Forced evictions of internally displaced people

Uptick of people forced to leave settlements since the start of this year

Several thousand people were forcibly evicted from displacement settlements in Mogadishu in the first week of March, some in a violent manner, according to an inter-agency rapid assessment mission. Families were driven out from their dwellings with short verbal or no notice. The forced evictions caused renewed displacement, uprooted livelihoods and nutrition services, destroyed shelters, personal belongings and water and sanitation facilities. Only some of the evicted people were able to take their shelter and belongings with them when they moved to the outskirts of the city, along the road leading to Afgooye where services are limited or do not exist.

There has been a significant increase in forced evictions this year in Mogadishu and other urban areas in southern and central Somalia. While the scope of evictions in early March are yet to be confirmed, over 25,700 people were forcibly evicted from public and private land and buildings in January and February, according to the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. As a comparison, an estimated 32,500 people were evicted last year. The majority of the evictions have taken place in Mogadishu, in the districts Dayniile, Hawlwadaag, Hodan and Wadajir. Internally displaced people and others lacking affordable housing options have been occupying land while facing threats of eviction from

Reported forced evictions in Mogadishu

### FIGURES

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<tr>
<td># of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis</td>
<td>731,000</td>
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<td># of people in food security stress</td>
<td>2.3m</td>
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<td># of acutely malnourished children under age 5</td>
<td>203,000</td>
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private landowners and authorities. Forced evictions have also been reported in the towns of Luq in Gedo region and Kismayo in Lower Juba, according to UNHCR. About 1.1 million people are displaced inside Somalia, often with limited access to basic social services. The Humanitarian Coordinator and humanitarian partners are advocating with authorities for any relocations of internally displaced people to be carried out in a non-violent and coordinated manner, in full accordance with relevant international standards.

Armed clashes in Guri Ceel and Galgala spark temporary displacement

Fighting between local militia and Somali forces in mid-February in Guri Ceel in Galgaduud region in central Somalia triggered up to 90 per cent of the estimated population of 65,000-70,000 to flee to neighbouring villages. Following a peace agreement on 6 March, residents started returning although the situation remained tense. By mid-March 60-70 per cent of those who fled were reported to have returned. Humanitarian partners conducted an initial needs assessment in early March and a rapid needs assessment on 12 March to determine and respond to the most immediate needs of the local community. Those who have not been able to return to their homes and are still displaced are in critical need of food, water, and shelter. Water has been supplied to some of the accessible settlements where displaced people reside and hygiene kits to the 1,500 most vulnerable families have been distributed. About 300 vulnerable households have received unconditional cash transfers for two months and 550 vulnerable households have received support to acquire household items.

Armed fighting has also led to displacement in the sparsely populated Galgala in Bari region in northern Somalia. An inter-agency humanitarian assessment mission travelled to the area in early March to assess the situation following armed clashes and an estimated 4,500 people were reported to have been displaced. People are in need of food, water, sanitation and hygiene, and health and education.

Humanitarian access continues to be uneven

Road access remains severely constrained in southern and central areas

Unimpeded and unfettered humanitarian access across the country continues to be challenging. Civilian movements including for commercial and humanitarian goods in southern Somalia remain curtailed restricting the flow of food and other essential supplies particularly along the road from Mogadishu to Banadir region via Baidoa in Bay region to Doolow in Gedo region and the road between Belet Weyne, Jalalqsi and Bulo Burto in Hiraan region. It is possible to reach Baidoa with commercial supplies by road, but road access for humanitarian partners from both Mogadishu and Doolow remains difficult due to multiple un-authorized check-points and extortions along the route. Concerns have been raised about a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Bulo Burto in Hiraan region.

Access to food and basic commodities is limited and road access is severely constrained.
There is no functional air strip for larger aircraft and efforts to rehabilitate the airstrip have not succeeded so far due to lack of relevant heavy equipment.

**Early outlook forecasts mostly normal rains**

**Preparations ongoing for the main planting season**

March and April mark the start of the planting season for the Gu rains – the main rainy season in Somalia – when 75 per cent of the annual rainfall is usually recorded. In a preliminary outlook by the Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) it is foreseen that the Gu rainy season will be normal in most parts of the country. However, the forecast also indicates that there is an increased likelihood of below normal rains in some areas. There is also a risk of flooding due to the weak river embankments in the Juba and Shabelle rivers, uncontrolled irrigation activities and poor river basin management.

Vulnerable households face a critical period for their livelihoods, and agro-pastoral and pastoral families in particular depend on good rains to support crop production and pasture growth, as well as replenishing water supplies. Food security partners have vaccinated animals against diseases and distributed seeds, tools and fishing inputs across the country. Between August and January, 1.9 million responses to strengthen the seasonal livelihood activities of Somalis had been delivered; 95 per cent of the seasonal target. This positive achievement was primarily the result of large scale vaccination campaigns, while gaps remained for agricultural inputs.

**Water shortages in areas that received below normal rains last year**

A risk for localised drought has been highlighted in areas that received below normal rainfall during the past Deyr rainy season, according to SWALIM. Areas of concern include parts of Bakool, Bay, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower and Middle Juba, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Galgaduud, Mudug regions and some areas in north-eastern and north-western parts of the country.

In February, serious water shortages were reported in Cabudwaq and Cadaado in Galgaduud, Buur Hakaba in Bay, Xaradheere in Mudug and Bur Dubo in Gedo, according to the WASH Cluster. Partners are addressing water needs for 4,500 families in Cabudwaq and Cadaado in Galgaduud. Money for this response has been allocated from the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF).
Newly installed water point in Somaliland. Credit: UNICEF/Makundi

In 2014, 380,000 people benefitted from temporary access to safe water through water point chlorination, operation and maintenance, water vouchers, water trucking and household water treatment. About 538,000 people were reached with sustainable access to safe water through construction, rehabilitation or protection of strategic water points; perennial water points such as boreholes and shallow wells. WASH partners are looking at how to further strengthen linkages to longer term water activities.

Early funding critical to sustain response

**Humanitarian partners are seeking $863 million to assist 2.8 million people**

So far this year, $86 million has been received for humanitarian activities in Somalia. About $74 million of this amount is against the $863 million Humanitarian Response Plan for humanitarian activities in 2015. Humanitarian funding is captured through the online Financial Tracking System, managed by OCHA. In instances in which humanitarian partners delay reporting, a skewed picture can result.

**Pooled fund supports emergency water access and livestock vaccinations**

The CHF allocated $300,000 in February to support emergency water access for 26,400 people affected by drought conditions in Cabudwaq and Cadaado districts in Galgaduud region. The project will support temporary emergency water access through water vouchers for the most vulnerable households over the next two months.

The CHF also allocated $1 million in February to FAO to vaccinate 636,000 livestock against diseases over the next five months in Bari, Gedo, Mudug, Nugaal, Sanaag and Sool regions. The vaccinations will boost livestock immunity against contagious diseases and prevent livestock morbidity and mortality during the dry season when livestock migrate in search of pasture and water. The vaccinations aim to reduce the risk of exposure to diseases or spreading diseases to other areas. Somalia is a top priority in the global funding appeal launched by FAO in March to boost agriculture and mitigate hunger. The agency appeal is asking for $118 million for Somalia in 2015, the largest requirement for a single country.

**Funding level Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan**

| $74m funding received | $789m outstanding to meet humanitarian needs | $863m aid appeal |

Source: http://fts.unocha.org, reflecting reported funding on FTS as of 19 March 2015.

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