



Credit: OCHA/O. Fagan

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2.12 million Somalis remain food insecure
- Looming conflict in Kismayo causes fear and displacement
- Humanitarian needs in Xudur, Bakool, now urgent

FIGURES

# of Somali refugees in the region	1 m
# of Somali refugees in Kenya	534,200
# of Somali refugees in Ethiopia	209,013
# of IDPs in Somalia	1.36 m

Source: UNHCR (bit.ly/nWZAPH)

FUNDING

2012 Consolidated Appeal
1.16 billion
requested (US\$)

50% funded

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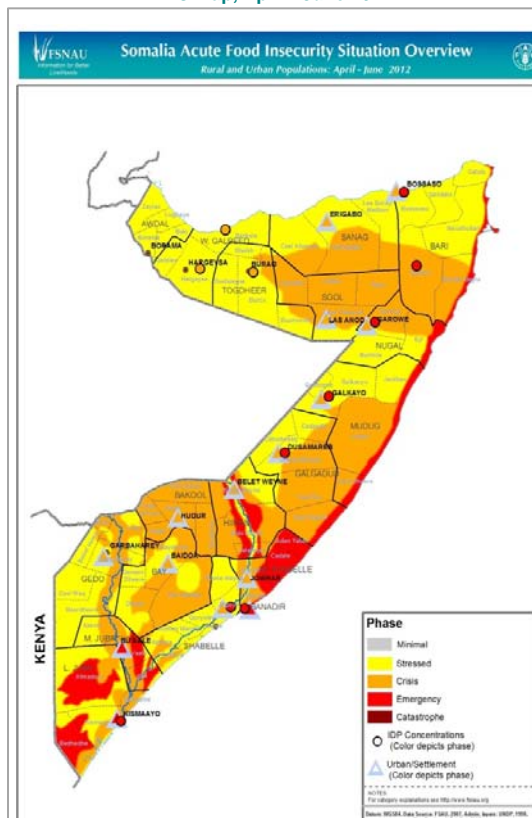
Humanitarian crisis eases

2.12 million still in need of assistance

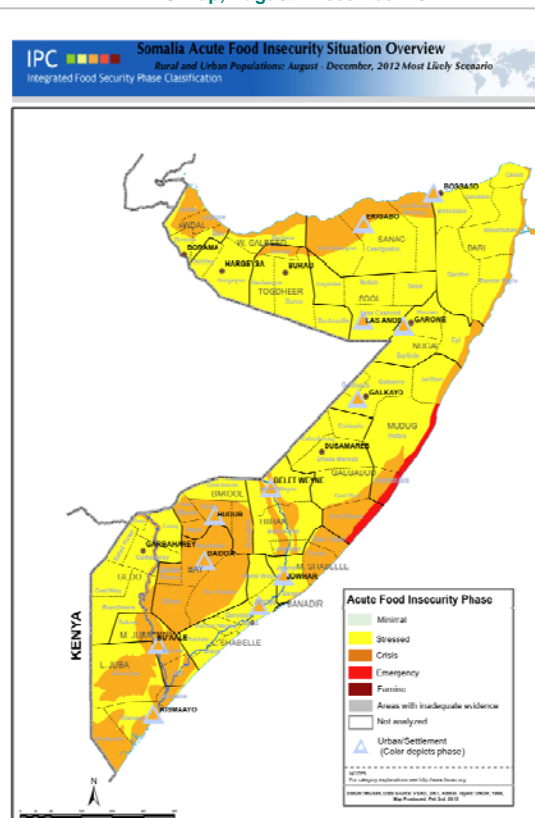
The number of people in crisis in Somalia has reduced by 16 per cent, from 2.51 million to 2.12 million, according to the latest data released by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET).

The improvements are mainly attributed to sustained humanitarian interventions over the last year, improved food stocks at the household and market levels following the exceptional harvest in January, increased milk availability, and higher livestock prices in most pastoral areas of Somalia.

IPC Map, April - June 2012



IPC Map, August - December 2012



FSNAU/FEWSNET data also indicates that the situation will slightly deteriorate in the second half of 2012. The on-going *Gu* harvest following the April-June rains is significantly below average. The cereal harvest southern Somalia is expected to be the third-lowest since 1995.

Overall, despite the recent improvements, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remains critical and must remain on the global agenda to avoid the risk of reversing the gains made. In the second half of 2012, humanitarian actors will prioritize lifesaving responses, as well as interventions aimed at rebuilding livelihoods and resilience to reduce the effects of hazards (for further information see: <http://bit.ly/PFfLnJ>)

Kismayo fighting triggers displacement

Fighting over the control of Kismayo town, in the Lower Juba region, continued in August and led to the displacement of hundreds of people. Protection partners reported the displacement of almost 900 people from Kismayo in August alone, with the majority fleeing to villages surrounding the town. Displacements are expected to be mostly short-term. There are already 58,000 IDPs in the Jubas with an estimated 5,000 IDPs in the Kismayo area.

On 14 August, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden, issued a public statement reiterating his call for all parties to make every effort to spare civilians and allow full humanitarian access to people in need.

Killing of aid worker in Marka

On 27 August, a staff member from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) was killed in Marka town, Lower Shabelle region. The 32-year-old Yassin Mohamed Hassan was part of a team overseeing irrigation facilitation structures to support farmers living in the area. Mr. Hassan was the 20th humanitarian worker killed in Somalia since August 2011. Somalia remains one of the most dangerous environments for humanitarian workers in the world.

The UN in Somalia and FAO issued a statement calling on all actors in Somalia to respect the neutral and impartial nature of humanitarian action and appealed to allow aid workers to safely serve all those in need, wherever they are.

Scale-up of response critical in Xudur

Xudur town, in Bakool region of southern Somalia, has been under an Al Shabab imposed economic blockade since March 2012, when it was captured by Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and allied forces. All roads leading to the town are blocked and, as a consequence, the movement of people and humanitarian supplies has been very limited for the past five months.

An inter-agency assessment led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in early August revealed dire food needs following a large-scale crop failure as well as a severe shortage of nutrition and medical supplies in health centres, established to serve a population of 93,000 people.

Following the inter-agency assessment, Nutrition and Food Security Cluster partners dispatched six metric tons of medical and nutritional supplies by air. Partners also delivered 27 metric tons of food, including high energy biscuits, aimed at targeting 700 children for five months. These deliveries however remain grossly insufficient compared to the enormous needs of the people living in Xudur and other districts in Bakool. A follow up mission to Xudur is planned in September to continue monitoring the situation on the ground and identify priority needs to be addressed with new emergency interventions.



*Credit: OCHA
A child with oedema in Xudur, Bay region.*

The Nutrition and Food Security partners responded to the humanitarian crisis in Xudur by dispatching supplies including six metric tons of medical supplies and 27 metric tons of food.

Hygiene and sanitation services are low or insufficient across all IDP settlements in Bay region due to funding and access problems.

Funding shortfalls hamper WASH activities

The Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners in Somalia are struggling to cover the urgent needs of the Somali population, due to funding shortages and access challenges, particularly in Bay and Bakool regions.

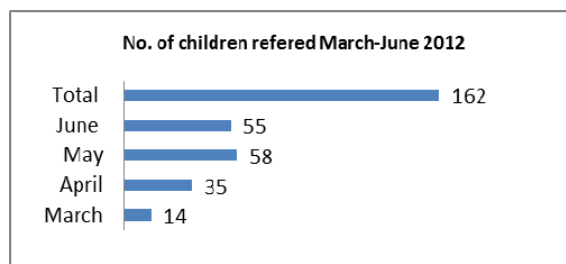
As of the end of July, WASH partners supported 1.4 million Somalis with sustainable water access, approximately 56 per cent of the target. Almost 1.6 million people were reached with temporary provision of safe water, and a further 688,849 beneficiaries are finally accessing sanitation facilities (latrines). Over 1.4 million people benefited from hygiene promotion and non-food item (NFI) hygiene packages throughout the country.

These interventions are grossly insufficient to cover the needs of the population. Some areas of southern Somalia are particularly underserved. For example, in Bay, WASH activities benefitted only 40 per cent of the 227,700 people targeted with sustained access to water and 52 per cent of 75,600 people targeted with sanitation facilities. Hygiene promotion partners reached only 16 per cent of 375,000 people targeted. The lack of coverage by WASH partners has serious health implications reflected in regular outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea and cholera in the region.

Innovative voucher system increases access to malnutrition treatment centres

Care-givers of malnourished children can now easily access the stabilisation hospital in Hargeysa, thanks to the Somaliland Ministry of Health (MOH) and UNICEF. An innovative ambulance referral voucher system is assisting malnourished children to be easily and quickly transported to treatment centres.

The Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), issues care-givers with a voucher to present to selected vehicle owners. Vouchers are then cashed on a monthly basis at the Ministry of Health. This new system was launched in March 2012 and led to a significant increase in admissions to the stabilisation hospital. The number of malnourished children assisted has more than tripled, going from 14 children admitted in March to 52 in June.



An average 4,800 malnourished children are treated every month in Somaliland. This however is only 57 per cent of the targeted caseload of 8,400 children. A major challenge for nutrition partners remains the ability to increase the number of targeted supplementary feeding programmes.

Humanitarian appeal to address protracted needs

The Somalia Humanitarian Country Team, in consultation with donors and humanitarian partners, has agreed to move to a three year planning cycle for the next Somalia Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). The CAP 2013-2015 aims to better address the protracted nature of the crisis in Somalia and ensure more consistency and predictable support to communities in need. The three-year CAP will remain humanitarian in nature, but will include multi-year programming aimed at building resilience for communities at risk.

The planning process for the 2013-2015 CAP began with a high-level half-day workshop held in August where heads of humanitarian agencies, cluster coordinators and donor

representatives identified planning assumptions, agreed on the overall response strategy and strategic priorities for the next three years.

Humanitarian Coordinator marks World Humanitarian Day

On World Humanitarian Day Somalia moaned the loss of 19 aid workers in the last 12 months, while a few days later the 20th aid worker was killed.

Every year, on 19 August, the world celebrates and acknowledges the dedication of humanitarian workers across the world. In 2012, World Humanitarian Day (WHD) was marked by a global campaign led by the international star Beyoncé, who recorded a music video to encourage people to help fellow human beings all over the world. The campaign made social media history by sharing more than one billion messages of hope and encouragement for people to do something good for someone else.

In Somalia, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mark Bowden, issued a statement to specifically highlight the commitment of humanitarian workers in Somalia. In the statement, Bowden stressed that Somalia remains one of the most dangerous environments for aid workers in the world and 19 aid workers have lost their lives trying to reach people in need of assistance, since August 2011. Unfortunately, a few days after WHD, another aid worker from FAO was killed.

A video commending the commitment of Somali humanitarian workers was released on YouTube and launched with a social media campaign. (see the video on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLc38iGWqcU&feature=g-upl>)

New on the OCHA Somalia website:

Press release on killing of aid worker - <http://bit.ly/RpObLP>

Press release on WHD - <http://bit.ly/PSkGU5>

Web Story: Providing women with dignity kits - <http://bit.ly/PSkz10>

July Somalia Humanitarian Dashboard - <http://bit.ly/Pub9R7>

World Humanitarian Day video - <http://bit.ly/PioZdB>

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://www.unocha.org/somalia> | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int