

Somalia • Famine & Drought

Situation Report No. 6

3 August 2011



OCHA
Coordination Saves Lives

United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA in New York. It covers the period from 1 to 3 August 2011. The next report will be issued on 8 August 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- Famine has been declared in three new areas of southern Somalia today
- 3.7 million people are in crisis, with 3.2 million people in need of immediate, lifesaving assistance (2.8 million people in need are located in south central Somalia).
- Of the 2.8 million people in urgent need of food aid in southern Somalia relief organizations are only reaching an estimated 20 per cent.
- An estimated 100,000 displaced people have moved to Mogadishu in the last two months due to the drought and famine and the number is growing every day
- In the last two weeks the Nutrition Cluster has airlifted 84 tons of therapeutic food into Mogadishu to treat 29,400 malnourished children for one month
- ICRC has commenced its first large-scale food distribution in southern and central Somalia since the beginning of the year reaching 162,000 people

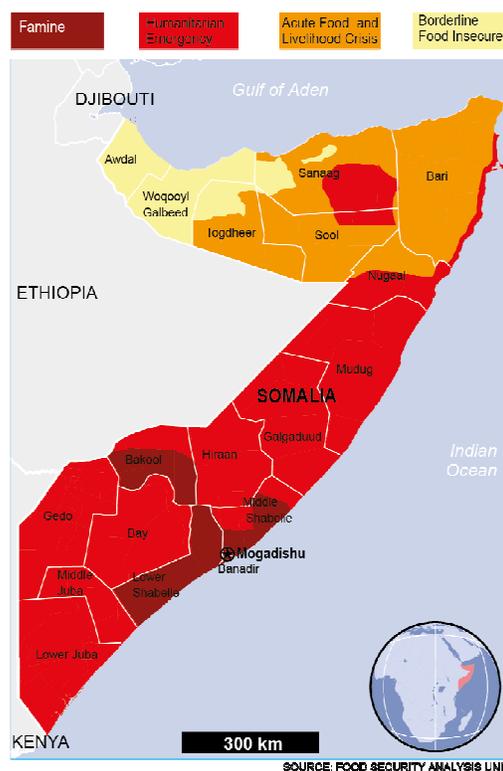
II. Situation Overview

On 3 August, Somalia's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported that the famine thresholds have been surpassed in three new areas of southern Somalia, namely in Balcad and Cadale in Middle Shabelle region, the internally displaced persons (IDP) settlement in the Afgoye Corridor and in parts of Mogadishu where the displaced settlements are. These areas are in addition to the two regions of south Bakool and Lower Shabelle, where famine was declared two weeks ago.

The rest of southern Somalia is suffering severe food insecurity and is also likely to reach famine levels within the next six weeks, despite the mounting relief effort. Tens of thousands of excess deaths have already occurred. FSNAU says despite increased attention in recent weeks, the current humanitarian response remains inadequate due in part to ongoing access restrictions and difficulties in scaling up emergency assistance programmes, as well as funding gaps. Continued efforts to implement an immediate large-scale and comprehensive response are needed.

Nationwide, 3.7 million people are in crisis, with 3.2 million people in need of immediate, lifesaving assistance (2.8 million people in need are located in south central Somalia). Of the 2.8 million people in urgent need of food aid in southern Somalia relief organizations are only reaching an estimated 20 per cent.

FOOD INSECURITY IN SOMALIA AUGUST 2011



Most emergency relief efforts are focusing on the Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle and Benadir (Mogadishu) regions but the central region of Hiraaan is also of growing concern as the food security situation continues to deteriorate. In particular, in Mataban District urgent attention is required in all sectors. Food distribution and nutrition interventions urgently need to be scaled up. In Lower Juba, significant assistance from the Somali Diaspora is reaching Bantu communities along the Juba River in Jamame district. People are being provided with water pumps and fuel, with clan elders administering the distribution.

Humanitarian organizations continue to scale up operations to support the growing internally displaced (IDP) population in Mogadishu, where more than 100 settlements have spontaneously emerged. In the last two months, 100,000 displaced have moved to Mogadishu despite the ongoing military offensive in the city.

In total an estimated 470,000 displaced people are now living in Mogadishu as a result of the crisis and insecurity. An estimated 1,300 Somali refugees are crossing the border into Kenya every day where an extension of the Dadaab refugee complex is now receiving new arrivals, but urgently needs scaling up in terms of services. The number of refugees into Ethiopia has decreased from over 1,000 to several hundred a day. This decrease may be due to anticipation on the part of the affected population that the humanitarian response inside Somalia will increase, particularly in Gedo region and in Mogadishu, where relief activities are underway.

Somalia: Total Population and People in Need, by Region		
Region	Total Population (UNDP 2005)	Population in Drought Crisis (Urban, Rural & IDP)
Awdal	305,455	0
Woqooyi Galbeed	700,345	45,000
Togdheer	402,295	35,000
Sanaag	270,367	75,000
Sool	150,277	35,000
Bari	367,638	105,000
Nugaal	145,341	55,000
Mudug	350,099	170,000
Galgaduud	330,057	200,000
Hiraan	329,811	230,000
Shabelle Dhexe (Middle)	514,901	280,000
Shabelle Hoose (Lower)	850,651	470,000
Bakool	310,627	210,000
Bay	620,562	335,000
Gedo	328,378	205,000
Juba Dhexe (Middle)	238,877	140,000
Juba Hoose (Lower)	385,790	205,000
IDPs Central North		220,000
IDPs South		690,000
Total	6,601,471	3,705,000

Source: Somalia FSNAU

The greatest priority needs continue to be food and nutritional interventions. Humanitarian organisations are urgently scaling up their operations and mobilizing resources but large-scale distributions are yet to commence.

The current situation represents Africa's worst food security crisis since Somalia's 1991/92 famine. A massive multisectoral response is critical to prevent additional deaths and total livelihood/social collapse. Most immediately, interventions to improve food access and to address health/nutrition issues are needed. In the medium term, interventions to rebuild and support livelihoods are critical. Extraordinary measures to provide these responses should be

implemented. These assistance needs will persist through at least December 2011.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response



FOOD ASSISTANCE

Needs: As of the 20 July, 3.7 million people are in need of food aid in Somalia – almost half of the country's total population. Of the 2.8 million people in urgent need of food aid in southern Somalia relief organizations are only reaching an estimated 20 per cent.

Response: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is currently distributing food to 162,000 people in areas affected by drought in southern and central Somalia. ICRC reports that this is the first large-scale food distribution in that part of the country since the beginning of the year. In all, ICRC is currently conducting a distribution of 3,000 tons of food, with households receiving enough rice, beans and cooking oil for one month to Gedo (24,000 beneficiaries), Lower Juba (21,000), Middle Juba (30,000 beneficiaries), Bay (15,000), Bakool (12,000), Lower Shabelle (21,000), Middle Shabelle (12,000), and Mogadishu (27,000).

The Food Assistance Cluster has started distributing food in Doolow in Gedo region on 30 July, and will commence distributions in Ceel Waaq this week to assist populations in transit.

Gaps & Constraints: ICRC says its food distribution assists only a small percentage of those in need, and that more aid will be required to help the population bridge the gap until the next harvest in December.



NUTRITION

Needs: An estimated 640,000 children are acutely malnourished in southern Somalia, of which 310,000 children (one in five) are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and 330,000 children (one in three) from moderate acute malnutrition.

Response: Between 27 July and 1 August, humanitarian organizations airlifted 84 tons of Plumpy'Sup to Mogadishu to meet the needs of 29,400 malnourished children for one month. It is not clear whether this is the total number of malnourished children in Mogadishu.

Humanitarian organizations report that about 18,000 children under 5 years of age have been reached through nutrition centres during July in Mogadishu, while in August the figure of children who will be targeted is expected to rise to about 25,000. An average of 85,000 hot meals is served daily in 23 feeding centres in Mogadishu.

Humanitarian organizations have airlifted 3.5 tons of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) and 1.25 tons of Plumpy'Sup to Doolow (enough to feed 17,500 people for one day and treat 438 malnourished children for one month respectively). In addition, 1.5 tons of HEB and 0.5 tons of Plumpy'Sup have been moved inland to Luuq (enough to feed 7,500 people for one day and treat 175 malnourished children for one month respectively). And in Ceel Waaq on the Somali-Kenya border, 2.7 tons of HEB and 0.5 of Plumpy'Sup have been airlifted (enough to feed 13,500 people for one day and treat 175 malnourished children for one month respectively).

This brings the total amount of food airlifted to Gedo to 7.7 tons of HEB and 2.25 tons Plumpy'Sup, enough to feed 38,500 people for one day (or 5,500 people for one week) and treat 788 malnourished children for one month respectively. Distributions have not yet started.

In July, humanitarian organizations brought into southern Somalia 653 tons of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) which will meet the needs of 65,000 vulnerable children, as well as 230 tons of therapeutic food to treat 16,000 severely malnourished children. Most of the nutritional supplies have already reached children in Mogadishu and the regions of Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Bay and Lower Shabelle. As of June, 16 stabilization centres have been established across Somalia, as well as 201 Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes and 325 Supplementary Feeding Programmes

Gaps & Constraints: The security situation and access remain the main challenges at the moment. There is partial access in the central regions, but none in the south, except for Mogadishu. Security conditions are being closely monitored and possibilities for access are continuously reassessed.



EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

Needs: Humanitarian organizations continue to scale up operations to support the growing IDP population in Mogadishu, where more than 100 settlements have spontaneously emerged. Despite the long drought, some areas in Somalia have recently been hit by torrential rains, including around the capital. In particular this will affect the displaced populations who are living in makeshift settlements and place them in greater risk of disease.

Response: To date, the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster have distributed over 15,000 emergency assistance packages (EAPs) to an estimated 90,000 people in Mogadishu and southern Somalia since the declaration of famine on 20 July. Plastic sheeting will be distributed across Mogadishu over the next week to assist those affected by the recent rains.

Gaps & Constraints: With the growing number of IDP settlements in the capital, access remains difficult, as does the establishing sanitation facilities and conducting registration activities.



HEALTH

Needs: Under five death rates are higher than 4/10,000/day in all areas of the south where data is available, peaking at 13-20/10,000/day in riverine and agro-pastoral areas of Lower Shabelle. One in five under-five deaths is due to diarrhea, and 70 per cent of cholera cases are reported in south and central Somalia

Response: Across Somalia, immunization campaigns have attained 24 per cent for measles, 28 per cent for polio, and 31 per cent for Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT3).

Gaps & Constraints: Access remains the biggest challenge. Only 31 per cent of children in Somalia were accessible for the Child Health Day Campaigns conducted in January 2011.



AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS

Response: In Gedo Region, the Agriculture and Livelihoods cluster members are distributing food vouchers to 5,410 households (32,500 people), while in Middle and Lower Shabelle, 6,449 households (38,700 people) are benefitting from cash-for-work interventions.

IV. Coordination

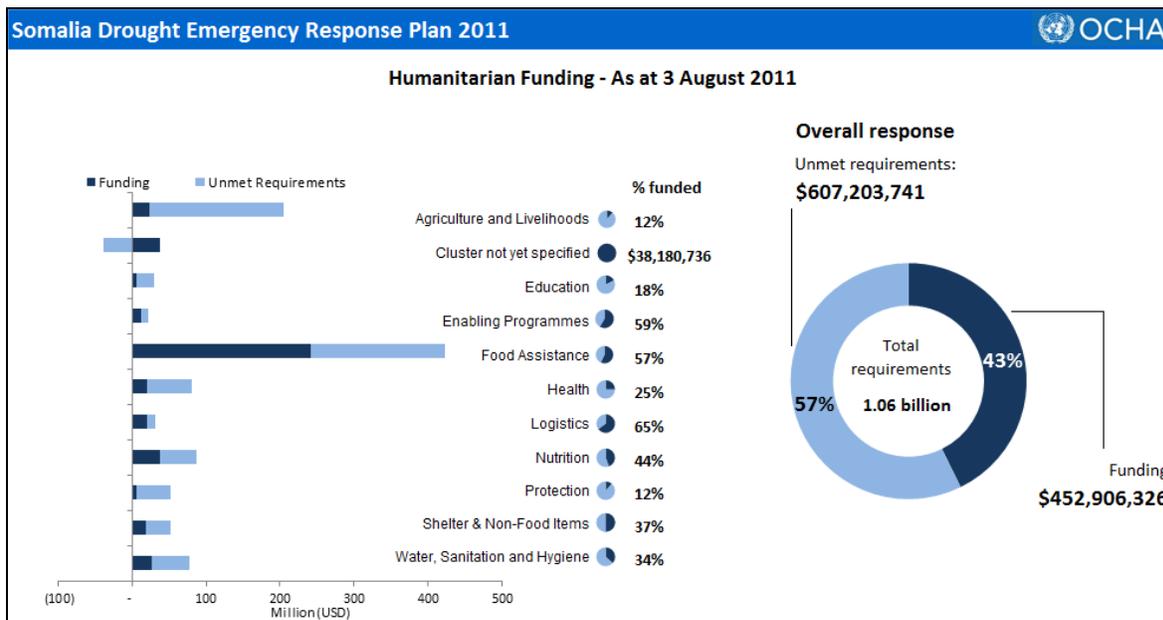
The coordination of humanitarian response in Somalia is organized through the Cluster approach. There are nine clusters responding to this emergency: Agriculture & Livelihood, Education, Food Aid, Health, Protection, Logistics, Nutrition, Shelter, and Water & Sanitation.

V. Funding

- The emergency revision of the Somalia 2011 Consolidated Appeal will be completed by the end of the week.
- The revised Consolidated Appeal (CAP) for Somalia is 43 per cent funded – \$453 million out of the required \$1,060 million, with a funding gap of around \$607 million.
- Food interventions are 57 per cent funded, WASH 34 per cent, Nutrition 44 per cent, Health 25 per cent and Livelihoods 12 per cent.

1 billion
requested (US\$)

43 %
funded



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

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