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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 #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 21, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated April 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 May 2008, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) for Somalia reported that 2.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase from approximately 1 million as of January 2007. The combined effects of the 2007 failed April–June (*gu*) rains and poor October–December (*deyr*) rains, continuing conflict, massive displacement, and diarrheal disease outbreaks 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 \$190 million for emergency food assistance, health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, livelihoods support, humanitarian 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	857,000	UNHCR ² – April 28, 2008
Long-Term IDP³ Caseload	400,000	OCHA ⁴ – July 31, 2007
Additional Population in Need of Assistance	1,500,000	FSAU – May 9, 2008
Somalia Refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen	335,000	UNHCR 2006 Global Trends Report – June 2007

FY 2008 AND 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia.....	\$31,103,216
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to Somalia.....	\$144,416,500
USAID/OTI⁶ Assistance to Somalia.....	\$1,000,000
USAID/CMM⁷ Assistance to Somalia.....	\$750,000
State/PRM⁸ Assistance to Somalia.....	\$13,471,560
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$190,741,276

CURRENT SITUATION

More than 2.6 million people currently require emergency assistance in Somalia, according to the FSAU. Furthermore, U.N. agencies and relief organizations have begun planning for a worst-case scenario in which half of the total population, or up to 3.5 million Somalis, may

require livelihood support or emergency assistance by the end of 2008. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating rapidly as a result of increasing prices of food and non-food items, worsening drought conditions, and insecurity that continues to impede relief operations.

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

² Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

³ Internally displaced person (IDP)

⁴ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

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)

The increased estimates since April 2008 reflect both the accelerated pace of deterioration as well as a recent assessment that identified 600,000 people in urban areas in need of assistance.

Population Movements and Protection

Insecurity has displaced more than 44,500 people from Mogadishu since March 1, according to UNHCR. OCHA reports that daily clashes between anti-government groups and TFG or Ethiopian forces in Mogadishu and areas of southern and central Somalia continue to pose a security risk to civilians, spur additional population movements, and disrupt livelihood activities. On May 6, the international human rights organization Amnesty International released a report detailing instances of rape, extrajudicial killings, attacks on civilians, and other human rights abuses committed by all parties to the ongoing conflict.

Humanitarian Access

The unpredictable security environment remains a significant obstacle to humanitarian relief operations in Somalia. On May 7, armed men shot and killed a driver contracted by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) at an illegal checkpoint near Gaalkacyo, Mudug Region. On May 17, unidentified assailants killed the head of the non-governmental organization Horn Relief office in Kismayo, Lower Juba Region. As a result, Horn Relief has temporarily suspended relief operations in Kismayo District pending an investigation of the threat to humanitarian staff in the area. OCHA reports regular attacks on convoys of relief commodities and attempts to loot emergency food aid, including five incidents within one week in late April that delayed food aid distributions. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$800,000 to the U.N. Common Air Service for the transportation of humanitarian staff and relief commodities to affected areas throughout the country.

Agriculture and Food Security

Relief agencies report a growing food security crisis in Somalia. The unusually severe January-April dry season, compounded by a late start to the April-June rainy season, has led to poor crop germination in areas of southern Somalia as well as limited pasture and water resources for animals in northeastern and central regions. In southern and central Somalia, prices of locally produced maize and sorghum have increased by 300 to 400 percent, and prices of imported rice and vegetable oil have increased by an average of 150 percent since April 2007, according to USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the FSAU. Urban poor and displaced persons are particularly affected by price increases as they must purchase nearly all food in markets.

The food shortage is exacerbated by a poor October-December (*deyr*) harvest, general civil insecurity, and restricted regional and cross-border trade, according to FEWS NET. Local relief agencies cite daily extortion and looting of individuals, businesses, and markets as

additional threats to household income and food security. In addition, OCHA reports that the increasing risk of piracy along Somalia's coast has reduced the number of commercial ships willing to deliver food and other commodities to the country, further compounding both the limited supply and rising price of food items.

Relief organizations are distributing WFP-provided wet food rations to more than 50,000 people in Mogadishu on a daily basis. The project currently operates in 10 of 16 districts in the city, and agencies are preparing to expand the program to all 16 districts for the next six months. In addition, WFP has restarted food-for-work activities in Mogadishu to support economic revitalization and increase income among the poor. In response to the growing food security crisis, USAID/FFP has provided approximately \$109 million in emergency food aid for Somalia to date in FY 2008, tripling FY 2007 food contributions.

Nutrition

Relief agencies report growing concern over the impact of record high inflation, a devalued Somali shilling, insecurity, and population displacement on nutrition among vulnerable groups. In April, relief organizations conducted a joint nutrition assessment in El Berde District of Bakool Region, identifying a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 24.1 percent and a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.8 percent. The results indicate deteriorating food security in the area related to inadequate rainfall that generated insufficient pasture and water for livestock, negatively impacting pastoralists' ability to purchase food. The GAM and SAM rates are above internationally recognized emergency thresholds of 15 percent and 1 percent, respectively, and are also above December 2006 rates.

In addition, multiple relief organizations report increasing admissions of severely malnourished children into therapeutic feeding centers, particularly in and around Mogadishu. As of May 14, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that 2,000 children are receiving treatment along the Mogadishu-Afgoye corridor, where more than 300,000 IDPs are settled. On May 12, UNICEF began providing a fortified corn-soya blend to 44,000 children at nine distribution sites between Mogadishu and Afgoye. UNICEF plans to expand the blanket feeding program to reach more than 90 percent of all children under five years of age temporarily settled between Mogadishu and Afgoye.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to UNICEF for nutrition, protection, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities throughout Somalia. USAID/OFDA also supports FAO nutrition monitoring and recently provided approximately \$350,000 to International Medical Corps (IMC) to improve the nutritional status of affected populations in El Berde and Rabdhure districts in Bakool Region.

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	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
International Medical Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bakool, Bay, and Hiran Regions	\$1,022,629
Mercy Corps	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Northeastern Somalia	\$599,309
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Galgadud Region	\$576,274
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$300,000
UNHCR	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
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			\$8,525,372
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
CARE	35,890 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Hiran, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Galgudud, Mudug Regions	\$31,981,000
WFP	80,290 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$77,129,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP³			\$109,110,900
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Income Generation, Logistics, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$3,200,000
International Committee of the Red Cross	Health, Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$5,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$8,600,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2008			\$117,636,272
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2008			\$126,236,272
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 May 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.



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