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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

January 19, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated January 12, 2007.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Ethiopian forces are planning to begin a phased withdrawal from Somalia in the coming days, according to international media reports on January 19. U.N. officials attended a meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 19 to discuss possible approaches for providing security in Somalia.
- On January 14, a U.N. World Food Program (WFP) food aid convoy—blocked at the Kenyan border since January 6—received permission from Kenyan authorities to cross into Somalia. Despite recent improved access for select humanitarian convoys at the Liboi border crossing, insecurity and restricted border access continue to limit transit of relief commodities and humanitarian staff between Kenya and Somalia. The Nairobi-based USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is meeting with partners to identify the impact of the border closure on relief operations for flood and conflict-affected Somalis.
- The DART continues to receive reports of clan fighting in several locations in southern Somalia, targeted attacks against Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Ethiopian troops in Mogadishu, and unofficial checkpoints on roads surrounding Mogadishu. Ongoing hostilities complicate a challenging operating environment for humanitarian agencies providing relief to drought, flood, and conflict-affected communities.

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

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia.....	\$10,679,305
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Somalia	\$92,900,000
State/PRM² Assistance to Somalia	\$4,070,000
USAID and STATE Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$107,649,305

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian Access

- Unpredictable border regulations, growing lawlessness, and general insecurity in southern and central regions are obstructing the transportation of humanitarian cargo and personnel into and within Somalia. As of January 18, the DART reported that several U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are awaiting permission for relief convoys to cross at El Wak and Mandera border stations in Kenya. In addition, approximately 40 empty WFP trucks on the Somalia side of the border have been unable to reload 3,500 metric tons (MT) of USG-funded food aid stored in Kenya and scheduled for distribution in Gedo Region.
- The U.N. Common Air Service (UNCAS) is obtaining additional fuel for cargo and personnel flights based out of Waajid airstrip in Bakool Region, Somalia. Relief agencies are reviewing air transport options as an alternative to ground transit for the shipment and distribution of emergency relief supplies. A shift from ground to air transport is likely to significantly increase operational costs. The DART continues to monitor the Kenya–Somalia border situation and is in discussion with humanitarian partners to identify alternate transportation.

Refugees

- Refugee flows have been limited since the advance of TFG and Ethiopian troops into southern Somalia, in part due to the closure of the Kenyan border on January 3. On January 17, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed continued concern for potential asylum seekers gathered in Dhoblei, Somalia, near the Liboi transit center in Kenya. Humanitarian agencies have been unable to access the area, provide medical services, or verify estimates of 4,000 to 14,000 newly displaced people in and around Dhoblei. UNHCR continues to negotiate with the Government of Kenya and TFG authorities for authorization to travel to Dhoblei, according to the DART.
- Humanitarian agencies continue to plan for the possible arrival of thousands of refugees in Kenya at Liboi or other transit stations when the border reopens. USG-funded WFP and UNHCR have developed contingency plans for an influx of new refugees and are prepared to respond to the emergency needs of any new arrivals.

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)

Health

- As of January 17, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) had reported 84 suspected cases of Rift Valley fever (RVF) in humans in Lower Juba, Gedo, and Hiran regions. Samples are en route to a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratory in Kenya for confirmation. On January 15, the DART attended the first Somalia Rift Valley fever task force meeting with representatives from WHO, CDC, the Somalia Support Secretariat, and the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to discuss response activities, including case management and health education campaigns. WHO is assessing the capacity of regional hospitals to provide care for RVF patients.

Emergency Operations

- Conflict-related displacement has been short-term, localized, and limited to date. On January 8, UNHCR began assessing the emergency needs of approximately 12,000 newly internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region. The team reported that the new arrivals temporarily strained the capacity of existing IDP camps to provide adequate services to the estimated 35,000 IDPs. UNHCR is providing relief commodities including shelter supplies and kitchen sets to the new arrivals. In addition, the team is developing a strategy to address the long-term needs of those displaced by repeated shocks of drought, floods, and insecurity.
- Preliminary results from USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) post-Deyr rains food security assessment indicate that recent fighting has not significantly impacted food security. The team also noted substantial recovery to date throughout the country from drought conditions in 2006. Despite some delays from difficult conditions and limited access in areas of southern and central Somalia, USAID partners maintain ongoing programs to support vulnerable populations throughout Somalia.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA's implementing partners in Somalia are carrying out emergency humanitarian interventions, including health, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, agriculture, and food security programs benefiting more than 2 million people. USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.3 million in response to the recent flooding in south and central Somalia, including nearly \$1.1 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support UNCAS, as well as health and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs. In response to the outbreak of hostilities, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.5 million to UNICEF to enhance and expand emergency programs.
- To date in FY 2007, USAID/FFP has provided \$11.5 million to WFP for nearly 18,000 MT of food assistance for vulnerable Somali populations. USAID/FFP is also providing food assistance to affected communities in southern and central regions through ongoing activities from FY 2006 countrywide programs. In FY 2006, USAID/FFP provided more than 120,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$81.4 million, to WFP and CARE.
- State/PRM is assisting Somali refugees in Kenya and relief efforts in Somalia through ongoing FY 2006 refugee programs. In FY 2006, State/PRM provided nearly \$15 million in earmarked funding and plans to provide an additional \$3.5 million from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund to UNHCR and other international organizations and NGOs for assistance to Somali refugees in Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as relief efforts inside Somalia.

U.S. GOVERNMENT 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	17,920 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$11,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$11,500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$15,260,893

FY 2006	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA	\$6,918,412
TOTAL USAID/FFP	\$81,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM	\$4,070,000
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 January 19, 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.