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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

October 28, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated September 23, 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 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), including long-term IDPs and individuals displaced by increased fighting since February 2007, remain uprooted within Somalia.

On September 29, 2009, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported that more than 3.6 million people require humanitarian assistance in Somalia through December 2009, representing a 13 percent increase since January 2009 and between 37 and 48 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. 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 1, 2009, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster in Somalia due to the complex emergency. In FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) 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 (WASH) interventions.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Population in Need of Emergency Assistance	3.64 million	FSNAU – September 2009
IDPs in Somalia	1.5 million ¹	FSNAU – September 2009
Somali Refugees in East and Central Africa	530,000	UNHCR ² – October 2009

CURRENT SITUATION

Due to the presence of an El Niño weather phenomenon, the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) expects normal to above-normal October to December rainfall to improve water and pasture availability in some areas of northern and central Somalia. However, FEWS NET does not expect food security to improve in the coming months; noting that more than 3.6 million people will continue to require humanitarian assistance through 2009. Of the total population expected to require emergency assistance, approximately 75 percent—representing 2.7 million people—reside in south and central Somalia, the areas most affected by ongoing conflict, population displacement, and limited humanitarian access.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported the release of three humanitarian aid workers on October 3. According to OCHA, armed assailants captured the three relief staff members in northern Kenya on July 17. To date, ten aid workers remain in captivity in Somalia.

Security and Populations Movements

Ongoing conflict and insecurity in south and central Somalia continues to result in displacement and reduced humanitarian access to affected populations. Since May 2009, an escalation of conflict between government forces and armed militias has increased the rate of population displacement, particularly from Mogadishu and surrounding areas. Between September 1 and October 23, conflict displaced 17,000

¹ The total includes 275,000 long-term IDPs

² Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

individuals from Mogadishu, including 13,500 people displaced to areas throughout Somalia and 3,400 others that fled to safer areas within the city.

In total, UNHCR reports that conflict and insecurity displaced 23,000 people countrywide between September 1 and October 23. During the same time period, drought conditions resulted in the displacement of an additional 8,000 individuals, while insufficient livelihood opportunities accounted for the displacement of 3,000 others, according to UNHCR. Of the total, approximately 6,300 moved to areas adjacent to the capital along the Afgooye corridor, joining the more than 524,000 IDPs currently residing in the area.

Insecurity and drought also continue to result in population movements across international borders. By the end of September, UNHCR reported that approximately 530,000 Somalis had fled to neighboring countries since 1991, including more than 45,000 individuals that arrived at the Dadaab refugee complex in the North Eastern Province of Kenya between January and September 2009.

As a result of overcrowding and associated strain on limited basic services in the Dadaab refugee complex, humanitarian organizations continue to assist with efforts to decongest the three camps, which currently host approximately 270,000 refugees. On October 13, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with UNHCR, the Government of Kenya Department of Refugee Affairs, and non-governmental organizations, completed the relocation of 13,000 Somali refugees from the Dadaab complex to Kakuma camp in northwestern Kenya. IOM provided the refugees with pre-departure medical screenings and medical escorts. However, IOM notes that despite efforts to relieve overcrowding in the Dadaab complex, the camp population remains unchanged due to the continuous arrival of new refugees from Somalia.

In FY 2009, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration 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 operations within Somalia.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to FEWS NET, October to December *deyr* rains commenced earlier than normal in many pastoral areas in northern and northeastern Somalia, as well as parts of central Somalia. Due to current El Niño conditions, FEWS NET anticipates normal to above-normal rainfall through the end of 2009 in most areas. In particular, FEWS NET expects heavy rains in southern and central regions to improve water and pasture availability, reduce household expenditure on

water and migration, and possibly reverse the rate of livestock losses in pastoral areas.

However, FEWS NET does not anticipate a significant improvement in food security through March 2010, as several consecutive seasons of drought have depleted food and livestock assets and exhausted coping mechanisms. According to FEWS NET, two to three consecutive seasons of good rains are required to replenish livestock losses incurred during prolonged and consecutive seasons of drought. In addition, poor households in severely drought-affected areas of Somalia will continue to experience high levels of food insecurity due to food and water debts incurred during recent droughts.

While humanitarian agencies expect increased rainfall to largely benefit populations in Somalia, FEWS NET and U.N. agencies report that heavy rainfall will likely result in flooding along the Juba and Shabelle river valleys. The anticipated flooding typically creates opportunities for off-season crop production, but significant flooding could destroy planted seeds or negatively affect crop germination, resulting in reduced agricultural production in low-lying areas.

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

Health and Nutrition

Nutrition conditions in central and southern regions, as well as parts of the northern regions, continue to deteriorate due to conflict, drought, displacement, and lack of basic services. The results of 34 FSNAU nutrition surveys conducted during 2009 indicate a median global acute malnutrition rate of 19 percent, exceeding the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15 percent. The survey results reflect an estimated 285,000 acutely malnourished children under five years of age, including 70,000 severely malnourished children. Approximately 70 percent of the malnourished children reside in south and central Somalia.

According to WHO, reported measles cases in Somalia have steadily increased throughout 2009. Health facilities in Lower Shabelle Region reported 159 cases between May 23 and September 27, compared to 10 cases during the same time period in 2008. Mobile health clinics also reported 112 measles cases in September among IDP populations residing in Mogadishu and along the Afgooye corridor. WHO reports that the total number of measles cases in Somalia is likely higher than reported, noting that insecurity hinders access to affected areas. To mitigate declining health and nutrition conditions, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to

implement the Child Health Days program, a large-scale campaign that provides women and children with important health services, including vaccinations, vitamin A supplements, de-worming, and nutritional screening. During the first round of the campaign, UNICEF reached more than 1 million children under five years of age and approximately 819,000 women of child-bearing age.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.8 million to support health and nutrition activities in Somalia, including programs intended to mitigate the impact of acute malnutrition on children, improve access to critical basic health care services, and enhance the capacity of health care providers through health worker training.

Emergency Food Assistance

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reduced food aid interventions in crop-producing areas of southern Somalia during the July to September harvest season to avoid potential negative impacts on market prices. In September, WFP distributed approximately 22,170 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to 1.3 million beneficiaries throughout Somalia. However, WFP reports that pipeline shortfalls, limited access to affected areas, and resource shortfalls continue to hinder planned distributions throughout south and central Somalia. According to WFP, programs targeting expectant women, malnourished children, and hospitals continued without disruption.

As of October 27, the U.N. had reopened all 16 wet feeding sites in Mogadishu, including the Abdul-Aziz site which reopened during the week of October 19. In June, the U.N. suspended distributions at the wet

feeding sites, which provide at least 80,000 people with hot meals daily, due to insecurity.

In FY 2009, USAID's Office of Food for Peace provided more than 157,000 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, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.8 million to WFP for the regional procurement and distribution of food aid.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The prevalence of waterborne diseases continues to present significant health risks for drought- and conflict-affected populations in Somalia.

WHO reported more than 52,000 acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases and 170 associated deaths throughout Somalia between January 1 and September 6.

Approximately 95 percent of AWD cases and 96 percent of related deaths occurred among children under five years of age.

According to WHO, AWD cases are likely to increase throughout Somalia during the October to December *deyr* rainy season. In addition, FEWS NET reports that projected flooding in the Juba and Shabelle river basins could potentially increase the incidence of malaria and Rift Valley Fever, as well as the spread of waterborne diseases. In response, OCHA is facilitating flood contingency preparations, including the prepositioning of emergency relief supplies.

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