalis. Projects included health center construction and community-level health education campaigns.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- In late July and early August, the incidence of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) remained stable in Lower Shabelle Region and had slightly declined in Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, and Middle Juba regions, according to U.N. agencies. In September, the incidence of AWD in Banadir hospital in Mogadishu remained stable.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA WASH interventions benefited up to 1.1 million individuals by promoting healthy sanitation practices and supporting the construction of water infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

FY 2010			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
NGO	Agriculture and Food Security, and WASH	Bakool, Bay, and Galgadud Regions	\$1,500,000
NGO	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, and WASH	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
NGO	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, and Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Sanaag Region	\$3,102,562
NGO	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, and WASH	Bakool and Hiran Regions	\$1,200,000
NGO	Agriculture and Food Security, and WASH	Galgadud and Mudug Regions	\$1,381,663

NGO	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, and WASH	Bakool, Banadir, Bari, Bay, Galgadud, Gedo, Hiran, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, and Middle Shabelle Regions	\$4,499,990
NGO	Health, Nutrition, and WASH	Galgadud, Hiran, and Middle Shabelle Regions	\$1,264,416
NGO	Agriculture and Food Security, and WASH	Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Sanaag, and Togdheer Regions	\$718,444
NGO	WASH	Awdal and Togdheer Regions	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$16,667,075
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	18,650 metric tons of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$14,500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2010			\$31,167,075

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE	
USAID/OFDA	\$16,667,075
USAID/FFP	\$14,500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA	\$31,167,075

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 2010.

² Estimated value of food assistance as of September 28, 2010.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Somalia may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/