



**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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

March 31, 2004

**BACKGROUND**

- Since the collapse of Muhammad Siad Barre’s government in January 1991, Somalia has existed without an internationally recognized national government and suffered from outbreaks of armed conflict between rival clan groups. For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Somalia faces a complex emergency as ongoing civil strife in the south and central regions and increasing violence in the north have disrupted agricultural and market activity, made basic health and social services more limited, strained household coping mechanisms, and severely restricted humanitarian access.
- Years of widespread violence, combined with extreme poverty, have resulted in the migration of approximately 400,000 refugees to neighboring Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen. In addition, approximately 350,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including nearly 170,000 residing in camps near Mogadishu, are dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, according to the U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP).
- Due to successive rainfall failures, the Togdheer, Sool, Sanaag, and Nugal regions of northern Somalia face serious drought and/or livelihood conditions. Below average rainfall has diminished available grazing lands and drinking water in pastoralist areas, causing livestock health and productivity to deteriorate. The poor performance of the livestock sector is exacerbated by reduced remittances from overseas, unchecked inflation, cross-border trade restrictions from Ethiopia, and livestock export bans imposed on Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa by several Persian Gulf countries. As an estimated 60 percent of all Somalis are nomadic or semi-nomadic pastoralists, the continuing decline in the livestock sector indicates a potential livelihoods crisis for the majority of the population.
- In southern Somalia, climactic conditions have improved in some agricultural areas, but landmines and localized conflict have blocked essential trade routes, limiting food availability and inflating local cereal prices. Many poor households are unable to purchase food due to the scarcity of viable income generating activities.
- For 2004, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Somalia requested \$110.6 million in emergency, food, and development assistance through the CAP for an estimated 750,000 vulnerable Somalis including IDPs, returnees, and women and children.

**Numbers at a Glance**

Total Affected Population	750,000	Source: U.N. CAP 2004
Total Number of IDPs	350,000	Source: U.N. CAP 2004
Somali Refugees	400,000	Source: UNHCR, March 2004

**Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2004 (to date) ..... \$3,424,310**  
**Total USG Humanitarian Assistance in FY 2004 (to date) ..... \$6,529,861**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

*Deteriorating Security Situation and Limited Humanitarian Access*

- The security situation in Somalia has steadily deteriorated since September 2003, hampering humanitarian operations throughout the country. Clan-based violence has escalated in different areas of Somalia in recent months and humanitarian agencies report numerous attacks against local and expatriate staff by freelance militia groups. As a result, U.N. agencies and NGOs are often forced to reduce programs in some of the most vulnerable areas of the country.
- In October 2003, three humanitarian workers were killed in Borama and Sheikh, in the self-declared republic of Somaliland. More recently, another aid worker from the German Development Agency (GTZ) was killed in a roadside attack on March 19. In addition to attacks on humanitarian staff, ongoing violence throughout the country threatens the safety of the local population and undermines the effectiveness of assistance efforts. Humanitarian operations are often limited to areas that are accessible by air transportation as extensive road travel in some locations is too insecure. However, despite the security challenges, current humanitarian initiatives are making a demonstrable impact on the most vulnerable populations.

- In an effort to restrict the continued flow of small arms into the country, the U.N. Secretary General appointed a four-person panel on January 30 to monitor violations of the arms embargo against Somalia.

*Political Developments and Peace Process*

- After more than 14 months of negotiations, Somali faction leaders signed an agreement on January 29, under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to establish a new Federal Transitional Parliament that would pave the way for presidential elections and the formation of a national government. IGAD planned to launch the final phase of the peace talks on March 13, but the process stalled after the "Somali Leaders' Committee" accused the mediators of mismanagement and unnecessary interference in the peace process. The facilitators planned to hold discussions on March 31 on the rules of procedure for the third phase of the peace talks, according to UN OCHA.

*Drought Conditions in Northern Somalia, Near Average Rainfall in Southern Somalia*

- Due to a prolonged drought, more than 200,000 people in Somalia's northern and central regions require emergency humanitarian assistance or livelihood support until June 2004, according to a joint report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security Assessment Unit (FSAU) and USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Poor October to December 2003 *deyr* rains have resulted in further deterioration of food security for pastoral populations in these regions where livelihoods depend on livestock and livestock production. Successive seasons of rain failure in the Sool Plateau have led to severe pasture degradation, depletion of water supplies, and an estimated 60 percent loss of livestock among pastoralists.
- A February 17 FEWS NET report based on a December 2003 assessment mission indicated precarious food security in the Togdheer Region of Somaliland. Drought conditions have dried up water wells, diminished available grazing lands and drinking water, and humanitarian agencies are classifying the Togdheer situation as a livelihoods crisis. FEWS NET predicted increased livestock deaths during the *jilaal* dry season from January to April. In addition, FEWS NET reported widespread damage to water infrastructure in the region with 60 percent of water sources in disrepair or disuse. Sanitation conditions of functioning water sources were also poor.
- FSAU reported that *deyr* rainfall was normal in southern Somalia resulting in good fodder production in agro-pastoral areas. Maize and sorghum harvest are expected to be healthy, and the effect of the *jilaal* season on pastoralists in the South is likely to be minimal. The reopening of the Garissa cattle market in Kenya and improved livestock health are expected to improve terms of trade for pastoral and agro-pastoral groups.

*Food Insecurity and Rising Malnutrition*

- In December 2003, the FSAU, in collaboration with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO), conducted a rapid nutritional assessment in Taleh District, lower Nugal Valley. Results indicated global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates of 27 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates of 5.8 percent among randomly screened children under the age of five.
- In Belet Hawa District, Gedo Region, FSAU's Monthly Nutrition Update for Somalia in February reported signs of rapidly increasing vulnerability since October 2003. In Jilib District, Juba Valley Region, FSAU's report cited chronically high levels of severe malnutrition and edema in the riverine food economy group, with malnutrition confirmed as a leading cause of death.
- In Hagar District, Juba Valley Region, the late onset of *deyr* rains has led to a second season of poor crop performance. In addition, clan fighting and insecurity has restricted the flow of commodities from Mogadishu and Kismayo to Hagar, raising the prices of cereal and other imported food. According to a January 2004 FSAU rapid nutrition assessment of Hagar, approximately 14.3 percent of children are malnourished and 35.7 percent of children are at risk.
- In Sool Region, results of FSAU's surveillance system indicated GAM rates of 21 percent and SAM rates of 5.7 percent in January. Residents in drought-affected areas also noted increased incidences of diarrheal and respiratory infections to nearly 14 percent in January compared to 10 percent in December.
- In Wajid District, Bakool Region, U.N. agencies and NGOs conducted joint assessments in three IDP camps in January 2004. GAM and SAM rates of the children assessed were 17 percent and 3 percent, respectively. Residents reported food shortages and an inadequate supply of cooking utensils in the IDP camps. As a result, IDPs were sharing the limited number available, which reduced the frequency of meal preparation and consumption to once a day. In all three camps, no primary health care interventions were being undertaken. Measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation coverage was reported as 16.4 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

*Status of Somali Refugees*

- During the week of March 2, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) facilitated the return of 220 Somali refugees residing in Djibouti. With an estimated 400,000 Somalis still remaining in neighboring countries, UNHCR plans to repatriate 35,000 refugees in 2004.
- On March 5, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) announced that a funding crisis could affect an estimated 600,000 refugees in UNHCR camps in East Africa and the Horn of Africa. In Ethiopia, an estimated 126,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia and Sudan, have already had food rations reduced by 30 percent. UNHCR reported that WFP urgently needs \$48.3 million to feed refugees in the region through 2004.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE**

- On October 1, 2003, Deputy Chief of Mission, Leslie Rowe of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi re-declared a disaster in response to the continuing complex emergency in Somalia.
- To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$3.4 million to support emergency water and sanitation, health and nutrition, logistics support, and capacity building activities in affected areas of Somalia. In response to the acute needs in the Sool/Sanaag Plateau, USAID/OFDA reprogrammed \$700,000 in water and sanitation, and nutrition activities from other areas, through Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and UNICEF.
- USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$80,000 to International Medical Corps (IMC) to extend emergency primary health care and specialized feeding to more than 790,000 beneficiaries in Bay, Bakool, and Hiraan regions. The program includes vaccinations and immunizations, nutritional monitoring, maternal and child health programs, and emergency curative services.
- USAID/OFDA has granted \$350,000 to Action Contre le Faim (ACF) to continue its water and sanitation program in Gedo Region, repairing water sources for an estimated 20,000 residents and conducting education on human hygiene. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$490,000 to support water and sanitation programs in Sool Region through NPA for approximately 82,000 beneficiaries.
- USAID/OFDA provided \$1.0 million to UNICEF for emergency rehabilitation of water facilities, provision of potable water, and health and nutrition interventions for 170,000 beneficiaries countrywide. In addition, USAID/OFDA has approved \$800,000 to UNICEF's U.N. Common Air Services (UNCAS) to enable partner organizations to transport staff and supplies into Somalia. To support FSAU's nutrition surveillance program, USAID/OFDA has provided \$700,000 to FAO.
- In FY 2004 to date, USAID's office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has contributed 4,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$3.1 million through WFP. USAID/FFP's food 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 regions. Since 1998, USAID/FFP has provided more than 109,950 MT of emergency food assistance estimated at \$71.6 million.

**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>			
ACF	Water/Sanitation	Bakool	\$350,000
IMC	Health/Nutrition	Bakool, Bay, Hiraan	\$79,996
NPA	Water	Sool	\$494,314
FAO	FSAU - Nutrition Surveillance	Countrywide	\$700,000
UNICEF	Water/Sanitation, Health/Nutrition, Logistics	Countrywide	\$1,800,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA .....</b>			<b>\$3,424,310</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	4,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,105,551
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP .....</b>			<b>\$3,105,551</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2004.....</b>			<b>\$6,529,861</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2004.....</b>			<b>\$6,529,861</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of **March 29, 2004**.

**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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for their complex emergency response efforts in Somalia can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org). Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Somalia may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).
- 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 on making donations and volunteering can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org)
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) -> “How You Can Help”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).

*USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our work/humanitarian assistance/disaster assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/).*