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

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 23, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated August 25, 2009.

BACKGROUND

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 Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), backed by Ethiopian forces, and armed militias opposed to the TFG led to a 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. As a result, approximately 530,000 Somali refugees have fled the country and nearly 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), including long-term IDPs and individuals displaced by increased fighting since February 2007, remain uprooted within Somalia.

On August 21, 2009, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported that nearly 3.8 million people require humanitarian assistance in Somalia through December 2009, representing a 17 percent increase since January 2009 and between 38 and 50 percent of the total estimated population of between 7.5 and 9.8 million people. The combined effects of consecutive seasons of failed or poor rainfall, conflict, rising inflation, displacement, and diarrheal disease outbreaks have severely exacerbated food insecurity and resulted in a significant increase in acute malnutrition rates, according to the 2009 U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process for Somalia. U.N. and partner agencies are coordinating efforts to improve access, but insecurity and targeted attacks against relief staff hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

On October 31, 2008, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster in Somalia due to the complex emergency. To date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$150 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Somalia, including more than \$9 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population in Need of Emergency Assistance	3.76 million	FSNAU – August 2009
IDPs since February 2007	1.3 million	FSNAU – August 2009
Long-Term IDPs	275,000	FSNAU – August 2009
Somali Refugees in East and Central Africa	530,000	UNHCR ¹ – September 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia	\$9,170,450
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Somalia	\$124,249,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Somalia	\$17,000,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia	\$150,419,450

CURRENT SITUATION

According to a September 8 FSNAU post-*gu* season analysis, Somalia is currently experiencing the country’s most significant humanitarian crisis in nearly two decades, with nearly 3.8 million people requiring humanitarian assistance until December 2009. The total includes an estimated 655,000 low-income urban individuals, more than 1.3 million IDPs, and approximately 1.4 million rural, drought-affected

individuals. Exacerbating the situation, ongoing conflict between TFG forces and armed militia in Mogadishu and surrounding areas continues to result in new population displacement and limited humanitarian access to affected populations.

Humanitarian agencies note particular concerns regarding populations in southern and central areas due

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

to increased humanitarian need, ongoing conflict, limited access, and continuing displacement. According to FSNAU, approximately 75 percent of the total population requiring humanitarian assistance resides in southern and central Somalia—the areas with the most significant conflict levels—with the largest concentrations of affected populations in Mudug, Galgadud, Hiran, and Bakool regions. As a result of ongoing conflict, FSNAU highlights the potential for a further deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the coming months.

Security and Access

Insecurity and attacks targeting aid organizations continue to hamper humanitarian response efforts in southern and central Somalia, resulting in reduced access and delay or suspension of relief operations. On August 28, unknown assailants broke into a U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) partner-operated maternal and child health center in Jamaame District, Middle Juba Region, looting cold chain equipment used to preserve vaccines. In May, armed militia also raided and looted the UNICEF warehouse in Jowhar District, Middle Shebelle Region, resulting in significant property loss, the near complete destruction of the UNICEF immunization cold chain, and the theft of food and nutrition commodities. At present, the Jowhar facility remains under armed militia control.

In September, U.N. agencies reported increased fighting in Mogadishu, including attacks targeting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). On September 17, two car bombings at the main AMISOM base in Somalia killed 21 people, including 17 AMISOM peacekeepers, and wounded at least 40 others. According to the U.N., the attackers used U.N.-marked vehicles. Following the attack, the European Union (EU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the League of Arab States, the U.N., the Government of Norway, and the USG issued a joint statement condemning the attack. U.N. officials noted that the attack, which occurred near the Mogadishu airport, will likely hamper the U.N.'s ability to transport staff and humanitarian goods.

Population Movements

During August and September, UNHCR reported ongoing population movements throughout Somalia resulting from fighting in Mogadishu, drought, and inter-ethnic conflict. As of September 18, UNHCR estimated that approximately 102,000 people had been displaced within Somalia since July 1.

Although at lower levels than at the height of the recent escalation in conflict in May and June, UNHCR notes that insecurity and fighting in Mogadishu and surrounding areas continue to account for an estimated 92 percent of recent displacement. From July 1 to September 18, conflict in Mogadishu displaced more

than 83,000 individuals, with approximately 70 percent of IDPs moving to areas adjacent to the capital along the Afgooye corridor and 30 percent moving to safer locations within the capital, according to UNHCR.

Insecurity also continues to contribute to population movement across international borders, primarily to neighboring Kenya. As of early September, UNHCR reported that nearly 313,000 Somalis had sought shelter in Kenya, including more than 45,000 individuals who fled to the Dadaab refugee complex in the North Eastern Province of Kenya between January and September 2009.

Despite reports of slight decreases in the number of Somalis traveling to the Dadaab complex in recent weeks, humanitarian agencies continue to express concern regarding overcrowded camp conditions. To ease congestion, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have relocated approximately 8,000 of the planned 15,000 refugees from Dadaab to Kakuma camp in northwestern Kenya to date. UNHCR and IOM plan to complete the transfers prior to the onset of the October rainy season. Intended to accommodate 90,000 people, the Dadaab complex currently hosts approximately 288,000 people, representing a 23 percent increase since January, according to UNHCR.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also reports increasing numbers of Somalis attempting to cross the Gulf of Aden en route to Yemen. To date in 2009, nearly 43,500 migrants and asylum-seekers have crossed the Gulf of Aden, including at least 16,000 Somalis. Humanitarian agencies note concern regarding the safety of individuals crossing the gulf due to the use of crowded and unseaworthy boats. Since January, IOM reports that nearly 280 people crossing the Gulf of Aden have drowned or are presumed dead, including an estimated 65 people presumed dead following the most-recent three incidents in mid-September.

To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided nearly \$28 million in earmarked funding to support Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen; and \$17 million for UNHCR and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) operations within Somalia.

Agriculture and Food Security

Poor or failed April to June *gu* rains, combined with previous rain failure, have led to deteriorating food security and intensifying drought conditions in Mudug, Galgadud, Hiran, and Bakool regions, as well as agropastoral and pastoral communities in northern Somalia. However, in southern agricultural areas, FSNAU reports an adequate *gu* season harvest, with Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Middle Juba regions accounting for 51 percent, 27 percent, and 14 percent

of total cereal production, respectively. Despite the adequate harvest, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) notes that the cereals will most likely not reach drought-affected regions in central and northern Somalia due to insecurity and consumption of surplus food stocks by newly displaced individuals and populations residing in cereal-deficit areas in the south.

As harvest yields enter the market, FSNAU expects maize and sorghum prices to decline in the coming weeks in Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Middle Juba regions. In contrast, FSNAU anticipates food prices to increase in central and northern regions due to disruptions in market activities and restrictions on inter-regional trade. According to FEWS NET, staple food prices in Somalia, including rice and sorghum, have declined by an average of 44 percent since March 2008. Despite recent reductions, however, food prices remain 100 to 200 percent above the five-year average.

Recent IGAD reports confirm the presence of an El Niño weather phenomenon in the greater Horn of Africa region, expected to result in normal to above-normal rainfall for most of Somalia during the October to December *deyr* rains. In particular, FEWS NET expects heavy rains in southern and central regions, most likely resulting in cessation of drought conditions and improvements in agriculture and food security in affected areas. However, FEWS NET notes that initial heavy rains would likely result in flooding, reduced humanitarian access, increased incidence of waterborne disease, increased mortality among weak animals, and destruction of IDP shelters. In response, humanitarian agencies are developing contingency plans, including pre-positioning humanitarian stocks.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.1 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Somalia, including animal health interventions in pastoral areas intended to safeguard livelihood assets.

Health and Nutrition

Ongoing conflict, population displacement, intensifying drought, and elevated commodity prices, as well as limited access to basic services, disease outbreaks, and high morbidity continue to contribute to critical nutrition conditions in central and southern regions, as well as parts of northern regions. Results from 34 FSNAU nutritional surveys conducted in 2009 highlight deteriorating nutrition conditions in several parts of the country since January. According to the nutrition surveys, an estimated 285,000 children under the age of five are acutely malnourished, including 70,000 severely malnourished children. However, approximately 70 percent of acutely malnourished children reside in south and central Somalia, the areas

most affected by insecurity and limited humanitarian access, according to FSNAU.

According to FSNAU, IDPs throughout Somalia remain the most nutritionally vulnerable populations, with IDPs demonstrating a median global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 20 percent and a median severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 4.8 percent, significantly above emergency levels and the national median GAM and SAM rates of 15 percent and 4.5 percent, respectively. Despite overall critical nutrition conditions among IDPs, FSNAU notes GAM rates below emergency levels in IDP camps in the Afgooye corridor and Marka District, Lower Shabelle Region, due in part to higher levels of humanitarian access and the significant humanitarian response.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.8 million to support health and nutrition activities in Somalia. In addition, FY 2008 USAID/OFDA funding supports ongoing nutrition and health initiatives in Somalia, including programs intended to mitigate the impact of acute malnutrition on children under five years of age and the UNICEF and U.N. World Health Organization Child Health Days campaign. The campaign works to reduce malnutrition, as well as prevent the spread of disease and waterborne illnesses among children and neonatal tetanus in women.

Emergency Food Assistance

During the current late July to September harvest season, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has revised food aid interventions downwards, particularly in crop-producing areas of southern Somalia, to avoid the potential negative impact of food aid on market prices in crop-producing areas. In August, WFP distributed approximately 12,314 metric tons (MT) of food to 1.3 million beneficiaries throughout Somalia. Despite the reduction in food aid interventions, the WFP food assistance pipeline is expected to experience significant shortfalls beginning in October. According to the U.N., WFP requires 217,000 MT of food, valued at \$218 million, to feed approximately 3.5 million people per month between the end of October and March 2010.

As a result of the projected break in the food assistance pipeline, WFP has announced plans to reduce support to maternal and child health nutrition programs in 12 feeding centers in Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Bakool regions and prioritize life-saving interventions throughout Somalia, such as supporting targeted supplementary feeding programs (TSFPs). In central Somalia, WFP plans to complete current blanket supplementary feeding program distributions targeting more than 135,000 children under five years of age prior to transitioning support to TSFPs.

From June to September, FSNAU reported a decline in ship attacks and piracy off the coast of Somalia following multinational naval force interventions in a series of counter attacks, as well as the arrest of several suspected pirates. According to the International Maritime Bureau, more than 148 piracy incidents occurred between January and June 2009, compared to 111 incidents during all of 2008. Continued piracy incidents underscore the ongoing need for escorts to ensure delivery of critical food assistance to affected populations in Somalia. Since December 2008, EU naval escorts of WFP-contracted ships have helped ensure the safe delivery of assorted food to Somalia.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided nearly 160,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$124 million, to WFP for distribution to vulnerable populations. In addition,

in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.8 million to WFP for the regional procurement and distribution of food to food-insecure individuals in Somalia.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Due to poor or failed *gu* rains, humanitarian agencies continue to report water shortages and increased water prices throughout Somalia. In response to water prices 200 percent above average, FSNAU reports ongoing water trucking initiatives in northeastern regions.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.2 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in Somalia, including programs designed to increase access to safe drinking water and reduce the spread of waterborne diseases among drought-affected populations.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

FY 2009			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Horn Relief	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	Lower Juba Region	\$1,579,817
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Mudug Region	\$935,472
Medair Swiss	Health, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Togdheer Region	\$523,018
Mercy Corps	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bari Region	\$1,465,850
Mercy USA	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Middle Shabelle Region	\$186,271
WFP	Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Countrywide	\$1,822,478
WFP	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Countrywide	\$998,500
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$159,044
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,170,450
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	157,020 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$124,249,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$124,249,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$7,500,000
ICRC	Health, Refugee Assistance, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$9,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$17,000,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2009			\$150,419,450

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents obligated amounts as of September 23, 2009.

² USAID/FFP funding represents actual value of food assistance as of September 23, 2009.