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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

January 15, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated December 10, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Since 1991, widespread violence, endemic poverty, 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. In addition, ongoing 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 476,000 Somali refugees have fled the country and more than 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) are uprooted within Somalia, including long-term IDPs, as well as individuals displaced by increased fighting since February 2007.

In August 2008, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) reported that 3.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, representing 43 percent of the total population and a 77 percent increase since January 2008. Despite the recent September to December *deyr* rains, affected populations are expected to remain highly or extremely food insecure depending on location. The combined effects of consecutive seasons of failed or poor rainfall, continuing conflict, rising inflation, 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 2009 U.N. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for Somalia. U.N. and partner agencies are coordinating efforts to improve access, but insecurity and targeted attacks against relief staff hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

On October 31, 2008, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster in Somalia due to the complex emergency. To date in FY 2009, USAID has provided more than \$157 million for humanitarian assistance programs in Somalia, including more than \$17 million in USAID/OFDA food security and agriculture, economy and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, logistics and relief commodities, regional food procurement and distribution, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs focused on flexible response to allow implementing partners to adjust to fluid security conditions and continue to reach beneficiaries. In FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) provided more than \$270 million in humanitarian assistance to Somalia, including more than \$51.2 million from USAID/OFDA, \$197.4 million from USAID/FFP and \$21.8 million from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Total Population in Need of Emergency Assistance	3.2 million	FSAU – August 2008
Urban Caseload	705,000	FSAU – August 2008
IDPs since February 2007	870,000	FSAU – August 2008
Long-Term IDPs	275,000	FSAU – August 2008
Rural Caseload	1,395,000	FSAU – August 2008
Somali Refugees in Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen	334,000	UNHCR ¹ Global Trends Report – June 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia.....	\$17,679,713
USAID/FFP Assistance to Somalia	\$139,733,200
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$157,412,913

CURRENT SITUATION

High food and fuel prices, drought conditions in some areas, and widespread insecurity continue to exacerbate humanitarian conditions in Somalia. In addition, uncertainty associated with the recent resignation of

TFG President Yusuf on December 29 and ongoing Ethiopian troop withdrawals have increased concerns regarding the potential for an escalation in fighting between armed militias in Somalia and a further

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

deterioration in security conditions and humanitarian access.

On December 19, OCHA reported that armed militias had taken control of several formerly TFG-controlled areas in southern Somalia, including the port towns of Marka and Baraawe, Lower Shabelle Region, and Kismaayo, Lower Juba Region.

The effects of previous droughts and resulting livestock mortality, disease outbreaks, and high food prices also continue to contribute to food insecurity and high malnutrition rates in large areas of Somalia. According to FSAU, 3.2 million people, representing 43 percent of the total population, are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance, representing a 77 percent increase since January 2008.

USAID/OFDA staff continue to monitor health, nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions in Somalia, including the impact of increasing instability on the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Security and Population Movements

Escalated fighting and the continued targeting of humanitarian staff have resulted in reduced humanitarian access and significant population displacement. According to OCHA, attacks on humanitarian workers resulted in 35 deaths and 26 kidnappings between January 1 and December 15, 2008. In addition, on January 6 and 8, unidentified gunmen killed two U.N. World Food Program (WFP) staff in separate incidences in Gedo and Banadir regions, respectively.

As of January 7, OCHA reported approximately 1.3 million IDPs in Somalia, representing an 18 percent increase since July 2008. UNHCR noted that insecurity displaced approximately 54,375 people throughout Somalia in November, including more than 22,000 people from Mogadishu. Between December 27 and January 3, fighting between armed militias in Galgadud Region displaced an estimated additional 120,000 people, according to UNHCR. Fighting and resulting displacement have exacerbated humanitarian conditions in Galgadud Region, which currently hosts approximately 130,000 IDPs.

On December 23, UNHCR reported that officials had registered more than 60,000 Somalis in Dadaab refugee camps in the North Eastern Province of Kenya since January 2008. Intended to accommodate 90,000 refugees, the camps hosted 230,000 people as of December 2008. As a result, UNHCR launched an international appeal on December 19 for \$92 million to accommodate new arrivals, as well as to provide additional assistance to refugees currently residing in the camps.

Ongoing programs from State/PRM FY 2008 assistance continue to target Somalia refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen.

Nutrition

Malnutrition remains a significant concern in areas of Somalia, including Galgadud, Mudug, and Bari regions. A December 23 FSAU report indicated that malnutrition rates among IDP populations in Bossasso, Bari Region, represented the highest recorded rates in Somalia during 2008. FSAU reported global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates above 27 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates above 7 percent in the region, significantly higher than GAM and SAM emergency thresholds of 15 and 1 percent, respectively. FSAU identified an increased incidence of diarrheal disease in the Bossasso IDP camp two weeks prior to the nutrition assessment as a contributing factor to high malnutrition rates.

However, FSAU also reported sustained or improved nutrition conditions in the Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle regions, including among IDP populations. Dietary diversity, improved food security due to the onset of seasonal rains, and increased humanitarian support contributed to stabilizing nutrition conditions, according to FSAU.

Despite improved nutrition conditions in some areas of Somalia, average GAM levels countrywide remain above 18 percent, according to the U.N. In addition, FSAU reports that increased fighting and new population displacement have increased concerns of rising malnutrition rates, particularly among IDP populations in Somalia.

In response to increased malnutrition concerns, USAID/OFDA implementing partner the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) is distributing the ready-to-use supplemental food Plumpy'doz in Somalia to prevent malnutrition in vulnerable children. On December 18, UNICEF distributed Plumpy'doz to more than 9,000 children in IDP camps in Bossasso, Bari Region. As of December 31, UNICEF had also distributed Plumpy'doz to more than 10,000 children in Middle Shabelle and Lower Shabelle regions. UNICEF is scheduled to reach an additional 30,000 children in central and southern Somalia by mid-January.

USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$3 million to support nutrition activities in Somalia to date in FY 2009. USAID/OFDA FY 2009 and ongoing FY 2008 nutrition programs include emergency nutrition interventions targeting vulnerable populations in Bakool, Bay, Hiran, Middle Shabelle, and Galgadud regions.

Emergency Food Assistance

Piracy off the coast of Somalia continues to threaten commercial transport, necessitating naval escorts to ensure the delivery of critical humanitarian food assistance. The USG is leading an international task force, Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151), aimed at increasing naval patrols and combating piracy off the coast of Somalia. Commanded by a U.S. Navy admiral, CTF-151 is scheduled to be fully operational in January.

On November 28, the GOK reopened the Kenya–Somalia border, easing constraints on trans-border emergency food aid deliveries and permitting WFP to transport 1,250 metric tons (MT) of food aid from Kenya to Somalia. The GOK had closed the border following the November 10 kidnapping of two nuns on the Kenyan border by Somali gunmen. According to WFP, the border closure resulted in decreased November food distributions.

In November, WFP and the International Committee of the Red Cross distributed 35,915 MT of food aid to 1.6 million beneficiaries in Somalia, according to WFP. Following recent USAID/FFP contributions, WFP pipeline needs for Somalia are currently met through June 2009.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided more than 290,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$140 million.

Food Security

Despite normal seasonal rains resulting in improved water and increased pasture availability, food insecurity remains prevalent in Somalia, particularly among displaced and pastoralist populations. According to the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the combined effects of disease outbreaks, high food prices, and significant livestock mortality have

exacerbated food insecurity. In addition, pastoralists have sold large numbers of animals during the past 6 to 12 months in response to high food prices, resulting in decreased herd sizes and reduced livelihoods.

According to a November FSAU assessment, food prices in urban centers of Middle Juba and Gedo regions stabilized or declined, and the onset of seasonal rains improved livelihood opportunities for some urban residents. However, food prices remain at record high levels. In addition, FSAU highlighted a lack of diversified diet consumption and the exhaustion of existing coping strategies among poor urban populations, resulting in increased food security concerns.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2 million to support food security and agriculture programs countrywide, including animal health services to safeguard pastoralist population livelihoods.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The prevalence of waterborne diseases continues to present significant health risks for Somali populations. Between August 13 and November 30, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 626 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Marka, Lower Shabelle Region. According to WHO, children under five years of age accounted for 60 percent of admitted cases in the region. In November, WHO reported 327 AWD cases in Lower and Middle Juba regions and 55 AWD cases in Bossasso, Bari Region. Between January 1 and November 7, WHO reported 2,105 cases of AWD in Galgaduud Region, resulting in 26 deaths.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.3 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions countrywide, including support for education designed to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases such as AWD.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

FY 2009			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Horn Relief	Economy and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	Lower Juba Region	\$1,579,817
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,158,900
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Mudug Region	\$935,472
Medair Swiss	Health, Nutrition, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Togdheer Region	\$519,853
Mercy Corps	Economy and Market Systems, Protection, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bari Region	\$1,465,850

Mercy USA	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Middle Shabelle Region	\$186,271
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
WFP	Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Countrywide	\$1,822,478
WFP	Economy and Market Systems	Countrywide	\$998,500
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$12,572
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$17,679,713
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	136,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$118,763,200
CARE	24,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,970,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$139,733,200
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2009			\$157,412,913

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 15, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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