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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

March 21, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated February 21, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Since 1991, widespread violence, endemic poverty, and recurrent droughts and floods have generated a complex emergency in Somalia. Continued civil strife and inter-clan conflicts have complicated the humanitarian situation and limited access to affected areas. Large-scale fighting since late December 2006 between the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Ethiopian forces, and armed militias opposed to the TFG has led to a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions. As a result, approximately 335,000 Somali refugees have fled the country, and approximately 1 million people have been displaced within Somalia. In February 2008, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) for Somalia reported that nearly 2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase from approximately 1 million as of January 2007. The combined effects of the failed April–June (*gu*) rains, conflict, massive displacement, and diarrheal disease in 2007 have severely exacerbated the food security situation and resulted in a significant increase in acute malnutrition rates, according to the 2008 U.N. Consolidated Appeal for Somalia. U.N. and relief agencies are coordinating efforts to improve access, but insecurity continues to hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

On October 3, 2007, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Somalia. In FY 2007 and to date in FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$143 million for emergency food assistance, health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, livelihoods, coordination, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, as well as peacebuilding activities, refugee assistance, and air operations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Estimated Displacement from Mogadishu¹	700,000	OCHA ² — February 15, 2008
Long-Term IDP³ Caseload	400,000	OCHA — July 31, 2007
Additional Population in Need of Assistance	850,000	FSAU — February 2008
Somalia Refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen	335,000	UNHCR ⁴ 2006 Global Trends Report — June 2007

FY 2008 AND 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia.....	\$27,004,313
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to Somalia	\$106,342,500
USAID/OTI⁶ Assistance to Somalia	\$1,000,000
USAID/CMM⁷ Assistance to Somalia	\$750,000
State/PRM⁸ Assistance to Somalia	\$8,071,560
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$143,168,373

CURRENT SITUATION

General insecurity and sustained attacks against TFG and Ethiopian troops displaced more than 64,000 people between January 1 and March 20, according to UNHCR. In addition, OCHA reports that insecurity is spreading to new areas in Bay and Galgaduud regions, including heavy fighting that disrupted planned food aid distributions to nearly 10,000 people in Diinsoor town, Bay Region, on

February 26. Security is also deteriorating in Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region, due to land disputes, crime-related violence, and inter-clan tensions.

Relief activities for the nearly 2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support remain impeded by the unpredictable security environment as

¹ Figures represent estimated displacement from Mogadishu since April 2007, and do not reflect long-term displacement countrywide.

² The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

³ Internally displaced person (IDP)

⁴ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁵ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁶ USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI)

⁷ USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (USAID/CMM)

⁸ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

well as more than 400 reported roadblocks throughout the country. The roadblocks and unofficial checkpoints increase travel time, raise transportation costs, and pose a significant security threat to relief staff.

Multiple relief organizations note acute water shortages relating to drought conditions, primarily in Mudug, Hiran, and Galgadud regions. USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports that the upcoming April-June (*gu*) rains are critical to restore water sources, regenerate pasture, and ensure crop production during the August harvest season. OCHA cites water and food as priority needs among drought-affected populations.

Population Movements and Protection

Several clashes in Mogadishu's main Bakara market in February have resulted in civilian casualties and further population displacement to other areas of the city and nearby regions. OCHA reports that approximately 270 people sought medical care for conflict-related wounds in Mogadishu during February, and local hospitals have reported 147 similar cases in the first half of March.

In addition to ongoing population movements out of Mogadishu due to security concerns, UNHCR reports a growing trend of some IDPs moving or returning to Mogadishu due to deteriorating conditions in drought-affected areas of central and northern Somalia. To date in March, nearly 4,500 IDPs have moved to the capital from Middle Shabelle and Mudug regions as a result of water shortages and increased food prices.

In response to protection-related concerns, relief agencies are organizing a series of consultative discussions with local authorities, civil society representatives, and IDPs in the Afgoye area outside of Mogadishu, Bossasso in Bari Region, and in Galgadud Region to identify possible protection interventions. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA is supporting Mercy Corps to provide psychosocial support services and child-friendly spaces, and funding U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) protection activities for conflict-affected populations.

Agriculture and Food Security

Severe water shortages are negatively impacting pastoralists in areas of central and northern Somalia, as water catchments and grazing pasture are depleted. Following two consecutive seasons of inadequate rainfall, leading to crop failure and strained water resources for both animals and people, OCHA reports the need for increased humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations through the August harvest season.

Based on findings from the October-December (*deyr*) rains assessments, and in advance of projected below-normal April-June (*gu*) rains, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has increased the projected food requirement to an estimated 185,000 metric tons (MT) for approximately 2.1 million beneficiaries in 2008. As of mid-March, WFP is working to address a possible

shortfall of 11,000 MT for emergency distributions scheduled for March through July.

OCHA reports that relief agencies provided 16,666 MT of emergency food aid to more than 1 million beneficiaries in February. In addition, approximately 52,000 residents of Mogadishu receive prepared food rations on a daily basis. To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$71 million to WFP and CARE for emergency food assistance to displaced and vulnerable populations throughout Somalia.

Nutrition

OCHA reports that an estimated 160,000 children in southern and central Somalia and in four IDP sites in northern regions are acutely malnourished. The median global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate is 15.7 percent, above the internationally-accepted emergency threshold of 15 percent. The median severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.7 percent is also above the 1 percent emergency threshold. An estimated 20,000 children have access to supplementary or therapeutic feeding programs, which facilitate recovery for approximately 75 percent of beneficiary children within two to three months. However, OCHA notes that children who recover may require supplementary feeding at a future date due to poor food security.

USAID/OFDA supports nutrition interventions through funding to FAO and UNICEF. To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.2 million for critical nutrition programs targeting conflict and drought-affected populations and nutrition monitoring, reporting, and information sharing for improved coordination of response efforts.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

On March 12, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported increased cases of acute watery diarrhea near Belet Weyne in Hiran Region and cited a need for improved case management and additional water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions to prevent further transmission. Relief agencies in the area are providing hygiene education and conducting garbage removal to improve sanitation conditions.

In response to acute water shortages in areas of central and northern Somalia, the U.N. Water and Sanitation cluster has increased response activities, including water trucking and borehole rehabilitation. The Danish Refugee Council is conducting a drought assessment to identify further water-related needs in Hiran Region. USAID/OFDA is supporting UNICEF and Mercy Corps to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene facilities countrywide.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
FAO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Mercy Corps	Logistics and Relief Commodities; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Northeastern Somalia	\$599,309
UNICEF	U.N. Common Air Service	Countrywide	\$800,000
UNICEF	Health; Logistics and Relief Commodities; Nutrition; Protection; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
	Program support costs		\$27,160
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$4,426,469
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
CARE	25,340 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Hiran, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Galgudud, Mudug Regions	\$21,011,700
WFP	58,940 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$50,025,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP³			\$71,036,900
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Income Generation, Logistics, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$3,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$3,200,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2008			\$75,463,369
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2008			\$78,663,369
FY 2007			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$22,577,844
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$35,305,600
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/CMM			\$750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,871,560
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$59,633,444
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$64,505,004

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 21, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ The USAID/FFP FY 2008 funding figure includes \$24 million initially reported in FY 2007. The revised reporting reflects a reduction in food and associated costs that were purchased with FY 2008 funds but used in calendar year 2007.



Ky Luu
Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance