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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 #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

August 25, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated July 15, 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, nearly 525,000 Somali refugees have fled the country, and nearly 1.7 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, 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	1.4 million	FSNAU – August 2009
Long-Term IDPs	275,000	FSNAU – August 2009
Somali Refugees in East and Central Africa	524,881	UNHCR ¹ – July 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia	\$9,136,866
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Somalia	\$124,249,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Somalia	\$17,000,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia	\$150,385,866

CURRENT SITUATION

In July and August, attacks targeting humanitarian agencies increased significantly, hampering the delivery of assistance to conflict- and drought-affected individuals in Somalia. In addition, ongoing fighting between TFG forces and armed militia groups in Mogadishu and surrounding areas continued to result in increasing population displacement within Somalia and to surrounding countries.

Combined with the effects of ongoing conflict and displacement, high food prices, consecutive seasons of below-normal crop production, increasing malnutrition rates, and drought conditions continue to exacerbate food insecurity and livelihood conditions throughout Somalia. On August 21, FSNAU released findings from the 2009 post *gu* seasonal assessment conducted by FSNAU, the USAID-supported Famine Early

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)

Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), and 88 partners, including regional authorities, U.N. agencies, and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). According to the report, nearly 3.8 million Somalis require humanitarian assistance through December 2009.

Security and Access

In July, the security situation in Somalia remained fluid, with the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reporting a slight decrease in fighting in some areas of southern and central Somalia compared to previous months. However, increased attacks targeting aid agencies have led to temporary suspensions in activities and diminishing access, hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to IDPs and conflict-affected populations.

In early August, armed militia groups attacked at least five NGO compounds in Jamaame District, Lower Juba Region, and Jilib District, Middle Juba Region, forcing several NGOs to suspend humanitarian operations. The U.N. reported that militia members looted computers, vehicles, and other equipment. No staff members were harmed during the attack.

On August 16, armed militia also broke into a U.N. World Food Program (WFP) compound in Wajid District, Bakool Region, representing the fourth attack targeting a U.N. compound since June. On July 20, armed militia entered two U.N. compounds in Wajid and Baidoa districts, Bay Region, looting equipment, furniture, and vehicles. The assaults followed the release of a statement from Al Shabaab banning three U.N. agencies in areas under Al Shabaab control and announcing that all NGOs operating in Al Shabaab-controlled areas must contact the group for guidance on conditions and restrictions on operations. Following the July 20 attack, the U.N. relocated international staff and suspended operations in Baidoa.

On July 17, OCHA reported the abduction and transfer of three aid workers from Mandera town, located along the Kenya–Somalia border, to an unknown location in Somalia. Subsequently, on August 11, OCHA reported the release of four Action Contre la Faim aid workers and two pilots kidnapped in early November 2008. According to OCHA, 13 aid workers remained in captivity in Somalia as of August 21. In addition, between July 21 and August 16, two aid workers were killed near Mogadishu, increasing the number of humanitarian workers killed in Somalia to nine since January. According to the U.N., as of August 19, assailants had killed 42 aid workers and abducted 33 others since January 2008.

Population Movements

In July and August, continuing conflict in Mogadishu resulted in new internal displacement, although at

lower levels than reported at the height of the recent escalation in conflict in May and June. According to UNHCR, between May 7 and August 21, fighting displaced more than 250,000 individuals, including nearly 67,000 people displaced between July 1 and August 21. Of the total, approximately 70 percent have moved to areas adjacent to the capital along the Afgooye corridor, and 30 percent have moved to safer locations within Mogadishu.

Insecurity also continues to contribute to population movement across international borders. As of late July, UNHCR reported that nearly 525,000 Somalis had sought shelter in surrounding countries since 1991, including more than 43,000 individuals who fled to the Dadaab refugee complex in the North Eastern Province of Kenya between January and July 2009.

However, UNHCR reports that the number of Somalis traveling to the Dadaab complex has decreased in recent weeks from a height of nearly 6,500 individuals arriving in June to approximately 4,300 people in July. According to UNHCR, the decline in the number of new arrivals is primarily due to heavy rains and flooding, which have slowed cross-border travel.

In response to concerns regarding overcrowded conditions at the Dadaab complex, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees traveled to Kenya in early August to meet with government officials and seek support for camp expansion. Following the meetings, the Government of Kenya agreed to send a government delegation to Dadaab to consider supporting the expansion of the camp complex, and UNHCR announced plans to transfer 12,900 refugees to Kakuma camp in northwestern Kenya in the coming months. Intended to accommodate 90,000 people, the Dadaab complex hosts nearly 290,000 individuals.

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

Despite a normal *gu* season harvest in most southern agricultural areas, results of the 2009 post-*gu* assessment indicate deteriorating food security conditions throughout Somalia. According to FEWS NET, poor or failed April to June *gu* rains in 70 percent of the country, combined with previous rain failure, have led to deteriorating food security and intensifying drought conditions in Hiran, Galgadud, Nugal, Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, and Mudug regions. In addition, FSNAU reported poor *gu* rains in parts of Woqooyi Galbeed, and Lower Juba regions, as well as northern Gedo and Bakool regions. As a result of poor or failed rains, FEWS NET expects current levels of food

insecurity to persist or expand in affected regions between July and September.

According to the post *gu* assessment, near-normal rainfall in several southern agricultural areas, including Bay, Lower Shabelle, and Middle Juba regions, contributed to a near-normal or above-average harvest in the regions. As a result of adequate harvests in several southern regions, FSNAU estimates overall *gu* cereal production at 141,400 metric tons (MT), representing a 170 percent increase compared to the 2008 *gu* season. However, FEWS NET reports that insecurity along the road linking southern and central regions is expected to hamper cereal flows from southern regions to cereal-deficit areas in central and northern Somalia. As a result, FEWS NET expects limited transport of harvested crops and high food prices through December.

In northern pastoral areas, humanitarian agencies have expressed concern regarding deteriorating livestock productivity and body conditions due to significant water and pasture shortages. On July 29, USAID/OFDA partner Horn Relief released a rapid assessment of drought conditions in Sanaag Region, as well as surrounding pastoral areas in Sool and Togdheer regions, carried out in early June. The assessment noted significant livestock losses among pastoralists due to depleted pasture and stress resulting from abnormal migration patterns, threatening pastoralists' access to food and income. According to Horn Relief, local pastoralists predict that 70 percent of herds will perish prior to the onset of the September to December *deyr* rains.

To date 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

Findings from 33 recent FSNAU nutritional surveys confirm critical nutrition conditions in central and southern regions, as well as parts of northwest and northeast regions of Somalia. According to FSNAU, approximately one in five children in Somalia is acutely malnourished and one in 20 is severely malnourished, with a national median global acute malnutrition rate of 19 percent and a severe acute malnutrition rate of 4.6 percent, significantly above U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency thresholds of 15 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

Compounding the situation, FSNAU reports limited milk production and consumption throughout Somalia, negatively affecting the nutrition situation of women and children. According to the U.N. Nutrition Cluster, more than 200 outpatient therapeutic program sites and

stabilization centers currently provide services to severely malnourished children throughout Somalia.

On August 13, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) suspended the dispatch of nutritional and malaria prevention supplies in areas of central and southern Somalia due to increased hostilities and attacks targeting UNICEF compounds. The suspension affects the provision of nutrition supplies to more than 85,000 children and malaria prevention bed-nets to more than 100,000 women and children.

On August 12, UNICEF and WHO launched the second round of the Child Health Days campaign in northwest Somalia, targeting approximately 440,000 children under five years of age and 500,000 women of child-bearing age. The campaign works to reduce malnutrition, as well as prevent the spread of disease and waterborne illnesses among children and neonatal tetanus in women.

To date 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 aimed at mitigating acute malnutrition impacts on children under five years of age and the UNICEF and WHO Child Health Days campaign.

Emergency Food Assistance

In July, WFP distributed approximately 31,690 MT of food to 2.6 million beneficiaries throughout Somalia, representing 91 percent of planned tonnage. However, lack of access to locations in southern Somalia and food assistance pipeline shortfalls prevented WFP from distributing an additional 3,140 MT of food intended for approximately 300,000 individuals. According to the U.N., the WFP food assistance pipeline is projected to experience significant shortfalls in October.

Between July 29 and August 8, the U.N. reopened 15 of the 16 wet feeding sites in Mogadishu, with the site in Abdul-Aziz District remaining on hold. In June, the U.N. suspended distributions at the sites, which provide at least 80,000 people with hot meals daily, due to insecurity.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) continues to report ship attacks and hijackings off the coast of Somalia despite ongoing international efforts to address sea piracy and ensure the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to the region. According to the IMB, more than 148 piracy incidents occurred between January and June 2009, compared to 111 incidents during all of 2008.

Since December 2008, the European Union has provided naval escorts for WFP-contracted ships to facilitate the delivery of food assistance to affected

populations in Somalia. According to the U.N., naval escorts have reduced the overall number of successful hijackings off the coast of Somalia from one in every six hijacking attempts in January to one in every 13 in March.

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.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Due to poor or failed *gu* rains, the U.N. reports water shortages in south, central, northwest, and northeast Somalia. According to the U.N., more than 80 percent of the population in Bari, Nugal, Mudug, Sool, and Sanaag regions and 40 percent of the population in Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, and Togdheer regions currently require supplementary water assistance. In response to water shortages, humanitarian agencies

continue water trucking initiatives, and UNICEF has commenced construction and rehabilitation of water points in drought-affected areas.

In addition to limited water availability, the presence of waterborne diseases presents significant health risks for individuals throughout Somalia, particularly in drought-affected areas. Between January and June, WHO recorded more than 43,000 acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases, with at least 135 AWD-related deaths. According to the U.N., rapid response efforts and U.N. Health Cluster partner coordination have contained all potential AWD outbreaks.

To date 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 among IDPs and reduce the spread of waterborne diseases through hygiene education programs.

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	\$125,460
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,136,866
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			\$150,385,866

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 25, 2009.

² USAID/FFP funding represents actual value of food assistance as of August 25, 2009.