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

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 April 15, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated March 10, 2010.

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 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 569,000 Somali refugees have fled the country and approximately 1.39 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), including long-term IDPs and individuals displaced by increased fighting since February 2007, remain uprooted within Somalia.

On January 29, 2010, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported that more than 3.2 million people would require humanitarian assistance in Somalia through June 2010, representing a 9 percent decrease since July 2009. The January to June 2010 estimate includes 580,000 urban poor, nearly 1.25 million individuals residing in rural areas, and approximately 1.39 million IDPs. 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. U.N. and partner agencies are coordinating efforts to improve humanitarian access, but insecurity and targeted attacks against relief staff hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

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. USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor humanitarian conditions and respond to the needs of affected populations in Somalia.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population in Need of Emergency Assistance	3.2 million	FSNAU – January 2010
IDPs in Somalia	1.39 million[1]	UNHCR[2] – March 2010
Somali Refugees in East Africa and Yemen	569,000	UNHCR – March 2010

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia.....$12,846,069
USAID/FFP[3] Assistance to Somalia.....$15,900,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....$28,746,069

CURRENT SITUATION

Since early January, increased conflict between TFG forces and armed groups in southern and central Somalia has resulted in increased displacement in Mogadishu and surrounding areas. According to UNHCR, violence displaced approximately 168,000 Somalis between January 1 and March 25, 2010, an 82 percent increase over the 92,000 displacements recorded during the same period in 2009. On March 25, UNHCR confirmed that approximately 97 percent of all displacement in 2010 to date resulted from insecurity. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) March worst-case estimates indicate that insecurity may displace as many as 490,000 people throughout Somalia during the next three months. In addition, armed groups have restricted radio broadcasting in recent days, further indicating a deteriorating situation for residents of Mogadishu and surrounding areas.

Although much of southern Somalia experienced an above-normal harvest following October to December *deyr* rains, poor rainfall in central, northeastern, and northwestern Somalia has resulted in continuing localized food insecurity. In addition, ongoing conflict in southern and central Somalia has hindered trade and restricted humanitarian access, including delivery of

[1] The total includes 275,000 long-term IDPs
[2] Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
[3] USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

food assistance, further exacerbating food insecurity in drought-affected areas, according to the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

Security and Population Movements

Armed groups continue to restrict humanitarian access, conduct attacks on aid workers and property, cause significant displacement, and increase humanitarian needs in southern and central Somalia. On April 7, militia members took control of a U.N. World Food Program (WFP) compound and nearby airstrip in Waajid District, Bakool Region, according to UNHCR. Following the incident, OCHA received unconfirmed reports that assets were looted from the compound; however, OCHA notes that few assets and no WFP personnel were present, as WFP had suspended operations in the area in January.

During March, conflict between TFG forces and armed groups in Mogadishu resulted in increasing displacement within the city. UNHCR reports that insecurity displaced more than 58,000 people from Mogadishu during the month of March, more than double the 24,000 people displaced in February. In total, UNHCR estimates that conflict displaced more than 100,000 people from residences in Mogadishu since the beginning of 2010, with approximately 69 percent settling in other neighborhoods of Mogadishu or camps along the Afgooye corridor. The remaining 31 percent fled to more distant locations, including Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions.

Although Somalis fleeing from conflict in areas of origin continue to seek refuge in neighboring countries, UNHCR notes that outward refugee flows have not increased following reports of increased insecurity in Somalia. According to UNHCR interviews with refugees, displaced people avoid traveling through areas under militia control, fearing violence or forced recruitment. Increased conflict in southern and central Somalia has increased the danger and difficulty of traveling to Kenya, Ethiopia, or Yemen, countries hosting the majority of Somali refugees. However, although numbers of new refugees have not increased, refugee flows into neighboring countries continue, with East African countries hosting 568,640 Somali refugees as of March 25, according to UNHCR.

In FY 2009, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than $56 million to support affected Somalis, including $39 million in earmarked funding to assist Somali refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen, and $17 million to support UNHCR and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) operations within Somalia.

Agriculture and Food Security

Despite an above-average harvest in southern Somalia following October to December *deyr* rains, food insecurity remains a concern in many areas, particularly central regions and parts of northeastern and northwestern Somalia, which experienced below-normal rainfall. In mid-March, FEWS NET identified ongoing conflict in southern and central Somalia, severe drought conditions in central and northern Somalia, and continuing high food prices as key sources of food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia.

Humanitarian staff also note that insecurity negatively affects trade activities by restricting the movement of food and non-food supplies from surplus to deficit areas. FEWS NET also expressed concern regarding the effects of food aid suspensions resulting from ongoing insecurity, particularly in areas affected by both conflict and drought. In addition to increasing the vulnerability of food-insecure populations, suspension of food assistance has resulted in rising prices for staple foods such as maize and sorghum, even in areas with high production, according to FEWS NET.

Poor *deyr* rainfall in pastoral areas of central and northern Somalia resulted in depleted water sources and deteriorating pasture conditions. FEWS NET identified parts of Galgadud, Hiran, and Mudug regions—which have experienced six consecutive seasons of drought—as most-affected areas. In addition, conflict continues to limit humanitarian access in many affected areas.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $4.1 million to support agriculture and food security and economic recovery and market systems programs in Somalia, including interventions designed to strengthen and safeguard pastoral livelihoods, particularly in drought-affected areas.

Emergency Food Assistance

Despite ongoing insecurity, WFP remains determined to help feed insecure populations in Somalia and continues to conduct food distributions in Mogadishu and north central and northern Somalia, while simultaneously prioritizing the safety of WFP staff. In March, WFP delivered 9,100 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to more than 708,000 people in Somalia.

On March 11, WFP announced plans to discontinue contracts with three transport contractors named in a U.N. Somalia/Eritrea Sanctions Committee's Monitoring Group report, which alleged the companies participated in arms trading. In addition, WFP welcomed independent investigations into the organization's food assistance operations in Somalia.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/FFP has provided more than 18,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food

assistance, valued at nearly $16 million, to WFP for distribution to vulnerable populations in Somalia.

Health and Nutrition

As of early April, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), and humanitarian partners continued to conduct the Child Health Days campaign in southern Somalia, aimed at reaching more than 1.3 million children with Vitamin A supplements, de-worming vaccinations, nutrition screenings, referral services, and oral re-hydration therapy. The campaign also targets 1.6 million women of child-bearing age with tetanus vaccinations and various health education initiatives. As of April 1, the program had reached more than 80 percent of the target population of children under five years of age and 77 percent of targeted women in Bakool, Gedo, Lower Juba, and Middle Juba regions.

Despite recent improvements in food security, child malnutrition levels remain high throughout Somalia. Although FSNAU reported that Somalia's median global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate has fallen to 16 percent from a 19 percent average in mid-2009, it remains above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent. GAM rates in conflict-affected areas in south and central Somalia remain at 19 percent. FSNAU estimates that more than 80 percent of Somalia's malnourished children reside in conflict-affected areas with limited access to humanitarian services.

According to USAID/OFDA field staff, the UN reports anecdotal evidence suggesting an increase in malnutrition rates in the Afgooye corridor and within Mogadishu. Humanitarian organizations working in Mogadishu indicate that admissions for treatment of malnutrition cases have doubled in recent weeks. The UN notes the need for a comprehensive assessment of Afgooye corridor to identify the scale of humanitarian needs in the area, including for malnutrition interventions.

On April 12, WFP reported that four trucks transporting 55 MT of food commodities for targeted supplementary feeding programs for displaced persons arrived in the Afgooye corridor—the first food assistance to arrive in the area since January. In the coming weeks, WFP plans to transport additional food to the corridor to support targeted supplementary feeding activities to address identified malnutrition needs.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly $1.2 million to support health and nutrition activities in Somalia, including programs intended to mitigate the impact of acute malnutrition and improve access to critical basic health care services for children and pregnant women.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Unseasonal rains have fallen in areas of northeastern, northwestern, and southern Somalia since February, according to FEWS NET, potentially signaling an early commencement of the April to June *gu* rains. As of mid-March, the rains had caused flash flooding in Awdal Region, affecting approximately 40,000 people, according to local authorities. However, FEWS NET also anticipates the unusual rainfall may mitigate the negative effects of the January to March *jillal* dry season and replenish local water sources.

According to recent reports, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Predictions and Applications Center (ICPAC) anticipates a below-normal *gu* season for much of Somalia, likely to exacerbate continuing food insecurity. However, ICPAC expects above-normal rainfall in areas of Bakool, Bari, Bay, Gedo, and Juba regions.

On April 9, WHO reported increasing numbers of acute watery diarrhea cases in Lower Shabelle Region, particularly in Afgooye and Marka districts. According to WHO, health officials reported 660 cases in Afgooye during the week of April 5, an increase from 526 cases the previous week. In addition, the Marka Hospital Cholera Treatment Center reported 70 admissions, an increase from 28 cases. Although the number of identified cases did not significantly rise in Mogadishu, children under five years of age constituted 77 of the 96 admitted cases during the week.

WHO notes that the increases are consistent with seasonal patterns, as communities are particularly susceptible to waterborne diseases at the onset of the rainy season. Health staff also note that the high concentration of IDPs in Afgooye District and nearby areas increases the likelihood of potential disease spread. WHO and humanitarian partners are responding to current and anticipated needs by distributing medical kits in affected and surrounding areas.

In FY 2010 to date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $6.7 million to support WASH interventions in Somalia, including programs to increase access to safe drinking water and reduce the spread of waterborne diseases.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In FY 2010 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly $29 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Somalia, including nearly $13 million in USAID/OFDA funding to support agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH interventions.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

FY 2010			
Implementing Partner	***Activity***	***Location***	***Amount***
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE[1]			
NGO Implementing Partner	Agriculture and Food Security, and WASH	Bakool, Bay, and Galgadud Regions	$1,500,000
NGO Implementing Partner	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities, and WASH	Northern Somalia	$2,000,000
NGO Implementing Partner	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, and WASH	Bakool and Hiran Regions	$1,200,000
NGO Implementing Partner	Agriculture and Food Security, and WASH	Galgadud and Mudug Regions	$1,381,663
NGO Implementing Partner	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities, and WASH	Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Galgadud, Gedo, Hiran, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, and Middle Shabelle Regions	$3,000,000
NGO Implementing Partner	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Protection, and WASH	Bari Region	$1,499,990
NGO Implementing Partner	Health, Nutrition, and WASH	Galgadud, Hiran, and Middle Shabelle Regions	$1,264,416
NGO Implementing Partner	WASH	Awdal and Togdheer Regions	$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			**$12,846,069**
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE[2]			
WFP	18,650 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	North Central and Northern Somalia	$15,900,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			**$15,900,000**
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2010			**$28,746,069**

[1] USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 15, 2010.
[2] Estimated value of food assistance as of April 15, 2010.

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