

Key Overall Developments

The Somali Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) unit of FAO Somalia says that much of the country is likely to experience near-normal to above-normal (enhanced) rainfall due to El Nino driven weather conditions from October – December 2009. The rains are likely to be similar to the 2006 rainy season, which caused major flooding and displaced more than 300,000 people.

During the week, there were two major security incidents in Mogadishu. On 17 September, insurgents launched a suicide attack on the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) force headquarters located within the Mogadishu International Airport, killing 21 people and wounding at least 40 others. Reportedly, the attackers rammed through the compound in two vehicles. The AU Special Representative issued a press release on the same day condemning the attack and reiterated the AU's commitment to peace and reconciliation in Somalia. The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon also expressed shock and outrage at the attack. The European Union, Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), League of Arab States, the UN, Norway and US expressed their dissatisfaction in a joint press statement.

On 11 September, a hospital in southern Mogadishu was hit by mortar shells killing at least 15 disabled people and wounding 17 others, including children. The International Committee of the Red Cross issued a press statement on 15 September condemning the attack. Since January, the two surgical referral hospitals in Mogadishu supported by the ICRC have treated around 3,700 war-wounded patients, including 350 children and nearly 600 women.

The fighting in Mogadishu continues to cause displacement of civilians. Since 1 July, UNHCR says 83,000 people have been displaced from their homes in Mogadishu with 55,600 having left the city and 27,300 having moved to relatively safer areas within Mogadishu.

On 12 September, three civilians were killed and 10 others wounded when police fired live bullets at protesters gathered at the parliament compound in Hargeysa, Somaliland. There have been political tensions in Somaliland following the postponement of the general elections which were scheduled for end of September.

Response

During the week, WFP and partners distributed 436 metric tons of food to 38,988 beneficiaries in Puntland under the supplementary feeding, targeted supplementary feeding, food for training, people living with HIV/AIDS and institutional feeding programmes.

UNICEF and partners continue operations and maintenance of the Afgooye water supply network providing safe drinking water to over 220,000 IDPs. Additionally during the week, some 37,000 IDPs now have access to latrines following the distribution of 742 slabs (used to cover latrines), while 1,500 IDPs benefited from jerry can and aqua tab distributions and hygiene education in south and north Mogadishu. About 500 households in Luuq, Gedo were provided with 1,000 bars of soap and 60,000 aqua tabs for water treatment. Chlorination of 40 wells in 20 villages targeting 16,000 people continues in Luuq.

Local NGO SPDS started water trucking to 14 villages in Mudug and Nugaal regions. Most of the drought-affected remote villages in these regions face a shortage of water.

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