

Key Overall Developments

Intensive fighting in Mogadishu on 23 October killed an estimated 30 people and wounded 70 others, mostly civilians. According to media reports, several mortar rounds allegedly fired by insurgent groups landed near Aden Adde International Airport in Medina district. In response, African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) forces reportedly shelled parts of Mogadishu, including business and residential areas in Hodan and Howl Wadaag districts. The fighting erupted along Maka Al Mukarama road that connects the Villa Somalia Presidential compound and Mogadishu's Aden Adde International Airport at the time when President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed's convoy was driving towards the airport. Both sides reportedly used heavy weapons. The spokesman for AMISOM in Mogadishu denied that AMISOM shelled residential areas and Bakara market.

According to the latest (issued 21 October) Somalia Food Security Outlook report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), the current food security situation in Somalia is not expected to change through March 2010. The Report states that the most likely scenario, of normal to above-normal rains between October and December, due to *El Nino*, could end the prolonged drought and improve water and pasture availability. Given the increased availability of water and pasture in most key grazing areas, a significant reduction in pastoral household expenditure on water and migration is expected during the January to March 2010 period. However, recovery from the current drought in Bakool, Hiraan, Galgaduud, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions is not expected during the next six months, as cattle and camel require several seasons of normal rainfall to calve and produce milk. Therefore, the population in these regions will continue to face extreme levels of food insecurity in the coming six months.

WFP urgently requires 215,000 metric tonnes of food valued at US\$193 million to continue with food assistance for 3.5 million vulnerable Somalis for the next six months. The current requirements are based on the revised needs estimated by the August country-wide comprehensive inter-agency assessment led by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia. With such critical shortfalls vulnerable Somalis may starve, malnutrition will rise, and people will become more prone to disease and the death rate may increase. A disruption of humanitarian food assistance to Somalia is also likely to trigger mass cross-border population movements. WFP Somalia is prioritizing assistance to IDPs, institutional feeding, and nutritional support with any new funding contribution.

Walter Kaelin, the Representative of the UN Secretary General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, completed his mission to Somalia. During his mission (14 and 21 October), he visited the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, where he met with new arrivals from South/Central Somalia. In Somalia he met with IDPs in Gaalkacyo, Bossaso, and Hargeysa. He also consulted with the TFG and the administrations of Somaliland and Puntland, and met with humanitarian agencies and civil society representatives. Mr. Kaelin raised concerns about the limited support to IDPs in Somalia and said that "the lack of humanitarian access to those most in need, dangers for humanitarian workers, such as abductions, as well as a sharp decline in donor contributions exacerbate this long-standing humanitarian crisis and risk bringing it to a hitherto unknown level". He underscored that all actors must grant humanitarian access, ensure the safety of humanitarian workers, and not impede the already limited delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid. Mr. Kaelin further suggested that, to the extent possible, humanitarian agencies must shift their operations from Nairobi to Puntland, Somaliland and other areas from where affected regions can be serviced.

According to UNHCR, a total of 34,000 people have been displaced throughout Somalia since 1 September 2009, 17,000 from Mogadishu. Roughly 13,500 people left Mogadishu to other parts of the country while 3,400 moved to relatively safer areas within the city.

Response

All 16 wet feeding (cooked meals) centres in Mogadishu are now operational. The sixteenth site “Abdul-Aziz” re-opened this week after it was relocated near the main administrative office of the local partner SAACID. With the exception of the last site, all wet feeding centers have been operational since the last week of July. WFP has continued to provide the dried food commodities for the partners to provide hot meals to vulnerable Somalis. During the past week, the 16 centres produced a total of 413,437 meals. Monitoring of the programme indicates that each recipient receives three standard scoops of porridge, which is shared with 4.5 other people including themselves. This actually means that at minimum, the food quota that is meant for 80,000 people per day is actually feeding in full or in part some 320,917 each day. Fifty-five percent of the recipients of the meals are female and 40% percent of the total beneficiaries are children. Adult males are only five percent.

WFP and partners distributed 459 metric tones of assorted food commodities to 43,110 beneficiaries under general food distribution in Nugal, Sool and Sanaag regions in northern Somalia. An additional 40,020 beneficiaries received 446 metric tones of assorted food commodities under general food distribution in Jalalaqsi and Gahareri Districts of Hiraan and Galgaduud regions respectively.

UNICEF, in collaboration with local the NGO SOPHPA, scaled-up chlorination activities in Mogadishu including Daynile area, Kax-Shiiqal IDP settlement, and along the Afgooye Corridor. Chlorine dosages were increased to higher acceptable limits, to provide more stringent protective measures against acute watery diarrhoea. SOPHPA is also using their own ‘chlorinators’ to monitor and chlorinate wells in addition to the routine chlorination carried out by well owners/operators.

UNICEF and partners continue to respond to water shortages across Somalia. More than 7,000 people in Warshiek and Adale districts, Middle Shabelle, have access to safe drinking water following the construction of ten new shallow wells and the rehabilitation of 15 existing shallow wells. Training on operating and maintaining solar pumps to sustain ten solar water systems is benefiting 10,000 people.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners distributed *Plumpy'doz* to 13,068 children in Lughaye, Borama and Berbera districts in Somaliland, and to 9,743 IDP children in Bossaso. *Plumpy'doz* is a highly nutritious ‘ready to use food’ that helps in the prevention of acute malnutrition. *Plumpy'doz* distribution will commence in South/Central Somaliland in November targeting 108,000 of the most vulnerable children.

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