

Key Overall Developments

The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden, this week said that the scale of the crisis in Somalia continues to deteriorate with more than 3.6 million people – nearly half the population – in need of humanitarian assistance or livelihood support. Speaking at a press conference in New York on 23 September, Mr Bowden appealed to the international donors for assistance as funding needs have not been adequately met in water sanitation, health and nutrition. He said, “A far clearer picture about commitments for relief aid through the end of the year is needed.” As of the end of September, the Somalia 2009 CAP was 53 percent funded, having received US\$448.5 million out of \$854 million. However, some \$215 of the \$448.5 million is carry-over from 2008.

Save the Children Somalia says the proportion of malnourished children has risen to 20 percent as a result of severe drought, crop failure, rising food prices and hyperinflation. In a press statement issued on 19 September, Save the Children said displaced children are living in dire conditions without access to enough food, clean water or medical care. Despite the huge access and security challenges, the organisation is reaching children and their families in desperate need in Somalia, treating them for malnutrition and getting the children back to school. “We are scaling up our response to hunger and malnutrition in Hiraan region and are looking to set-up new feeding and livelihoods programmes in Somaliland and Puntland,” Save the Children said.

On 20 September, fighting between insurgents and Transitional Federal Government (TFG)/African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces killed at least 20 people in Mogadishu as residents celebrated Eid-ul-Fitr, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan. More clashes were reported on 22 September killing at least 12 civilians and wounding more than 17 others. At least 5,000 people were displaced from Mogadishu during the week due to insecurity, with a total of 87,000 displaced since 1 July. Some 58,000 have left the city to other parts of the country while 28,100 are displaced within Mogadishu.

In the border town of Yeed, Rabdhure district, Bakool region, at least 10 people were killed on 20 September following a battle between Al Shabaab militia and pro-government militants. Al Shabaab is said to have taken control of the town.

WFP will resume food assistance to IDPs in Bossaso, Puntland for the month of September following successful consultations with the authorities. In August, IDPs did not receive their rations because of a misunderstanding between authorities and WFP.

Response

In just the first week of operation, eight new WFP-supported supplementary feeding centres in Mogadishu have recorded admissions of about 700 cases and treated at least 3,250 children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women. This indicates the dire need for nutrition interventions in Mogadishu. Children will be treated with *Plumpy'doz* – a ready-to-eat food rich in multivitamins. WFP is supporting 190 supplementary feeding centres targeting some 70,000 malnourished children across Somalia.

In Puntland, WFP and partners distributed 88 metric tons of food commodities to 7,700 beneficiaries under the food for training programme in Gardo, Eyl and Boame districts in Bari, Nugaal and Sool regions. In Somaliland, another 44,000 people benefited from 450 metric tons of food under institutional feeding, general food distribution, maternal child health and supplementary feeding programmes in Sahil, Galbeed and Togdheer regions.

This week, the Danish Refugee Council completed the construction of 13 latrines in two IDP settlements in Bossaso, benefiting at least 390 people. At the same time, the construction of 28 additional latrines commenced in another three IDP settlements. Thirty women were also trained on hygiene awareness.

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