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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2007

January 3, 2007

NOTE: The last fact sheet was dated December 29, 2006.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The U.S. Government has a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in the region, based in Nairobi. The DART will continue to monitor humanitarian needs resulting from the conflict, coordinate the USG humanitarian response, and recommend additional USG humanitarian support as required.
- After occupying Mogadishu on December 29, Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Ethiopian forces advanced south towards Jilib, Middle Juba Region and Kismayo, Lower Juba Region, where forces loyal to the Council of Islamic Courts (CIC) had retreated. On January 1, TFG/Ethiopian troops captured Kismayo as CIC supporters reportedly fled towards the Kenyan border.
- Humanitarian agencies report relative calm in Mogadishu, with both the air and sea ports open to humanitarian cargo.
- On December 29, the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) granted permission for humanitarian flights to resume within and into Somalia. U.N. agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had suspended flights after the TFG closed land, sea, and air borders on December 25.
- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports limited displacement in Middle Juba and Lower Juba regions, where fighting occurred. Approximately 2,000 people departed Jilib town moving to nearby villages, while an estimated 4,000 Somalis are reportedly in Dhobley and are expected to cross into Kenya.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AT A GLANCE

Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$9,790,407
Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$81,400,000
Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$4,070,000
Total FY 2006 and FY 2007 USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed to Somalia	\$95,260,407

CURRENT SITUATION

- In late December 2006, TFG forces, supported by Ethiopia, initiated an air and ground campaign to recapture towns in south and central Somalia controlled by the CIC. TFG/Ethiopian forces advanced quickly as CIC leaders and fighters retreated first towards Mogadishu and then towards Kismayo, which fell on December 29 and January 1, respectively. The rapid and localized nature of the fighting has minimized population movement to date, with displacement being largely short-term and within districts.
- USAID regional advisors based in Nairobi are monitoring the situation and collaborating with partners to address emergency needs of conflict-affected populations. USAID, through the Offices of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), supports 10 implementing partners to carry out emergency humanitarian programs throughout Somalia.

Population Displacement

- Humanitarian agencies indicate that conflict-related displacement has so far remained local and short-term. Figures on new internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain difficult to ascertain with estimates ranging up to 30,000. Relief organizations report that many IDPs have already begun returning to areas of origin where fighting has subsided. The U.N. does not expect long-term displacement to become a trend unless the conflict widens.
- USAID partners in Somalia are providing immediate assistance to IDPs in areas where the organizations have ongoing emergency programs. With USAID/OFDA support, the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is currently assisting 5,000 displaced families in the Gaalkacyo area.

Refugees

- New refugee flows remain limited. According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 200 Somali asylum seekers arrived at the Liboi transit center in northeastern Kenya between December 29 and 30. The refugees were reportedly women and children from the Kismayo area, where tensions remain high. USG-supported UNHCR is prepositioning supplies sufficient for 50,000 new refugees in Kenya in the event that additional population movement occurs.

- On December 29, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided an initial contribution to UNHCR for 2007 programs worldwide, including \$450,000 in earmarked funds for Somalia, \$2,425,000 for Kenya, \$1,125,000 for Ethiopia, and \$9.3 million for refugee protection and assistance throughout Africa.

Humanitarian Access

- Transportation into and within Somalia is improving. The U.N. has negotiated access for U.N. Common Air Service (UNCAS) flights into Hargeysa, Jowhar, Waajid, and Mogadishu. The U.N. Department of Safety and Security is currently evaluating possible flights into Beletweyne, Kismayo, and Gaalkacyo.
- WFP reports that flood-affected areas in southern and central Somalia are drying up, freeing food convoys that had been stuck in mud for seven weeks. Roads made inaccessible due to flooding are also improving, increasing options for overland transport of food and relief commodities.
- According to OCHA, the TFG is in control of the Mogadishu sea port and has allowed ships carrying humanitarian commodities to unload in the port.

Emergency Operations

- USAID partners are continuing ongoing emergency programs; however, some planned activities have been delayed due to a combination of factors, including staff withdrawal, logistical constraints, and limited access to conflict areas.
- On December 31, USAID-supported UNICEF offloaded a shipment of relief commodities at the Mogadishu sea port, which will support emergency efforts throughout southern and central Somalia.
- Despite the fighting, USAID partner WFP distributed food to 93,000 flood-affected people in Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, and Lower Juba regions in the past week. WFP reports moving forward with food distributions in Bay, Bakol, and Gedo regions. WFP will begin boat operations for food distributions to vulnerable communities repeatedly affected by floods and conflict in Bu’aale, Middle Juba.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA supports eight implementing partners to carry out emergency humanitarian interventions in Somalia, 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 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.
- USAID/FFP is providing food assistance to vulnerable populations in southern and central regions through ongoing activities from FY 2006 countrywide programs. In FY 2006, USAID/FFP provided more than 120,000 metric tons 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 \$3,575,000 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			
UNICEF	U.N. Common Air Service	Countrywide	\$878,470
UNICEF*	Rapid Response Fund	Flood-affected Areas	\$250,000
UNICEF	Health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Matrix	12 Zodiac Boats and Motors	Flood-affected Areas	\$243,525
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$2,871,995
FY 2006			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,918,412
TOTAL USAID/FFP²			\$81,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,070,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006			\$88,318,412
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2006			\$92,388,412

* Through a standing agreement with UNICEF, USAID/OFDA approved the use of \$250,000 in rapid response funds to Somalia.

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 3, 2007.

² 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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for emergency response efforts in Somalia can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Somalia may be available at www.reliefweb.org.
- 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 quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at the Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914