



Monthly Cluster Report Humanitarian Response in Somalia September 2008

This report was written in cooperation with the cluster coordinators for the humanitarian operation in Somalia and provides a monthly update on ongoing activities and humanitarian response.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2008 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) for Somalia was 65% funded as of mid-October 2008. However, there were extreme variations in funding levels between sectors, ranging from as little as 9% for education to 92% for food aid.
- In September, more than 35,000 people were displaced from Mogadishu due to insecurity.
- A total of 1,253 cases of Acute Water Diarrhoea were reported throughout Somalia, including 36 deaths.
- Despite the security situation, and with more than five security incidents directly related to food aid distribution, WFP, CARE and ICRC managed to distribute food aid to nearly two million people.
- On a daily basis, around 80,000 vulnerable people continued to receive cooked food rations in Mogadishu.
- More than 140,000 children were vaccinated against measles in IDP settlements in and around Mogadishu and Afgooye corridor.

ACCESS & LOGISTICS

Due to poor maintenance and general insecurity, road access continued to be a major challenge along Waajid-Baidoa and Marka-Mogadishu roads of South Central Somalia. On average, humanitarian cargo is taking much longer to reach destinations due to these constraints. Considering the distance, it should take maximum a day on the Waajid-Baidoa-Mogadishu routes. Due to years of lack of road maintenance it now takes up to three days, and urgent road repairs are needed. WFP is currently rehabilitating key transport infrastructure such as roads, ports and bridges along the Waajid-Baidoa corridor. This project will continue in 2009 and will need additional donor funding.

Following the UN Country Team decision in July 2008, an alternative UNHAS air hub will be established in Marka. The work required to get the hub fully functioning include the extension of the runway, and installation of perimeter fences as well as upgrading of infrastructure for UNHAS to remain fully operational with the current fleet. WFP is already working on the first phase of the extension of the runway with CERF funding. The second phase is subject to adequate funding through the 2009 CAP.

At K50 storage facility, the capacity has been increased 100% since last month (August) with a total 16,000 cubic metric (cm) or 4,000 mt storage capacity that caters for the Afgooye IDP corridor. The storage facility in Waajid has been increased 30% and is now operating with a total 4,000 cm or 1,000 mt storage capacity.

The Canadian frigate currently providing escort assistance for WFP shipments into Somalia was initially scheduled to end the assistance on 27 September 2008 but has now been extended to 23 October 2008. After 23 October, the Dutch Government will provide escort assistance.

The largest overseas vessel contracted by WFP in recent months safely arrived in Mogadishu on Saturday 27 September with 13,770 mt of maize. The ship sailed from Durban in South Africa on 14 September and arrived in Mogadishu on 27 September under the Canadian naval escort. So far the Canadian frigate has safely escorted five WFP-contracted vessels into Mogadishu with a total shipment of 36,360 mt of assorted food commodities since the escort started on 18 August 2008.

Insecurity remained a major challenge for humanitarian operations. On 25 September, a convoy carrying 1,230 mt of WFP food to Bakool region was ambushed by militiamen in Balcaad, 30km north of Mogadishu and the food looted. The contracted transport company is still making efforts to recover the food.

Due to insecurity that prevailed in Marka in September, as a precautionary measure, WFP reduced its international staff presence in Marka and temporary relocating five staff to Waajid.

Following a ban on use of the Mogadishu Airport imposed by Al Shabaab on 16 September, UN flights into Mogadishu and K-50 were suspended. Mogadishu Airport is the lifeline for many of the remaining residents in the city. Normally, at least five commercial flights arrive and depart on a weekly basis to and from the rest of Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti and Dubai.

Cluster Coordinator – Logistics:

Francesco Nicolo Cornaro, WFP, FrancescoNicolo.cornaro@wfp.org

PROTECTION

During the month of September, Somalia continued to experience a complex pattern of population movements to various areas of the country and for different reasons. The single greatest cause of displacement during the month was due to armed conflict between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Ethiopian, AMISOM forces and various anti-government groups. Beginning on 20 September, fighting took place in several districts of Mogadishu, particularly Bakara Market, and areas around the airport and Presidential Palace beginning. The fighting resulted in reports of large number of civilian casualties as well as the displacement of more than 34,000 people. IDPs from this latest wave of conflict have been identified in nearly all parts of Somalia, but the greatest concentration is along the outskirts of Mogadishu and the Afgooye corridor, an area already hosting more than 300,000 IDPs from Mogadishu.

Armed conflict, or the fear of conflict, has displaced people from places other than Mogadishu. Nearly 5,800 fled continuing tension in Kismaayo in early September. Another 1,300 people fled the continuing tensions in Belet Weyne. There was also significant displacement due to drought in September. Of the estimated 27,000 displaced because of drought, 26,000 were from Galgaduud district. The vast majority were displaced to urban centres in the region, however one group moved to Cabudwaaq in Lower Juba. Displacement due to drought was also reported in South Mudug, Bakool, and in various parts of eastern Ethiopia.

A large number of IDPs returning to their areas of origin were also reported this month. Most of the 70,000 people displaced from Belet Weyne in July seem to have returned. Other returnees were reported in Kismaayo and in the beginning of the month in Mogadishu as well.

The protection cluster developed and finalized objectives for the 2009 CAP: enhance accuracy of knowledge of the protection environment of civilians to better inform and improve programmatic response and advocacy activities; strengthen the capacity of communities to reduce vulnerabilities and increase protection; increase access to services for those who have experienced fundamental human rights violations. The cluster is in the final stage of vetting and clearing of projects for 2009.

The Mixed Migration Task Force met to discuss programming and implementation of priority activities on Mixed Migration. UNHCR received a contribution of 300,000 Swiss Francs (approximately US\$260,000) from the Swiss government geared towards Mixed Migration activities for 2008-2009. Part of the funds will be used for local recruitment of a Mixed Migration focal point to be based in Bossaso, as well as monitoring the situation in Hargeysa. Migration movements across international borders continued. Approximately 2,800 Somalis and 120 Ethiopians arrived on the Yemeni shore this month. So far, an estimated 21,000 Somalis and 10,000 Ethiopians are reported to have arrived in Yemen from both Somalia and Djibouti.

In September, more than 2,000 Somalis were reported to have arrived at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya. This figure is likely to grow as there are still many new arrivals that are yet to be registered. As in previous months, a small but steady number of Somalis continue to move to Ethiopia from Somaliland. Reports indicate that many are hoping to continue their journey and move to Europe via Libya.

Cluster Coordinator – Protection:

Fatima Mohammed (Chair), UNHCR, mohammef@unhcr.org
Reena Ghelani (Co-chair), UN-OCHA, ghelani@un.org

FOOD AID

In September ICRC provided two full emergency relief rations to 162,000 beneficiaries in Galgaduud region. It also provided three full rations to 3,500 households or 21,420 beneficiaries in Badhaadhe district, Lower Juba. The reason for providing three full rations is due to the anticipated *Deyr* rains which will make this area inaccessible in the coming months. ICRC also provided Ramadan food and clothes to 6,500 orphans and disabled in Mogadishu and Marka. In total, ICRC provided 6,988 mt of food aid commodities to 189,920 beneficiaries in the areas indicated above.

CARE delivered 4,500 mt of food rations to 28,123 households in Belet Xaawo, Ceel Waaq, Doolow and Luuq districts in Gedo region. CARE also planned food distribution for Adan Yabaal and Cadale districts in Middle Shabelle. However, security constraints delayed deliveries for Aden Yabaal while Cadale distributions of 598 mt of food were completed for 6,065 households.

In September WFP dispatched for distribution a total of 26,161 mt of food aid commodities through its various programmes reaching 1,547,634 beneficiaries. Nearly 82% the food distributed was through emergency relief food distribution to vulnerable residents and displaced populations in South Central Somalia while the rest were distributed through the selective feeding, wet feeding in Mogadishu, school feeding, food for assets and training programmes.

Wet feeding (cooked meals) programme for vulnerable residents in Mogadishu continued to run successfully; during the month of September, WFP provided food rations totalling 1,104 mt to 80,000 beneficiaries.

The ban on International Medical Corps (IMC) operations in Xudur and Rab Dhuure districts, Bakool region, by insurgents group in control of the area, has affected the implementation of WFP supported supplementary feeding centres (SFP). WFP staff members stepped in to undertake distributions in the two districts as IMC could only distribute food in one district – Ceel Barde - following the ban.

Cluster Coordinator – Food Aid

Keith Ursel, WFP, keith.ursel@wfp.org & Justus Liku, (Co-chair), CARE, liku@ci.or.ke

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

The Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster met on 25 September 2008. Around 40 people participated in the meeting representing 30 organisations.

The cluster has received 73 project proposals to be included in the 2009 CAP for Somalia with a total funding request of about US\$83 million. All the proposals are in line with the cluster objectives and are currently being reviewed.

Four Somali NGOs (JCC, ASEP, AFREC and HARDO) that submitted proposals to the cluster on livelihoods support to secondarily displaced IDPs in South Central Somalia will be eligible for funding from the US\$ 650,000 funding availed to FAO by the Swedish government.

UNDP is currently working with 12 local NGOs and community based organizations in Middle Shabelle and Hiraan to implement a CERF-funded project. They are in the process of signing contracts with three more national NGOs. UNDP is also working with five Community Management Committees (CMCs) in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle regions, in the districts of Balcaad, Jalalaqsi, Jowhar, Belet Weyne and Mahaday. Project activities are labour intensive and include: flood mitigation activities, improvement of agriculture infrastructure, rehabilitation of access roads, improvements in water catchments, construction of community markets and granaries, as well as community capacity training and skills development.

The interventions will ensure more cash is available in the community. More cash will increase the purchasing power of the community and help clear debts. In addition, it will prevent the community from selling their assets to raise money. De-silted water catchments will ensure that water from the October – November *Deyr* rains is conserved. Granaries will facilitate proper storage of grains, helping to prevent post harvest losses.

Cluster Coordinator – Agriculture & Livelihoods

Dr. Andrew Harberd, FAO, Andrew.harberd@fao.org

NUTRITION

FSAU and partners will start the second cycle of nutrition assessments throughout the country in October. Plans are underway for 17 representative assessments from October to December to update on the nutrition situation from the *Gu* '08 cycle of assessments. The first assessments will be conducted in the emerging crisis areas in the north of Sool plateau and Guban livelihoods, which were highlighted in the post *Gu* '08 analysis. This will be followed by assessments in the Shabelles, central region, Gedo, Hiraan, Bakool, Bay and Juba regions. Due to the ongoing security concerns, there are risks that the assessment schedule may be interrupted, but all efforts will be made to collect relevant information on the nutrition and health situation to provide an updated situation analysis.

On response, UNICEF is preparing for the third round of blanket nutritional supplementary feeding (unimix distribution) for mid-October in Central South Somalia, to cover over 55,000 under-five children along the Afgooye corridor and in three Mogadishu IDP settlements. These targets have increased from 45,000 served in June/July 2008. Other plans for blanket supplementary food distribution by ACF in Waajid district are underway, to improve the coverage of the current response as well as to address the emerging needs.

Other emergency nutrition programmes continued to operate though with many security related challenges. The latest has been the temporary interruption of the IMC emergency health and nutrition programmes in Xudur and Rab Dhuure in Bakool region and Qansax Dheere and Diinsoor Programmes in Bay Region.

On fundraising, the preparation for the 2009 CAP got underway with the nutrition cluster identifying the following as the main priority thematic areas or objectives to guide the project proposal development:

- Improving access, by the nutritionally vulnerable population, to quality emergency nutrition response (including selective feeding programmes and blanket feeding)
- Ensuring integration of emergency selective feeding programmes with medium term nutrition and multi-sector programmes that addresses the underlying causes of malnutrition.
- Strengthen technical capacity and avail appropriate resources to local NGOs/CBOs and national staff to facilitate implementation of emergency and long term strategies addressing malnutrition

These objectives point the cluster level emphasis of emergency response which the various stakeholders are encouraged to base their current and the 2009 programme priorities on.

Cluster Coordinator – Nutrition:

James King'ori, UNICEF, kingori@unicef.org & Grainne Moloney, FSAU , grainne.moloney@fsau.or.ke

HEALTH

Surveillance of AWD/Cholera

During the month of September, a total of 1,253 cases of Acute Water Diarrhoea (AWD) were reported throughout Somalia, including 36 deaths:

Locations	Period	AWD cases	Deaths
Marka Hospital/Lower Shebelle	13 Aug to 24 Sept	329	4
Berbera and Burco/ Somaliland	1 Sept to 3 Oct	319	4
Jilib, Jamaame & Afmadow/ Lower and Middle Shabelle	23 August to 3 Oct	245	3
Gololey area/Middle Shabelle	21 Sept to 5 Oct	180	23
Bossaso Hospital/Puntland	6 Sept to 5 Oct	179	2

WHO and partners responded to the increased AWD caseload in all locations by providing medicines including antibiotics, ORS, ringer lactate, IV sets, and disinfectants. Agencies also provided chlorine for chemical treatment of water wells in Marka district in order to avoid spread of cholera to Afgooye and other areas. From 16 September, WHO and partner NGOs distributed aqua-tabs for 14 days (280 tablets for 20 litres drinking water per person per day) to patients discharged from the Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC) in Marka. Another 540,000 aqua-tabs have been provided to COSV, and local partners IIDA, Ayuub and New Way to be distributed to the communities. Core health messages covering personal, environmental, and food hygiene are aired in Somali on radio.

Immunization

Third round of the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) was completed by UNICEF and partners in the second week of September in Lower Shabelle, reaching 21,339 children. Furthermore, 142,654

children between 9 months and 15 years were vaccinated against measles in IDP settlements in and around Mogadishu and Afgooye IDP corridor in the first week of September. More than 100 vaccination teams undertook the exercise through 85 fixed locations and 20 mobile set-ups. World Vision continued EPI program for nomadic communities in Middle Juba where 425 children under the age of five were vaccinated.

Health Coordination, Capacity Building & Training

The cluster completed the 2009 humanitarian response plan and submitted 30 project proposals for the CAP 2009.

Between 29 August and 7 September, WHO in partnership with COSV conducted a training of trainers on safe delivery and referral guidelines for six qualified midwives in Marka. Training was also conducted for 171 traditional birth attendants (TBAs). Outcomes of the trainings included planning of safe delivery; building community support and planning for safe births and complications management, as well as skilled care and appropriate care-seeking behavior.

WHO provided 1.5 mt of anti-psychotic drugs to mental hospitals in Somaliland. The agency supports four mental hospitals, namely Hargeysa and Berbera in Somaliland; Bossaso in Puntland; and Habeb in Mogadishu. Support is planned for Nasrullah Mental Home in Garowe, Puntland, after completion of the assessment of the health facility.

In Mogadishu, UNFPA provided 200 clean delivery kits to TBAs while WHO provided refresher training. In addition, UNFPA continued to support six Mother and Child Health (MCH) facilities in Mogadishu that treated 1,677 women and 4,764 children under five. Also, 478 clean delivery kits were distributed to support safe delivery. In Somaliland, UNFPA provided reproductive health kits including 2,550 clean delivery kits and hygiene kits to partners running MCHs in Baki, Gebiley and Sanaag.

During the reporting period a new initiative to improve the personal hygiene of IDP women was introduced by a UNHCR's local NGO partner called Gaalkacyo Education Centre for Peace and Development (GECPD), who initiated the distribution of locally produced sanitary kits to IDP women in Gaalkacyo. A total of 800 IDP women and girls from 9 IDP camps in Gaalkacyo received sanitary kits. This initiative will be replicated in accessible areas of South Central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland.

Cluster Coordinator – Health

N. Paranietharan, WHO, paranien@nbo.emro.who.int

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Many of the regions in Somalia still experience water shortages. Water trucking has been on-going in the drought-affected areas of the central regions where the population has depleted their tradition coping mechanisms making it impossible for them to purchase water. ICRC has once again implemented a major water trucking exercise alleviating the effects of the drought. So far there has been only sporadic rainfall, except in Puntland where the rain has been sufficient allowing ICRC to stop water trucking.

Despite increase influx of IDPs in and around Mogadishu and Afgooye corridor, MSF-CH has decided to reduce water interventions for IDPs in Afgooye. Arrangements with other actors are being developed in order to ensure that the affected IDPs have access to water.

Implementation of piped schemes in Afgooye corridor is on-going, albeit slow, and is hoped to be completed before the end of the year, reducing the cost of providing water to the more than 300,000 IDPs to approximately US\$ 400,000 a month. Water activities aimed at supporting IDPs in Hiraan have been initiated by DRC and Save the Children-UK.

Lack of sanitation facilities in many of the IDP settlement along Afgooye corridor is a major concern. Partners are strongly encouraged to increase their activities in this field.

For the 2009 CAP, the WASH cluster submitted a total of 23 projects aimed at providing water and sanitation facilities to a total of almost 2.8 million people. The total value of the projects is US\$ 35.8 million.

Cluster Coordinator – WASH

Erik Toft (chair), UNICEF, etoft@unicef.org

Medard Hakizamungu (Co-chair), Oxfam GB, Mhakizamungu@oxfam.org.uk

FUNDING

The USD\$ 646 million 2008 CAP for Somalia was 65% funded as of 15 October. However, there are major variations in funding levels between sectors, ranging from as little as 9% for education to 92% for food aid. Some key sectors, such as health (16%), nutrition (29%) and safety & security for staff (8%), need urgent attention if the humanitarian community is to undertake an integrated response and maintain the current response level.

Over 100 project proposals have been reviewed by the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) so far this year, and a total of US\$11.4 million has been disbursed to 43 projects benefiting an estimated 2.1 million people in all regions of Somalia. Of the funded projects, the UN received allocations for six projects while international NGOs received funding for 28 projects to be implemented either directly or in partnership with national NGOs. The remaining nine projects were initiated by national Somali NGOs.