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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

Fact Sheet #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

February 16, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated February 9, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Nairobi-based USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (USG/DART) continues to receive reports of ongoing insecurity in Mogadishu that is hindering movement of humanitarian agency staff. In addition, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that a limited number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) are leaving Mogadishu to escape insecurity, particularly from areas near Ethiopian or Transitional Federal Government bases.
- Humanitarian agencies operating in Somalia continue to experience difficulties transporting relief commodities from Kenya to Somalia despite the February 7 announcement by the Government of Kenya (GOK) that overland transport would be allowed. While some humanitarian cargo has crossed into Somalia during the reporting period, agencies note that GOK authorization is inconsistent and that much-needed relief supplies remain warehoused at border points.
- Joint assessments of the the *deyr* season (short rains from October-December) conducted by USAID-funded U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Security and Analysis Unit (FSAU), USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), and non-governmental organizations, indicate that the overall number of people requiring humanitarian assistance and livelihood support decreased from 1.8 million last year to 990,000 for the period between January and June 2007. The improvements were due to a second consecutive season of good rainfall, good *deyr* rainfed cereal production, and recovery of pastoral conditions. Despite these improvements, large swathes of south and central Somalia remain food insecure, particularly in Gedo and Middle Juba regions.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2006 AND FY 2007)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia	\$10,679,305
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Somalia	\$96,276,600
State/PRM² Assistance to Somalia	\$4,520,000
USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia	\$111,475,905

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- Overland transport of humanitarian cargo into Somalia is experiencing difficulties and delays due to inconsistent messages from GOK officials at the three key border crossings of El Wak, Mandera, and Liboi, and in Nairobi. Humanitarian agencies continue to warehouse relief commodities at the border awaiting permission and transport into Somalia.
- On February 13, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) successfully sent 39 trucks carrying 1,121 metric tons (MT) of food aid across the border from El Wak, Kenya towards Gedo Region. In addition, the U.N Children's Fund (UNICEF) received permission from local border officials to transport a limited number of emergency relief supplies into Somalia from Mandera. However, permission to cross the border remains erratic with authorization granted on a day-to-day and case-by-case basis.
- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported an increasing number of checkpoints—currently 15—operated by militias in residential areas of Mogadishu. OCHA received similar reports of checkpoints along the Mogadishu-Jowhar and Mogadishu-Brava roads.
- The USG/DART regularly attends logistics coordination meetings with aid agencies and continues to monitor humanitarian access and the impact of limited access and insecurity on emergency relief programs.

Population Movements

- Internal displacement and refugee flows resulting from the recent conflict remain limited. The majority of individuals displaced during the December and January hostilities have already returned to areas of origin. A limited number of households in Lower Juba Region remain displaced following fighting in late January.

¹ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

- According to OCHA, 348 families that had fled to Dhoblei in hopes of seeking asylum in Kenya have now returned to their places of origin, including Kismaayo, Jilib, Mareery, and Afmadow. An additional 800 people near the Somalia-Kenya border have indicated a willingness to return to their homes, but lack the necessary resources to do so. The USG/DART notes that the displaced have opted to return to areas of origin despite ongoing fighting and insecurity rather than to wait for the Somalia-Kenya border to re-open to asylum seekers. OCHA reports that an estimated 1,160 households remain in the border towns of Dhoblei, Tabda, Qoqania, and Hayo and are in need assistance.

Humanitarian Assessments

- The direct impact of the recent conflict on agricultural and pastoral production and market access was not significant, according to the joint post-*deyr* rains assessment. Assessment results noted that the recent fighting occurred after most seasonal agricultural planting and weeding activities were completed and there were few reports of destruction targeting civilians and productive resources. These factors, as well as the normal to above normal *deyr* rains throughout south and central Somalia, contributed to good agricultural production, with cereal harvests above long-term averages in Bay, Bakool, and Middle Juba regions.
- Despite the good rains and better than average cereal production, nearly one million people are vulnerable and continue to require humanitarian assistance. According to OCHA, post-drought malnutrition persists and the impact of the recent flooding on the nutritional status is beginning to emerge, with reports of increased admissions in feeding programs in riverine areas. The USG/DART is assessing the situation to determine the need for additional emergency activities in these areas.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA emergency relief activities in Somalia benefit more than two million people affected by repeated shocks of drought, floods, and conflict. USAID/OFDA ongoing programs from FY 2006 complement FY 2007 relief efforts for affected communities in southern and central regions. USAID/FFP also continues to provide food assistance with carryover commodities from FY 2006 funding, supplemented by additional commodities funded in FY 2007.
- State/PRM is assisting Somali refugees in Kenya and Ethiopia and relief efforts in Somalia through FY 2007 and ongoing FY 2006 refugee programs. In FY 2006, State/PRM provided nearly \$15 million in earmarked funding for Somalia and Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa. To date in FY 2007, State/PRM has provided \$5.6 million in earmarked funding for UNHCR operations in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia and \$2 million to CARE for assistance to Somali refugees in Kenya.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2007			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
FAO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$850,000
Matrix	12 Zodiac Boats and Motors	Flood-affected Areas	\$243,523
UNICEF	UNCAS	Countrywide	\$878,470
UNICEF ²	Rapid Response Fund	Flood-affected Areas	\$250,000
UNICEF	Health, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
USAID	Program support costs	Countrywide	\$38,900
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,760,893
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
WFP	22,390 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,876,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$14,876,600
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Global Appeal	Countrywide	\$450,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$450,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$18,637,493
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$19,087,493

FY 2006			
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
Action Contre la Faim	Water and Sanitation	Bakool Region	\$852,569
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	Water and Sanitation, Food Security and Agriculture	Bakool Region	\$1,315,133
International Medical Corps	Nutrition, Food Security and Agriculture	Bakool Region	\$638,716
FAO	Nutrition Surveillance	Countrywide	\$700,000
UNICEF	Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$2,550,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$200,000
World Concern	Food Security and Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Middle Juba Region	\$399,994
World Vision	Water and Sanitation	Middle Juba Region	\$250,000
	Administrative and Support Costs	Countrywide	\$12,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,918,412
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
CARE	73,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern and Central Somalia	\$48,113,000
WFP	48,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,287,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$81,400,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,070,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,070,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006			\$88,318,412
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006			\$92,388,412

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 16, 2007.

² Through a standing agreement with UNICEF, USAID/OFDA approved the use of \$250,000 in rapid response funds to Somalia.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Somalia or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.