

Key Overall Developments

Three aid workers with Action Against Hunger (ACF) were released on 3 October in Somalia. The three were captured in Kenya's border town of Mandera and taken into Somalia on 17 July. Currently, 10 humanitarian aid workers remain in captivity in Somalia.

On 1 October, fighting erupted between two Islamist groups over the control of Kismayo, Lower Juba, killing at least 15 people, and wounding more than 50 others. Eight more people were killed and more than 15 others injured in renewed clashes on 4 October. Unconfirmed numbers of people were displaced and mostly moved to Jilib and Jamaame areas in Middle Juba. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sent emergency medical supplies to various medical facilities in Kismayo, Marheere, Doble, Afmadow and Jilib districts in Middle and Lower Juba. The Somalia Red Crescent Society also sent two war surgeons and an anaesthetist to Kismayo to support the local hospital, taking with them 400kg of surgical supplies from the ICRC to treat war-wounded patients.

During the week, heavy shelling of various civilian residential areas in Mogadishu was reported. On 3 and 4 October, Bakara market was shelled as fighting broke out between insurgents and African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) troops killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 20 others. UNHCR says fighting between insurgents and government forces killed 145 people and injured 285 others in Somalia, the majority in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Belet Weyne in September. Some 17,000 people have fled the three cities, including 11,000 who left Mogadishu.

In September, WFP assisted 1.3 million vulnerable Somalis throughout the country with about 22,170 metric tons of assorted food commodities. The food aid requirements for September were 48,000 metric tons to assist 3 million vulnerable Somalis mainly through relief and nutrition interventions. However, low funding levels for the Emergency Operation (44 percent of the requirements) and pipeline breaks forced WFP to cut down the rations and reprioritize life-saving interventions. WFP urgently needs US\$195 million to continue with food assistance for 3.3 million Somalis through April 2010.

Reports indicate that leaflets were scattered near the Medina hospital in Mogadishu, accusing doctors of treating government soldiers and receiving support from enemies of Islam. Doctors and staff of the hospital reportedly expressed disappointment and vowed to continue with their duties. No group has claimed responsibility for scattering the leaflets.

Response

During the week, UNFPA with local NGO COCO distributed 300 hygiene kits to displaced women and men in Avazioni IDP settlement in Mogadishu. Similarly, NGO Dawa Al-Islam distributed 120 Hygiene kits to pregnant women through Mother and Child Health Centres in Shibis and Arjentine areas. The hygiene kit consists of soap, a towel, detergent, sanitary pads, bed sheets, T-shirts, oil, among other things.

UNFPA in collaboration with NGO COGWO, started supporting a fistula campaign in Mogadishu through the AMISOM Hospital. More than 20 fistula patients have already been operated on.

On 1 October, NGO Centre for Peace and Democracy started a one-month water trucking project in the drought-affected area of Cadaado, Galgaduud region. The project will provide 5 litres of water per day to 54,000 people in 69 pastoral villages.

In Waajid, Bakool region, the reconstruction of six classrooms and separate latrines for boys and girls, an office, storeroom and a water tank benefiting 400 children (240 girls) were completed. The project was supported by UNICEF and implemented by the Waajid Community Education Committee, with technical support from UNOPS.

On 6 October, Concern Worldwide through NGO LIFELINE GEDO in Belet Xawa, Gedo, finalised water trucking activities to 14 villages in Ceel Waaq district. A total of 224,000 litres of water were delivered to 21,330 people. Additionally, NGO AMA distributed 84.5 metric tons of assorted food aid to 9,000 people in Ceel Waaq and Belet Xawa districts. According to AMA, the relief food comprising of cereal, pulses, and vegetable oil was distributed to the most vulnerable people including IDPs, the disabled and elderly persons.

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