



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Somalia – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

February 21, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated December 20, 2007.

BACKGROUND

Since 1991, widespread violence, endemic poverty, and recurrent droughts and floods have generated a complex emergency in Somalia. Continued civil strife and inter-clan conflicts have complicated the humanitarian situation and limited access to affected areas. Fighting since late December 2006 between the Somalia Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Ethiopian forces, and armed militias opposed to the TFG has led to a further deterioration in humanitarian conditions. As a result, approximately 335,000 Somali refugees have fled the country, and approximately 1 million people have been displaced within Somalia. In August 2007, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) for Somalia reported that more than 1.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, a 50 percent increase from January 2007. The combined effects of the failed April–June (*gu*) rains, conflict, massive displacement, and diarrheal disease in 2007 have severely exacerbated the food security situation and resulted in a significant increase in acute malnutrition rates, according to the 2008 U.N. Consolidated Appeal for Somalia. U.N. and relief agencies are coordinating efforts to improve access, but insecurity continues to hinder the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

On October 3, 2007, U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Michael E. Ranneberger redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Somalia. In FY 2007 and to date in FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$139 million for health, nutrition, agriculture and food security, livelihoods, coordination, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, as well as for emergency food assistance, peacebuilding activities, refugee assistance, and air operations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Estimated Displacement from Mogadishu¹	700,000	OCHA ² – February 15, 2008
Long-Term IDP³ Caseload	400,000	OCHA – July 31, 2007
Additional Population in Need of Assistance	850,000	FSAU – February 2008
Somalia Refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Yemen	335,000	UNHCR ⁴ 2006 Global Trends Report – June 2007

FY 2008 AND 2007 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Somalia.....	\$26,405,004
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to Somalia	\$106,342,500
USAID/OTI⁶ Assistance to Somalia	\$1,000,000
USAID/CMM⁷ Assistance to Somalia	\$750,000
State/PRM⁸ Assistance to Somalia	\$4,871,560
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia.....	\$139,369,064

CURRENT SITUATION

Continued insecurity, localized drought conditions, and increasing numbers of internally displaced persons have generated deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Somalia, particularly affecting Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Hiran, and Central regions.

According to the FSAU post October–December (*deyr*) rains assessment released on February 8, the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance and livelihood support has increased from 1.5 million as of mid-2007 to nearly 2 million people. Multiple attacks on

¹ Figures represent estimated displacement from Mogadishu since April 2007, and do not reflect long-term displacement countrywide.

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

³ Internally displaced person

⁴ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

⁵ USAID's Office of Food for Peace

⁶ USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives

⁷ USAID's Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation

⁸ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

humanitarian relief staff and facilities in January and early February have led to the withdrawal of some international staff and temporary travel restrictions, further complicating efforts to provide critical assistance.

Population Movements

Between December 15 and January 31, insecurity displaced an additional 65,000 people, bringing the total number of persons displaced by fighting in 2007 to more than 700,000, according to OCHA. The majority of IDPs uprooted in recent weeks fled Mogadishu for Lower Shabelle or Gedo regions, although an estimated 9,000 people moved within Mogadishu. OCHA reports that recent violence in previously calm areas of the capital is displacing some IDPs for the second or third time.

In addition, OCHA reports increasing numbers of Somalis attempting to cross the Gulf of Aden en route to Yemen. In 2007, an estimated 30,000 people transited through Bossaso port for Yemen, and an additional 3,000 people have made the journey to date in 2008. In response, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is appealing for \$4.4 million to expand emergency food operations in Yemen. WFP plans to distribute 5,000 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to 43,500 refugees over the course of three years.

Through ongoing programs supported by FY 2007 funding, State/PRM is assisting both Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen and relief efforts within Somalia. In FY 2007, State/PRM provided nearly \$25 million to organizations supporting Somali refugees and conflict-affected populations in Somalia, including assistance for WFP refugee feeding programs and UNHCR shelter, protection, and emergency relief activities.

Humanitarian Access

U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations have expressed significant concern regarding the targeting of humanitarian staff and facilities in January and February. Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) has withdrawn 87 international staff from 14 project sites after an attack killed three staff members and two additional people in Kismaayo on January 28. OCHA reported temporary travel restrictions for U.N. personnel to Somalia following attacks on a U.N. compound in Mogadishu on February 8 and 9. In addition, relief agencies reported the kidnapping of three humanitarian workers in two separate incidents in late January and early February. Although U.N. and MSF relief activities remain operational, the recent incidents have temporarily limited the presence of some international staff.

Transport of humanitarian relief commodities to Somalia has improved in recent months with the French and Danish governments providing military escorts for WFP-contracted cargo ships. However, the average number of roadblocks and checkpoints on major transport routes within the country has more than doubled as compared to January 2007. OCHA further reports that insecurity

combined with challenging ground transport throughout the country is impeding emergency relief efforts to displaced and vulnerable Somalis.

Food Security and Agriculture

On February 8, FSAU reported that the number of people in Somalia requiring humanitarian assistance and livelihood support over the next six months has increased to nearly 2 million people, which includes both new and long-term IDP populations, as well as approximately 850,000 people in rural areas of southern and central Somalia. FSAU also notes that these figures do not represent the sizeable but unknown number of vulnerable households in urban settings, who are also affected by record high prices for staple foods, disruptions in market and commercial activities, and the ongoing conflict.

Increased prices for locally-produced grains, a limited supply of imported foods, and market disruptions owing to insecurity and uncertainty continue to negatively impact food security in southern and central regions, according to FSAU. Maize and sorghum prices have increased between 120 and 210 percent throughout southern Somalia since January 2007, and the majority of commercial traders in Mogadishu's main market have closed businesses as a result of repeated security incidents in the market area. FSAU notes good to average pasture and livestock body conditions, with the exception of drought-affected areas in central Somalia.

Between mid-December and late January, WFP distributed 14,754 MT of emergency food relief to 620,000 beneficiaries in southern and central Somalia. In response to growing concern of food insecurity among displaced and affected households, relief agencies are reviewing current response plans and food stocks. WFP anticipates requiring an additional 40,000 MT to meet the emergency needs of approximately 1.4 million people in the coming months. USAID/FFP has contributed more than \$71 million to date in FY 2008 for emergency food assistance programs in Somalia.

Nutrition

FSAU reports sustained critical nutrition conditions throughout most southern and central regions, with some deterioration in Galgaduud and Mudug regions. Nutrition surveys conducted across southern and central areas between September and December 2007 indicate global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates between 15.2 percent and 17.5 percent, above the internationally accepted emergency threshold of 15 percent. Improvement in GAM levels in the Shabelle riverine population, from 17 percent in May to 14 percent in November, is attributed to increased humanitarian interventions and greater food diversity.

On February 15, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) appealed for \$5.8 million to continue operating 110 emergency feeding programs for malnourished children. To date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has

committed \$1 million to FAO for nutrition monitoring and an additional \$225,000 to support UNICEF nutrition activities.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Between December 15 and January 31, health staff received reports of 785 suspected acute watery diarrhea cases throughout Somalia, with a significant decrease in the number of related deaths as compared to January 2007. OCHA reported that U.N. World Health Organization and Somali Red Crescent Society teams responded to four reported cases of measles in Jilib district of Lower Juba Region in mid-January. Multiple relief agencies are working to increase the availability of water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities,

particularly in drought-affected regions and densely-settled areas between Mogadishu and Afgooye in Lower Shabelle. OCHA reports that relief organizations are trucking more than 1 million liters of water per day to IDPs settled along the Mogadishu–Afgooye route, and are constructing additional latrines, chlorinating wells, and engaging in hygiene promotion activities. USAID/OFDA has contributed nearly \$1.5 million to UNICEF to date in FY 2008 to support ongoing health and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions to address critical needs of vulnerable and displaced persons in southern and central Somalia.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
FAO	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	U.N. Common Air Service	Countrywide	\$800,000
UNICEF	Health; Logistics and Relief Commodities; Nutrition; Protection; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
Program support costs			\$27,160
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,827,160
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
CARE	25,340 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Hiran, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, Galgudud, Mudug Regions	\$21,011,700
WFP	38,030 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$50,025,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP³			\$71,036,900
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2008			\$74,864,060
FY 2007			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$22,577,844
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$35,305,600
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/CMM			\$750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,871,560
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$59,633,444
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA IN FY 2007			\$64,505,004

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 21, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ The USAID/FFP FY 2008 funding figure includes \$24 million initially reported in FY 2007. The revised reporting reflects a reduction in food and associated costs that were purchased with FY 2008 funds but used in calendar year 2007.



Ky Luu
Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance