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# Somalia Humanitarian Overview

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## Main Developments

- ❑ Although early *Deyr* rains (October-December) have begun to improve the situation in some parts of Somalia, the overall food security situation in the country will not change in the coming six months. At least 3.6 million people, nearly 50 percent of the country's population, will continue to require humanitarian assistance or livelihood support.
- ❑ *El Niño* affected rains have increased the risk of flooding in southern Somalia. In October, localised flooding temporarily displaced up to 16,000 people. Water borne disease outbreaks are of concern if floods worsen. The clusters have prepared flood contingency plans but the capacity to respond is constrained by limited humanitarian access.
- ❑ Approximately 11,000 people were displaced in October 2009 throughout Somalia, out of which approximately 7,000 people were displaced due to insecurity in Mogadishu.
- ❑ Low funding levels and pipeline breaks have forced WFP to cut rations and re-prioritise life-saving interventions. WFP needs US\$ 154 million to continue with food assistance to vulnerable Somalis from November 2009 through April 2010.
- ❑ WHO and UNICEF successfully completed the Child Health Days campaign in Afooye district, reaching at least 46,000 children under five years and 37,000 women of child-bearing age with a package of preventive health care.
- ❑ Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 has been confirmed in Somalia for the first time. Two out of 10 samples were tested positive for novel H1N1 on 3 November 2009.
- ❑ The UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, allocated US\$ 12 million to Somalia from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to fill response gaps. CERF funding has been crucial in supporting humanitarian programmes in 2009, as funding from other sources has drastically reduced.



*The Somalia Humanitarian Overview, a monthly analysis of the humanitarian situation and trends produced by OCHA Somalia.*  
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### Food Security Outlook

According to the October issue of the Somalia Food Security Outlook report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), the current food security situation in Somalia is not expected to change through March 2010. The report stated that the most likely scenario, of normal to above-normal rains between October and December, could end the prolonged drought and improve water and pasture availability. Given the increased availability of water and pasture in most key grazing areas, a significant reduction in pastoral household expenditure on water and migration is expected during the January to March 2010 period. However, recovery from the current drought in central and northern Somalia (Bakool, Hiraaan, Galgaduud, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer) is not expected during the next six months, as cattle and camels require

several seasons of normal rainfall to calve and produce milk. The population in these areas will continue to face extreme levels of food insecurity in the coming six months.

The crop-producing areas in southern Somalia and parts of the north have already benefited from early *Deyr* rains which started in late September. The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) reported good off-season production of maize and cash crops (sesame, cowpeas) in Juba regions. Early rains improved the conditions of established crops in the south, as well as in the northwest, and have encouraged farmers to accelerate *Deyr* planting. Cereal prices have decreased in the southern regions of Shabelle, Bay and Juba as a result of good *Gu* and off-season harvest. However, in the Sorghum Belt markets of Gedo, Bakool and Hiraaan, sorghum prices have increased due to very poor *Gu* 2009 production.

For further details on the food security situation - see [www.fsnausomali.org](http://www.fsnausomali.org) or [www.fews.net/Somalia](http://www.fews.net/Somalia).

### Floods

Approximately 16,000 people have been temporarily displaced by flooding in Hiraaan, Gedo and Lower Shabelle regions since the beginning of the rainy seasons. As of early November, 14,000 people had already returned to their homes.

Due to *El Niño* influenced rains, more floods are anticipated during the course of November. The most flood-prone areas of Somalia are traditionally along the Juba and Shabelle rivers where a high proportion of the population currently lives. This is also the location of many internally displaced communities who are especially vulnerable to natural hazards. Of concern is disease outbreaks such as acute watery

diarrhoea (AWD), dysentery, malaria, and eye infections. The clusters have prepared flood contingency plans, based on the 2006 *El Niño* weather conditions, which displaced 450,000 people. Response capacity is constrained by limited humanitarian access.

A technical Flood Information Group has been initiated. This group will review, triangulate and consolidate all incoming reports on floods and provide the best possible consensus on the real time flooding situation and its impact. The group will issue daily updates, as required, on the status of flooding. Anyone with information on floods should submit it to: [floodinfo@fsnau.org](mailto:floodinfo@fsnau.org). Also see flood updates on <http://www.faoswalim.org/subsites/frmmis/index.php>.

#### Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

In October, WHO confirmed two Cholera cases in Banadir hospital in Mogadishu. Between 26 September and 2 October, 80 cases of AWD and one related death were reported from the same hospital. Some 65 percent of all cases (52) were children under five years old. UNICEF, WHO and Somali Public Health Provision Associates responded to the outbreak by chlorinating nearly 100 water wells in Mogadishu and the Afgooye Corridor. The agencies also pre-positioned case management supplies and transmitted health messages through local radio stations.

#### Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1)

In early November, WHO reported that Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) 2009 has been confirmed in Somalia for the first time. Two out of 10 samples tested positive for novel H1N1 (pandemic strain) on 3 November 2009 in KEMRI referral laboratory in Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya and Ethiopia have already confirmed cases of H1N1, including from within refugee camps close to the Somali



**Floods in Belet Weyne district, hiraan regio, October - Photo Courtesy: UN-OCHA**

border. In collaboration with Somali health authorities, WHO has developed a national plan for H1N1 vaccination (vaccination of health workers and high-risk groups such as pregnant women) in accordance with WHO guidelines.

#### Insecurity & Civilian Targeting

Several incidents of insecurity affecting civilians occurred during the month, particularly in Mogadishu. On 3 and 4 October, Bakara market in Mogadishu was shelled as fighting broke out between insurgents and African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM) troops, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 20

others. On 23 October, intensive fighting in Mogadishu killed an estimated 30 people and wounded 70 others, mostly civilians. According to media reports, several mortar rounds allegedly fired by insurgent groups, landed near Aden Adde International Airport. In response, AMISOM forces reportedly shelled parts of Mogadishu, including businesses and residential areas in Hodan and Howl Wadaag districts. Both sides reportedly used heavy weapons. The spokesman for AMISOM in Mogadishu denied that AMISOM shelled residential areas and Bakara market.

The two main hospitals in Mogadishu, Medina and Keysaney, admitted a total of 340 wounded people in the month of October, bringing the total number of wounded admitted to these two facilities in 2009 to 4,241.

#### Humanitarian Access

Security constraints continued to hamper humanitarian operations across much of Somalia. Of the 77 recorded security incidents reported in October, three directly targeted humanitarian workers and assets. Incidents included the closure of the offices of two Somali NGOs in Gedo region.

The reduction in targeted attacks against humanitarian workers and assets - see table 1 - is mainly due to limited presence of humanitarian staff in South/Central Somalia.

**Table 1 - Number of security related incidents in Somalia - August-October 2009**

	August	September	October
Total security incidents	86	75	77
Security incidents targeting humanitarian workers and assets	12	2	3
War-wounded (Mogadishu only)	392	407	340
Total Displacement (Mogadishu displacement)	26,000 (19,000)	25,000 (13,000)	11,000 (7,000)

Source: UN-OCHA Somalia Monthly Access reports, NGO Safety Program reports and UNHCR

Impediments and restrictions to humanitarian agencies, such as demands for registration and payment continued particularly in South Somalia. On 11 October, Hisbul Islam Head of Social Affairs in Mogadishu, Banadir region called on all humanitarian agencies operating in areas under their control to register within 15 days and pay a registration fee (ranging from \$200 for Somali and \$600 for international organisations).

### Displacement

According to UNHCR, an estimated 11,000 people were reported to be displaced in Somalia in October. Of these, some 7,000 were displaced from Mogadishu. The main cause of displacement continues to be insecurity, followed by drought and lack of livelihood opportunities.

The total number of IDPs in Somalia remains at 1.55 million, 93 percent of whom are concentrated in the south and central areas, including 524,000 in the Afgooye Corridor.

### Funding

In October, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, allocated US\$12 million to five humanitarian agencies in Somalia from the CERF. The projects of UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR, WFP and WHO will respond to emergency water, sanitation and hygiene, livelihood support, food aid to vulnerable children and women,

### Of Note:

□ The Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on the Human Rights of IDPs visited Somalia from 14-21 October. He met with authorities and IDPs in Gaalkacyo, Bossaso, and Hargeysa in the north. Mr. Kaelin raised concerns about the limited support to IDPs and called on all actors to grant humanitarian access, ensure the safety of humanitarian workers, and not to impede the already limited delivery of urgently needed humanitarian aid.

□ On 6 October, the Humanitarian Forum (a network of key non-government organisations from Muslim donor and recipient countries, the West and the multilateral system) brought together 34 humanitarian organisations from 15 countries for a one-day workshop on Somalia in Nairobi. The main objectives of the workshop were to discuss the humanitarian situation in Somalia, to build stronger relations between Western/multilateral organisations and Islamic actors working there and to give voice to local Somali organisations.

□ On 29 October, the United Nations in Somalia commemorated the first anniversary of the Hargeysa (Somaliland) bombings. One of the five bomb attacks in Hargeysa and Bossaso targeted the UN compound killing two staff members and injured six others. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden, in a statement said, "One year after these outrageous attacks, I am full of admiration for my colleagues who have demonstrated an unflinching commitment to help Somalis recover from 18 years of conflict, despite the high risks they encounter daily and the impediment this places on their work."

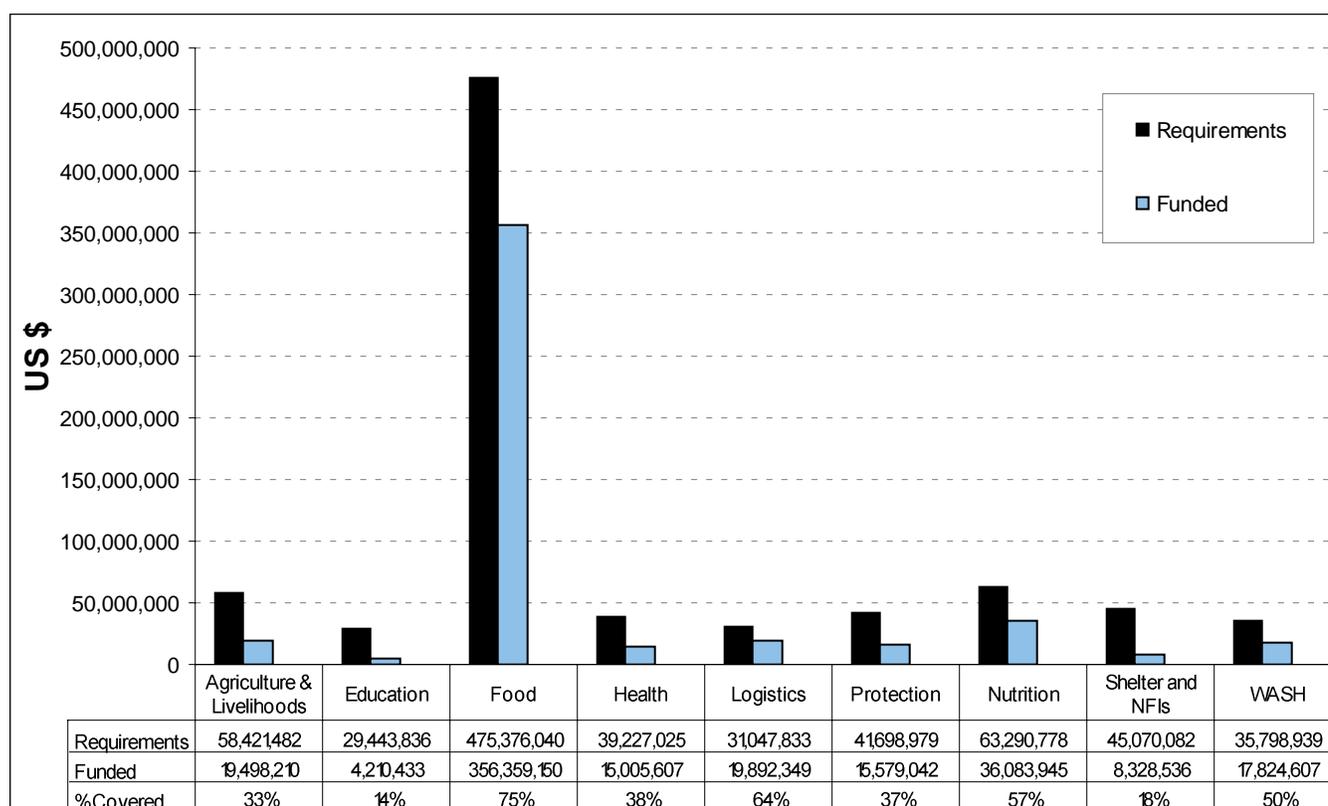
response to measles outbreaks and enabling humanitarian relief operations.

In 2009, the CERF has allocated a total of \$27.3 million to seven UN agencies for life-saving WASH, Nutrition, Health and Livelihoods programmes in Somalia. In addition, CERF provided funds for vital air

services for the humanitarian community and the rehabilitation of essential airstrips, increasing access to vulnerable populations in the country.

As of early November, the Somalia 2009 CAP was 60 percent funded, having received \$506 million out of the \$849 requested. Of

Table 2: CAP Funding Status - As of 6 November



the \$468 million, \$215 million is carry-over from 2008. Funding levels vary from sector to sector – see table 2 (page 3).

#### Cooked Meals Programme

All 16 wet feeding (cooked meals) centres in Mogadishu are now operational. The sixteenth site “Abdul-Aziz” re-opened in October. On average, the 16 centres produced around 400,000 meals per week. Monitoring of the programme indicates that each recipient receives three standard scoops of porridge, which is shared with 4.5 other people including themselves. This actually means that at minimum, the food quota that is meant for 80,000 people per day is actually feeding in full or in part some 320,917 each day. Fifty-five percent of the recipients of the meals are female and 40 percent of the total beneficiaries are children. Adult males are only five percent.

#### Key Humanitarian Deliveries – October 2009

**Food Aid** - In October, WFP distributed 16,310 metric tonnes of assorted food commodities to 1.7 million people. WFP’s requirements for the month of October were 49,775 metric tonnes to assist 3.1 million through relief and nutrition interventions.

**Nutrition** – Some 150,000 acutely malnourished children or at least 50 percent of the children in need, have received nutritional treatment and over 132,000 children aged 6-36 months received a lipid-based nutrient supplement, ‘Plumpy-Doz’ for 4-8 months, to prevent acute malnutrition.

**Health** - UNICEF, WHO and partners reached at least 46,000 children under five years and 37,000 women of child bearing age in Afgooye district (including IDPs) with a package of life-saving health services. This is a part of a nation-wide Child Health Days campaign to promote child survival. Children under five years were immunized against measles and polio, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, and provided with Vitamin A, deworming tablets and nutritional screening.

**Education** - Emergency education enrolments increased by 35 percent to 149,568 children, during the new school year that commenced late August/early September.

#### HRF Projects approved - September & October 2009

Agency	Project	Amount US\$	Region	Beneficiaries
SSWC	Emergency relief response for IDPs in Galgaduud - Part II	164,824	Galgaduud - Godinlabe & Adado	23,703
NCA	Drought emergency response for Puntland	298,455	Puntland - Burtinle, Dan-gorayo, Garowe and Buhoodle	58,020
KISIMA	Joore Agro-Pastoralists emergency drought survival & livelihoods protection project - Lower Juba	170,026	Kismayo & Bad-hade	17,150
Oxfam GB	Emergency public health response to assist war-affected communities in Lower Shabelle region	169,607	Xawa Abdi (Afgooye corridor)	44,723
Merlin	Emergency health care provision - Galgaduud	249,797	Ceel district	94,000
YME	Emergency drilling of deep well and construction of water distribution system in Jilable. Rehabilitation of deep well and water distribution system in Mataban - Hiraan region	248,966	Mataban district	21,000
CPD	Emergency life-saving water trucking for pastoral villages -Galgaduud region	134,221	Adado district	54,000
MURDO	Sanitation and donkey cart distribution project for IDPs - Middle Shabelle	147,108	Balcad district	21,612
Relief Int.	Selective feeding programme - Puntland	158,368	Bossaso	6,650
DRC	Emergency construction of latrines for displaced people in Afgooye Corridor	277,570	Afgooye Corridor	56,700
COOPI	Emergency water intervention for local population & IDP in Belet Xaawo district (Gedo region)	164,260	Bula Hawa district	12,720
Intersos	Operation & Maintenance costs for water system in Afgooye Corridor	13,934	Afgooye Corridor	79,110
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,197,136</b>		<b>489,388</b>