



DISASTER
RELIEF

CASE REPORT
Somalia-Drought
1974-1975

Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523



One of 22 relief centers established to accommodate an estimated 230,000 people affected by the drought.

Foreign Disaster Case Reports are publications of the Office of the Foreign Disaster Relief Coordinator, Agency for International Development. This office has responsibility for coordinating U.S. Government foreign disaster relief responses and for the further coordination of such activities with those of the U.S. private and international disaster relief communities.

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SOMALIA

Drought 1974-1975

Successive years of prolonged periods of abnormally low rainfall culminated in a year of severe drought during 1974. The effects of the drought were particularly harsh on the country's nomads, who constitute more than three-quarters of the estimated national population of three million. By April 1975, 22 relief centers had been established in the affected regions to accommodate an estimated population of 230,000 people.

The Government of the Somali Democratic Republic (GSDR) promptly and effectively mobilized all resources at its disposal to cope with the emergency. It soon became apparent, however, that external relief assistance was urgently needed—chiefly in the form of basic foodstuffs, medicines, and other necessities of life. The international community was quick to respond to Somalia's needs.

In June 1975, the GSDR began implementing a program to phase out the centers and to productively resettle the drought-stricken population in areas where they will be engaged in agricultural and fishery activities.

Value of U.S. Government Assistance	\$10,365,000
Value of Assistance by U.S. Voluntary Agencies	13,640
Value of Assistance by International Community	32,720,401
Total	\$43,099,041

The drought in Somalia developed due to the abnormally low rainfalls in 1973 and 1974 and was aggravated by the consequences of drought conditions in neighboring countries. In the northern areas, yields from rain-fed agricultural crops were reduced as well as earnings from livestock, the major source of Somalia's export earnings. As the effects of the drought spread in six of the country's 15 regions, increasing livestock deaths resulted, and feeding and caring for the nomadic peoples, normally completely dependent on their animals, became a major humanitarian concern.

In October 1974 the President of the Somali Democratic Republic issued a formal appeal to the United Nations General Assembly requesting relief assistance chiefly in the form of basic foodstuffs and medicaments. With a worsening of the situation, the government formally declared the drought a na-

tional emergency and intensified its mobilization of the resources of the entire country. By the end of January 1975, a total of 12 regions, excluding only three of the southern coastal regions, had been declared drought-stricken areas. The GSDR promptly and effectively mobilized all resources at its disposal, including the armed forces and appropriate vehicles and equipment from both the public and private sectors. Relief centers were quickly established in the affected regions to accommodate the drought-stricken population migrating southward. Government relief teams transported victims to the camps, using the same vehicles also to transport drinking water, foodstuffs and other relief supplies long distances, over poor roads and rough terrain. By January 1975 the combined relief center population approximated 150,000 nomads, and by April it reached a peak of over 220,000 in 22 centers.

The most urgent needs were blankets and tents to protect the debilitated people against cold. High incidence of bronchial pneumonia was a principal concern, followed by cases of diarrhea and measles. Other immediate requirements to care for the nomads included such items as cereals, milk powder, edible oil, sugar, biscuits, medicines, vitamins, clothing, collapsible water tanks, transportation equipment (vehicles and spare parts), and funds for camp operations.

Due to the highly effective management of the relief program, the human death toll was kept mercifully low even though 19,000 people died (reported by the GSDR).

Shortly after the government's request to the UN for assistance, the UN Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO) in Geneva sent a staff member to Somalia to assess growing relief requirements. From his field assessments and other information regularly provided by the UN Development Program Resident Representative, UNDRO informed interested donor governments, UN agencies, and other intergovernmental organizations and voluntary agencies on the drought situation and needs.

Initial emergency food demands were met by allocations by the World Food Program (WFP) and other donors. On the medical front, UNICEF made available large quantities of rehabilitative assistance aimed at bolstering health services, developing water supplies, improving sanitation, and providing nutrition and health training for those nomad families scheduled for resettlement. Further medical requirements were met through a procurement operation undertaken by the World Health Organization. The United Nations Emergency Operation (UNEO) allocated over \$3 million for essential imports of foodstuffs and transport equipment. Assistance from the European Economic Community (EEC) consisted primarily of foodstuffs at a cost of approximately \$10 million.

About 30 other countries donated cash and

in-kind assistance to help support the Somalia drought relief program. The assistance in kind included babyfoods, cereals, sugar, milk powder, dates, medicines, sheep pox vaccine, blankets, and airlifts or other modes of transportation. Included among the active donors were a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In June 1975 the GSDR initiated a program designed to phase out the relief centers and to productively resettle the drought-stricken population. In mid-August 1975 the emergency relief phase officially ended with the transfer of the last displaced persons to resettlement sites and the closing of the last center. The number of people resettled totaled 120,000. The remaining nomads returned to their nomadic life. Major external donors to the resettlement program included the Soviet Union and various Arab nations.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT

In December 1974, a disaster relief expert from A.I.D.'s Office of Foreign Disaster Relief Coordination went to Somalia to assess the disaster and determine the emergency needs which could be provided by the U.S. Government (USG).

U.S. Ambassador Roger Kirk exercised his disaster relief authority on December 10 and presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 to the Somali Red Crescent Society.

Also in December, A.I.D. diverted to Somalia a shipment of 1,410 long tons of USG Civil Defense biscuits which were enroute to Bangladesh. The value of these biscuits, inclusive of ocean transportation costs, was approximately \$3.6 million.

In January 1975, A.I.D. donated 200 family-size tents and 7,000 wool blankets from its disaster relief stockpile located at Camp Darby, Italy. These items, valued at \$93,000, were provided to the Somali Red Crescent Society through arrangements with the American National Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross.



At the relief centers, medical care was provided to the nomad families scheduled for resettlement.

Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 480, Title II, the U.S. Government bilaterally donated to Somalia emergency food consisting of approximately 10,000 metric tons of soy fortified bulgur and 5,000 metric tons of sorghum. In addition, almost 2,000 metric tons of CSM were donated to Somalia through UNICEF. The total value of these foodstuffs is estimated at \$6.6 million.

Summary of USG Assistance:

Civil Defense biscuits (including transportation) . . .	\$ 3,632,000
PL 480 Title II Food for Peace commodities	6,615,000
Blankets and tents	93,000
Cash contributions to Somalia Red Crescent Society	25,000
Total	\$10,365,000

**ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY
U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES**

American National Red Cross	\$ 3,400
Church World Service— 100,000 pounds of split beans, valued at	10,240
Total	\$13,640

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Based upon information currently available, the value of contributions and cash donations, other than from the U.S., was as follows:

Country	Government or Intergovernmental Organizations and International Organizations	Red Cross/ Crescent or Private Orgn.	Value of Assistance \$
Algeria	\$ *	\$ *	\$
Australia	*	3,740	3,740
Austria		1,323	1,323
Bahrain		1,176	1,176
Bulgaria		52,653	52,653
Canada	25,510	5,050	30,560
China	27,000		27,000
Czechoslovakia	89,290		89,290
Denmark	6,127		6,127

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY OTHER NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

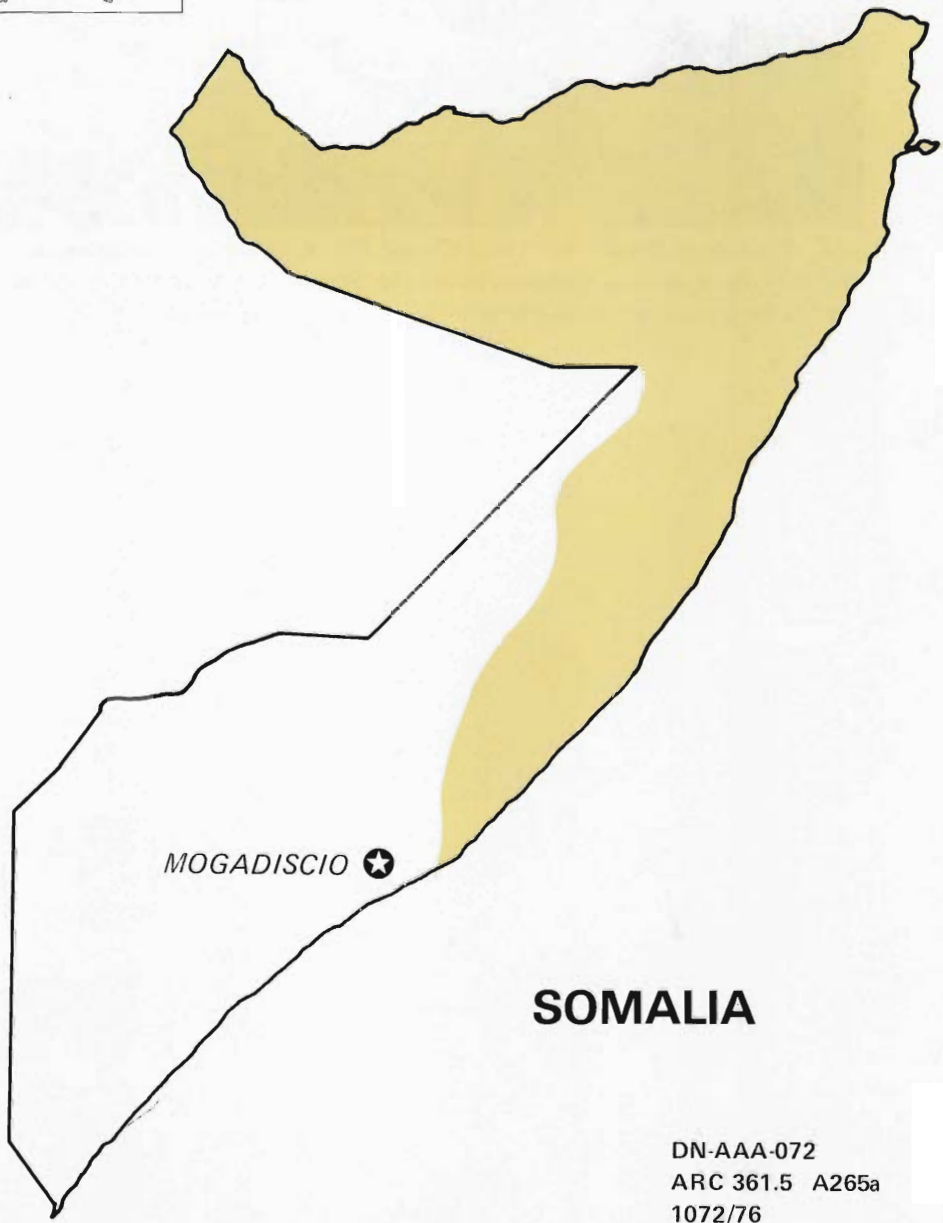
Based upon information currently available, the value of contributions and cash donations, other than from the U.S., was as follows:

Country	Government or Intergovernmental Organizations and International Organizations	Red Cross/ Crescent or Private Orgn.	Value of Assistance
Egypt	\$ *	\$ 5,380	\$ 5,380
Finland	18,020	14,180	32,200
France	5,000	6,206	11,206
Germany (GDR)	39,110		39,110
Germany (FRG)	668,300		668,300
Hungary	74,759	22,988	97,747
Iraq	82,000		82,000
Iran	*		
Ireland		620	620
Italy	2,450,000		2,450,000
Kenya		3,000	3,000
Kuwait	107,315	27,532	134,847
Lebanon		196	196
Libya	2,000,000		2,000,000
Luxembourg		784	784
Monaco		1,149	1,149
Netherlands	90,225	35,959	126,184
Nigeria	405,000		405,000
Norway		83,300	83,300
Romania		6,120	6,120
South Africa		433	433
Saudi Arabia	*	5,000	5,000
Sudan	*		
Sweden	2,420,000	63,688	2,483,688
Switzerland	*	267,174	267,174
Syria		450	450
Tunisia		1,500	1,500
Turkey		1,030	1,030
Uganda	100,120		100,120
United Kingdom	108,119	45,549	153,668
USSR	670,000	212,328	882,328
Yemen	26,600		26,600
Yugoslavia	175,074	32,767	207,841
Organization			
World Council of Churches		2,000	2,000
European Economic Community ..	10,930,357		10,930,357
United Nations System	11,299,200		11,299,200
Total	<u>\$31,817,126</u>	<u>\$ 930,275</u>	<u>\$32,720,401</u>

* Value of assistance provided not reported.



U.S. Ambassador Roger Kirk with Somali Red Crescent Society representatives, League of Red Cross Societies delegate, and Government of the Somali Democratic Republic Ministry of Health official to discuss the drought situation and determine the emergency needs.



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SOMALIA

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