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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 & Tsunami

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

June 17, 2005

Note: The last situation report was dated September 17, 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. Two years of peace talks led to the establishment of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in October 2004, including a President, Prime Minister, cabinet, and a 275-member parliament. Efforts are ongoing to establish a permanent government and resolve differences among the various members of the TFG. In 2005, for the fourteenth 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, limited basic health and social services, strained household coping mechanisms, and severely restricted humanitarian access. Years of widespread violence, combined with extreme poverty, have resulted in the migration of approximately 350,000 refugees to Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen. In addition, an estimated 370,000 to 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) will require humanitarian assistance in 2005, according to the U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). While good *Deyr* rains from October to December have led to above-average cereal production and ended the three-year drought in the north, multiple shocks in this region—freezing rains, flooding, and tsunami—will continue to hinder recovery in pastoral areas. Northern Somalia has also experienced significant environmental degradation, extensive livestock deaths, high levels of indebtedness, and widespread destitution. In 2005, U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) appealed for \$164.5 million in emergency, food, and development assistance through the CAP for vulnerable Somalis, particularly IDPs, returnees, women, and children.

Exacerbating the already precarious humanitarian situation, on December 26, 2004, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the west coast of Northern Sumatra, Indonesia, triggered massive tsunamis that traveled as far as the northeastern coast of Somalia. The tsunami killed an estimated 150 people, displaced 5,000, and affected 54,000 others in the northeastern coastal region of Somalia. In many areas, poor road infrastructure and tsunami damage hampered relief efforts, preventing some residents from receiving appropriate emergency assistance. In addition, the tsunami inflicted substantial damage on the Somali fishing industry destroying a large number of fishing boats and equipment.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Affected Population	754,000	CAP, October 2004
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	370,000 to 400,000	CAP, October 2004
Somali Refugees	350,000	CAP, October 2004
Tsunami-Related Deaths	150	OCHA, January 2005
Tsunami-Related IDPs	5,000	OCHA, January 2005
Total Tsunami-Affected Population	54,000	CAP, January 2005

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia\$3,129,425
Total FY 2005 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia\$26,194,325

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing insecurity restricts humanitarian operations.

In a February 18 report to the U.N. Security Council (UNSC), Secretary General Kofi Annan acknowledged that ongoing violence and prevailing insecurity has hampered relief operations in many areas of the country. Less than 10 days before the report was released, a BBC journalist was shot and killed by unidentified militiamen outside her hotel in Mogadishu. On April 19, an Italian nurse and two Somali medical personnel were wounded when an unidentified assailant threw a grenade into a maternity ward at the SOS Children’s Home in Mogadishu’s southern Huriwa District. The explosion occurred just one day after unknown gunmen shot and killed a Somali aid worker and injured a Kenyan

colleague—both employees of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). On April 25, unidentified gunmen in Jamame District abducted a Kenyan working for the British NGO Oxfam after shooting and wounding his bodyguard. In Central Somalia, at least 13 people were reported killed and 30 others wounded on April 13, as a result of renewed factional fighting over grazing land and water access in Hobyo District, Mudug Region, according to the U.N. In Bay and Bakool regions, aid workers were evacuated in March after intense fighting broke out between rival factions of the Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA). In Beledweyne, Hiraan Region, a land dispute erupted into fierce inter-clan violence on June 6. At least 30 people have been killed, more than 70

injured, and hundreds displaced in the fighting, which has trapped many residents in their homes without access to food and water.

Intermittent violence also continues to restrict humanitarian operations in Baidoa. At least 20 people have been killed and dozens wounded in fighting, while hundreds more have fled their homes due to violent clashes between rival RRA factions. On May 30, violence again broke out between the feuding groups, killing five people and injuring dozens more.

On May 27, UNICEF suspended its operations in Northeast Somalia after receiving death threats against an international staff worker. Following the threats, UNICEF staff workers were evacuated to Nairobi, and UNICEF projects in the region—which have recently focused on health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, youth development, HIV/AIDS, and child protection—were temporarily suspended. On June 15, UNICEF resumed operations in the region after Puntland President Mohamud Muse Hirsi met with UNICEF representatives in Nairobi and guaranteed the security of UNICEF staff in Northeast Somalia.

Infighting destabilizes new Somali government. In October 2004, more than two years of peace talks in Nairobi, Kenya resulted in the election of President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and the formation of the TFG, which included representatives from a broad range of Somali society. The TFG, however, has yet to establish a functional presence inside Somalia. President Yusuf has requested 20,000 troops from the African Union (AU) to provide security for the new government. On May 13, the AU announced the approval of an initial force of 1,700 troops to Somalia, but the possible deployment of AU peacekeepers has been a source of recent tensions within the TFG. The infighting has worsened in recent weeks as militiamen loyal to rival members of the new parliament have clashed over various plans to relocate the TFG to Somalia.

On April 29, TFG Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Gedi traveled to Somalia for the first time since the taking office in December 2004. Although the trip was largely successful, Gedi's visit was marred by occasional violence. On May 3, at least 14 people died in an explosion in a Mogadishu football stadium, moments after Gedi spoke to supporters there. Gedi was also forced to cancel a planned tour of the southern port city of Kismayo after disagreements among rival militia groups led to renewed fighting in the area. While the transitional government had committed to transferring to Somalia by the end of May, the TFG has yet to fully relocate to Mogadishu.

Malnutrition remains high in areas. According to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU), the nutrition situation in northeast and northwest Somalia has improved in recent months. The FSAU's May Food Security and Nutrition

Update reported that good *deyr* rains have alleviated a livelihood crisis in Togdheer, while the onset of *gu* rains in April increased water availability and pasture regeneration in the region. In addition, humanitarian assistance efforts since February have gradually improved the nutritional status of populations in the Sool Plateau and Lower Nugaal Valley. Malnutrition rates in central Somalia have also stabilized, with admissions to the Galkayo therapeutic feeding center (TFC) decreasing since January. In Hiraan Region, near to above normal production during the 2004 *gu* and 2004/2005 *deyr* seasons have enhanced food availability and access, while pasture recovery and improved livestock conditions have led to an increase in milk and milk products.

In southern Somalia, however, the nutrition situation is poor as security has deteriorated, limiting humanitarian access to vulnerable populations. Although the 2004/2005 *deyr* season improved pastoral livelihoods in Gedo Region, conditions in Belet Hawa, Dolow, and Luuq districts, particularly among the urban poor and agro-pastoralist populations, remains a concern. According to the FSAU May Update, high levels of malnutrition have been recorded in Luuq and Belet Hawa health centers, with admissions to the Belet Hawa TFC averaging 40 children per month. Despite relatively good *deyr* harvests and ongoing humanitarian interventions, malnutrition continues to be a problem in Bakool Region due to food insecurity, disease, limited water and sanitation, and ongoing conflict.

Access improves in Somaliland and Hiraan. On March 1, Hargeisa airport in western Somaliland reopened after closing for repairs on January 15. As flights resumed, U.N. officials conducted a security assessment in the region, downgrading the security level in Hargeisa, and the route to Mandera and Gebiley from U.N. Security Phase 4 to Security Phase 3.

In Hiraan Region, the airstrip in Beledweyne temporarily closed to U.N. Common Air Services flights (UNCAS) in early March due to an increased militia presence in the area. Though the airstrip has reopened, area administration officials have been unable to prevent the appearance of new militia roadblocks between Beledweyne and Galkayo.

UNSC appoints arms monitoring group. On April 12, Secretary General Annan named a four-person panel of experts to monitor the arms embargo against Somalia. The re-establishment of the monitoring group, first appointed in 2002, followed reports that armed factions in the country continue to receive weapons from different sources despite a UNSC weapons ban imposed on Somalia in 1992.

Northern Somalia hit by Indian Ocean tsunami. The December 26 tsunami struck the northern coast of Somalia, affecting areas along approximately 650 km of coastline between the island of Hafun in Bari Region and the village of Garacad in Mudug Region. As a result,

many residents urgently required emergency assistance, including food, potable water, medical supplies, and temporary shelter. Poor road infrastructure and the destruction of the main bridge linking Hafun to the Somali mainland hindered the ability of humanitarian agencies to reach affected areas.

According to a January 6 interagency damage and needs assessment mission, USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that the tsunami destroyed water systems and wells, while sea water contaminated all of the shallow wells in the areas assessed. In addition, 1,975 houses were destroyed, the majority of which were makeshift homes; however, this total did not include the Tohin/Hurdia Zone, which represents one quarter of the affected area but was inaccessible to the assessment team. FEWS NET reported that Hafun village, located on an island off the coast, suffered severe loss of life and damage as there was no area in which the population could take refuge. From January 28 to February 9, U.N. agencies and NGOs, in cooperation with the local government authorities, conducted a multi-sector assessment of tsunami-affected communities in the northeast Somali coastline between Hafun and Garacad. On March 11, the Tsunami Interagency Assessment Mission concluded that the existing humanitarian response largely met shelter, water, health, and food needs of the affected population and that no major gaps in commodities exist. Approximately 50 percent of the tsunami-affected population, however, will require sustained support until the next fishing season in October 2005.

After the death threats against international staff members, UNICEF suspended operations in Tsunami-affected areas along the Northeast Somalia coastline on May 27. UNICEF relocated its Bossaso-based staff to Nairobi, and suspended its development programs in the region until June 15.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 19, 2004, Deputy Chief of Mission Leslie V. Rowe of the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi redeclared a disaster in response to the continuing complex emergency in Somalia. To date, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$2 million to support emergency water and sanitation, health and nutrition, logistics support, and capacity-building activities in affected areas of Somalia.

USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$400,000 to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) to continue water and

sanitation programs in Gedo Region, repairing water sources and conducting education on human hygiene for an estimated 20,000 residents. USAID/OFDA has provided \$1 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for emergency rehabilitation of water facilities, provision of potable water, and health and nutrition interventions for 170,000 beneficiaries countrywide. To support FSAU's nutrition surveillance program, USAID/OFDA has provided \$650,000 to FAO. USAID/OFDA has also committed approximately \$90,000 to FEWS Somalia for Information Management.

In FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has contributed 34,100 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$22.1 million, through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and CARE. 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.

On December 31, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya William M. Bellamy issued a disaster declaration for Somalia due to the damage caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami. In response, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to support emergency relief, health, shelter, and coordination activities in affected areas of Somalia. USAID/OFDA contributed nearly \$400,000 to World Concern to support emergency relief activities for 13,500 beneficiaries near and south of the town of Kismayo along the southern Somali coast. USAID/OFDA has provided \$300,000 to support health activities for 25,000 beneficiaries through UNICEF, and \$200,000 for shelter and relief commodities through UNHCR. In addition, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than \$140,000 to OCHA for coordination activities countrywide.

USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided more than 50 percent of WFP commodities for the tsunami response in Somalia. WFP immediately re-directed food aid to tsunami-hit communities when the disaster struck and dispatched three teams to affected areas. On March 14, after two rounds of emergency food distributions, WFP had distributed 785 MT of emergency food assistance to approximately 30,000 beneficiaries in an estimated 39 towns and villages along the coast in the Bari, Nugal, and Mudug regions. WFP began a third round of emergency food distributions on March 16, consisting of an additional 450 MT of assorted food commodities.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE*			
ACF	Water and Sanitation	Bakool, Bay, Gedo regions	\$406,254
FEWS Somalia	Information Management	Countrywide	\$90,000
FAO	FSAU – Nutrition Surveillance	Countrywide	\$650,000
UNICEF	Health and Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA.....			\$2,146,254
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
CARE**	23,750 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Southern and Central Somalia	\$15,100,000
WFP	10,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$7,070,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP.....			\$22,170,200
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE—COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN FY 2005			\$24,316,454

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA – TSUNAMI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE*			
UNICEF	Health, Water, Relief Commodities	Northern Somalia	\$300,000
UNHCR	Shelter and Relief Commodities	Northern Somalia	\$200,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$141,369
World Concern	Emergency Relief Activities	Lower Juba	\$391,802
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,033,171
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	1,235 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Northern Somalia	\$844,700
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$844,700
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE—TSUNAMI IN FY 2005			\$1,877,871

TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

TOTAL USAID/OFDA IN FY 2005.....	\$3,129,425
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2005	\$26,194,325

*USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of June 17, 2005

**Funding represents totals for CARE programs beginning in FY 2004



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