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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
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) 2006

April 3, 2006

Note: The last situation report was dated September 30, 2005.

### BACKGROUND

In November 2005, aid agencies requested more than \$174.1 million for assistance to 1 million Somalis through the U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). In March 2006, the U.N. launched a revised appeal to request \$326.7 million, following reports of an emerging humanitarian crisis by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) and USAID Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). According to multi-agency assessments, an estimated 2.1 million Somalis, including 1.4 million pastoralists in the south, and 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) throughout the country, face a critical situation following failed October to December 2005 *deyr* rains and the cumulative effects of drought conditions across the Horn of Africa<sup>1</sup>. Further complicating the humanitarian situation in Somalia is ongoing civil strife, interclan conflicts, and the lack of a central functioning government. Years of widespread violence since the collapse of Muhammad Siad Barre's government in 1991, combined with extreme poverty have also led to the migration of approximately 350,000 Somali refugees to Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	2.1 million	Revised CAP March 21, 2006
IDPs	400,000	Revised CAP March 21, 2006
Somali Refugees	350,000	Revised CAP March 21, 2006

**Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia .....\$1,149,267**  
**Total FY 2006 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia .....\$83,619,267**

### CURRENT SITUATION

**Failure of short season rains.** According to FEWS NET, the late start and poor performance of the *deyr* rains in central and southern Somalia, following below normal April to June *gu* rains in 2005, has led to severe drought conditions in agropastoral and pastoral areas. In many areas of southern Somalia, *deyr* rains were 10 percent or less of the long-term average. Although the rains were generally good in the north, serious water shortages remain in pocket areas including eastern Sanaag, northern Bari, and parts of Togdheer regions.

**Deteriorating food security.** Due to pastoralist communities' reliance on the availability of water and pasture, current drought conditions have acutely affected residents of Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba, Bay, and Bakool regions. FEWS NET and FSAU estimate that 20 to 30 percent of cattle in Gedo and areas of Juba Valley have already died due to lack of water, pasture, and drought-related diseases. Preliminary estimates indicate that 80 percent of the cattle in Gedo could die before the *gu* rains in April. Cattle prices have already declined by more than 40 percent, while cereal prices continue to increase, exacerbating an already precarious situation.

FEWS NET reports the emergence of pre-famine indicators including crop failure, rapidly increasing cereal prices, high livestock mortality, falling livestock prices, unusual population movements, shortages of food and water, and high malnutrition rates in the most-affected areas. Pastoralists are already resorting to distress coping mechanisms, including compassion slaughtering for weak animals and earlier-than-normal migration. According to USAID reports, population movements toward permanent water sources in Juba Valley and Gedo region have increased during the first two weeks of March. Additionally, people have moved from Bay Region to Middle Juba, as well as toward Baidoa.

Two consecutive seasons of crop failure in agricultural zones in the southern regions—former breadbasket areas that accounted for 80 percent of Somalia's cereal production—have resulted in serious food shortages. According to FSAU, cereal production for the southern regions is between 7 and 23 percent of postwar averages. From November to December 2005, cereal prices increased by 50 percent as a result of low production and conflict that disrupted food imports.

<sup>1</sup>Further information on the situation in the region and the USG response, can be found in USAID/OFDA Horn of Africa Situation Report, located at [www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance)

Interagency assessments by FSAU, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), Action Contre la Faim (ACF), and International Medical Corps (IMC) have recorded high levels of malnutrition throughout the southern regions, particularly among pastoralist communities. An early February 2006 assessment of two IDP sites in Wajid town recorded global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 27.1 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 8.6 percent in children under five.

**Severe water shortages.** According to USAID reports, most open water sources in southern Somalia have dried up and the bulk of deep well boreholes are no longer functioning. FEWS NET and FSAU report that the Shabelle River in southern Somalia is at risk of drying up completely. Households' access to water is only the equivalent of three glasses per person per day in temperatures above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Near to below normal forecast for main season rains.** In early March 2006, the USAID-supported Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) convened the 17<sup>th</sup> Climate Outlook Forum (COF), which estimated a significant possibility of below normal rains for the upcoming *gu* season in most of Somalia and the cross border areas with Kenya and Ethiopia. According to FSAU, COF projections are consistent with the Livestock Early Warning System (LEWS) projections of below normal forage conditions for the Somalia-Kenya-Ethiopia cross-border area.

If *gu* rains are below normal, FSAU predicts the entire region, including southern Somalia, will face a humanitarian crisis. Even if the *gu* rains perform well, continued humanitarian assistance will be required to support livelihood recovery due to high asset losses, weakened health conditions, and debt accumulation from the cumulative effects of several seasons of failed rains.

**Continued insecurity undermines relief activities.** Although the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and aid agencies have coordinated efforts to improve humanitarian access, insecurity continues to hinder assistance to affected populations throughout Somalia. In Gedo Region, Luuq and Garbaharey districts recently reopened for U.N. operations, following a security assessment. Although renewed access should improve relief efforts, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports an increasing number of checkpoints along major roads in Gedo.

In mid-February, armed clashes between militia groups forced thousands of people to flee the surrounding areas of the Somali capital, Mogadishu. Early estimates by local officials indicated that the clashes displaced 1,500 families, killed approximately 30 people, and wounded 150 others. Current drought conditions have also led to increased competition over rangeland resources and market opportunities, and resource-based conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. FSAU has identified

20 recent conflicts that have arisen over scarce pasture and water. Conflict within southern Somalia and piracy off the coast are also disrupting food deliveries. In addition to delayed arrivals of commodities, prices have risen as a result of increased transport costs.

**Limited recovery in northern and central regions.** In northern Somalia, *deyr* rains were relatively good, but an estimated 230,000 people continue to require livelihood support due to reduced herd sizes and indebtedness from previous droughts. Pasture and livestock conditions are improving, although pockets of water shortages remain. In central Somalia, an estimated 60,000 Somalis depend on humanitarian assistance due to the effects of below normal *deyr* rains, as well as conflict in southern Mudug and northern Galgaduud regions.

**USAID staff travel to Puntland.** In late January, the USAID/OFDA Principal Regional Advisor and the USAID Regional Economic Development Services Office Program Manager made the first overnight trip in several years to Garowe, capital of the semi-autonomous region of Puntland in northeastern Somalia. Insecurity had prevented staff from visiting USAID-funded projects in the recent past. According to the USAID team, the water system rehabilitation project in Garowe town has made significant progress. USAID's humanitarian assistance for tsunami-affected populations is also in progress, although the areas are remote and difficult to access.

**Vaccination campaigns.** In March 2006, UNICEF and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) announced the start of a measles vaccination campaign, targeting 2.5 million children in nine regions throughout southern and central Somalia. UNICEF and WHO aim to complete 90 percent of the planned immunizations by April 2006. U.N. agencies have also scheduled polio immunizations in response to recent outbreaks in central and southern Somalia. Although the country had successfully ended polio transmission in October 2002, at least 194 cases of wild polio were confirmed in the past 7 months, with 159 cases identified in Mogadishu and the remaining cases in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Gedo, and Sool.

## **USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

On October 27, 2005, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya William M. Bellamy redeclared a disaster due to ongoing humanitarian needs in Somalia. USAID/OFDA's primary focus in Somalia is addressing basic humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations through water and sanitation, health, and nutrition activities where security conditions allow.

In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.5 million to support a range of programs, including water and sanitation programs implemented by ACF, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA), and UNICEF, as well as health and nutrition programs implemented by UNICEF. USAID/OFDA supported FSAU's nutrition surveillance program and

FEWS NET Somalia’s information management services. In addition, USAID/OFDA supported access to vulnerable populations for USAID staff and implementing partners through the UNICEF-managed U.N. Consolidated Air Service (UNCAS).

To date in FY 2006, USAID/OFDA has provided \$700,000 to FSAU for continued coordination of nutritional surveillance activities, providing a clearer picture of the impacts of drought, flooding, and insecurity. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$450,000 to ADRA to implement water activities in western Bakool and eastern Gedo regions to benefit 34,000 people. In response to the current emergency in pastoralist areas, USAID/OFDA is in the process of reviewing proposals from current and potential implementing partners for emergency activities in water,

health and nutrition sectors. On March 29, members of a USAID assessment team began to arrive in the Horn of Africa. Based on assessment findings, the team will make recommendations for additional assistance.

In FY 2005, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided more than 42,100 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$29.9 million, through WFP and CARE. To date in FY 2006, USAID/FFP has provided 102,350 MT of emergency food commodities, valued at \$81.4 million. USAID/FFP assistance is provided to beneficiaries in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Lower and Middle Juba, Hiraan, Benadir, Bari, Nugal, Mudug, Awdal, Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag, and Sool region.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
ADRA	Water and sanitation	Bakool and Gedo Regions	\$449,267
FAO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$700,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,149,267</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
CARE	54,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern and Central	\$48,113,000
WFP	48,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,287,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$81,400,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,070,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$1,070,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$82,549,267</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$83,619,267</b>

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 3, 2006.



Gregory Gottlieb  
Acting Director  
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance