Puntland Fact Sheet
July 2012

Operational Context
The northeastern region of Somalia has since mid-1998 been referred to as the Puntland State of Somalia. While Puntland does not seek independence from Somalia, it aims to become a federal division within a united Somalia.

Challenges facing Puntland include: limited financial resources, food insecurity and a growing vulnerable population. The majority of the population is pastoralist and mainly dependent on livestock (camels, sheep and goats), while those living by the coastal areas are mostly fishermen. Around 25 to 30 per cent of the population lives in urban areas.

The security situation in Puntland has shown signs of improvement as police and community representatives, including elders, elites and religious leaders, have combined efforts to improve security. However, an unresolved boundary dispute with Somaliland over the western regions of Sool and Sanaag causes sporadic armed clashes. While access to these areas is challenging, Puntland is generally accessible to aid agencies. Insecurity and prolonged drought have been the major causes of displacement in recent years especially in Sool and Sanaag regions.

Humanitarian Outlook
The main challenges for IDPs are access to land and forced relocation. Gaps in water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) exist in IDP settlements.

Another gap is the lack of or limited livelihoods, which makes it difficult for IDPs to build up their coping mechanisms to drought and other shocks. Food assistance is another area of great need. On protection, the main issues include gender-based violence, detention and limited referral and response mechanisms.

Main Populations of Concern
Pastoralists, the urban poor and the IDPs are the main population of concern. It is estimated that Puntland hosts more than 149,000 IDPs as well as refugees and asylum seekers. The majority of the IDPs, 84,000 people, live in Gaalkacyo in 31 settlements, while around 49,000 people live in Bossaso in 21 settlements. Another 10,000 IDPs live in Garowe in 11 congested settlements and 6,000 others are in Sool and Sanaag regions.

The harsh protracted semi-arid or arid environment has led to increased livestock asset loss, miscarriage among camels and below average milk production. These factors and a significant increase in cereal prices following crop failure in southern Somalia have negatively affected the livelihood situation in the region. Consecutive dry seasons have affected parts of Nugaal, Bari, Sanaag and Sool regions, especially the coastal strip already classified as in crisis and in emergency.

A recent assessment by Puntland’s Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) indicates that at least 80,000 pastoralists and IDPs are in need of continued humanitarian support due to decreased access to water and livelihoods.

Key Humanitarian Deliveries since January 2012
• 500,000 people were reached with intervention to improve access to food security nets out of 284,000 targeted in May 2012.
• 57,000 people were reached with food security nets out of 107,000 targeted in May.
• 199,000 people were reached with sustainable access to water from January to May, while 21,500 were reached with temporary water supply out of 56,000 targeted for all of 2012.
• 13,600 people out of 110,000 targeted for emergency shelter packages were reached.
• 23,000 children were reached with nutrition services since January out of 16,000 targeted.

*Main source of information: FSNAU

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