

Context

Woqooyi Galbeed¹ is located between Awdal region to the west, and Togdheer region to the east. It also borders Ethiopia to the south and the Gulf of Aden to the north. The region has an estimated population of 700,345 with a 70/30 urban/rural ratio (UNDP 2005). Somaliland's capital city Hargeisa and the northern port town of Berbera are found in the region. The region consists of three districts: Berbera, Hargeisa, and Gabiley. There are four livelihoods zones in the region, namely: Guban pastoral zone (tending sheep, goats, camels) which runs along the northern coast; the west Golis pastoral zone (rearing sheep, goats, camels) running from east to west below Guban, the largest zone in the region; north-west agro-pastoral zone (cultivating sorghum, raising cattle) extending from east to west below west Golis; and Hawd pastoral zone (tending sheep, goats, camels) along the southern border with Ethiopia.

Most parts of the region received near normal to normal Gu rains that replenished water levels and regenerated pastures. The region was not affected by the drought that hit the Golis/Guban coastal areas in June-August 2012.

Hargeisa, which is the main city in Woqooyi Galbeed, is home to the highest concentration of IDPs in Somaliland, which according to UNHCR estimates, numbers at 45,000 people. There are a number of IDP settlements in Hargeisa, including in the city centre, such as State House, Stadium, Daami, Ayaha, and Mohamed Mooge. The majority of the IDPs in the region have resided in settlements for years. Many fled the early 1990's civil war in Somalia and returned to Somaliland from Ethiopia. There are more arrivals in recent years due to drought. This includes the 2011 drought that resulted in an increase in the number of IDPs in Mohamed Mooge camp by over 2,000 households.

In 2012, the Somaliland Government authorities recently began relocating IDPs from some urban settlements to outlying newly-established settlements. Over 500 IDPs were already relocated to Ayaha III settlement, and the Government is planning to relocate 2,700 households from Mohamed Mooge settlement to a new unspecified area. The IDPs were given small parcels of land for permanent settlement as the government disputes their right to settle in their current locations.

Hargeisa also hosts tens of thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Ethiopia. At the start of 2012, the Somaliland government announced that it will deport all unregistered refugees and asylum-seekers. The government's move was denounced by Amnesty International. The UN has also voiced its concerns. In August 2012, the authorities forcibly deported about 100 Ethiopian asylum-seekers, following violent confrontations with Somaliland Police. The confrontation reportedly started after the asylum-seekers refused to vacate a plot of privately-owned land. There were no more deportations after this incident.

Humanitarian Needs

Food Security: Despite good Gu rains in the region, there are 260,000 people (urban and rural) in *stressed* food security situation, and 10,000 more (rural) in *crisis* phase. However, there are no people in *emergency* phase in both urban and rural areas. The food security situation in the region has generally improved due to increased food production (crop and livestock), increased milk availability following a medium to high rate of kidding among small ruminants, a low to medium rate of camel calving, increased humanitarian intervention, and strengthened purchasing power of the local population as a result of reduced local cereal prices and favourable livestock. The exception to these improvements remains the areas that border the Guban/Golis pastoral livelihood zone, which were affected by the failure of three consecutive Xays rains. Although crop and livestock production is expected to improve as the result of good Gu rains, continued humanitarian assistance will be required to address the needs of the people already in *crisis* and to reduce the number of people in *stressed* conditions. Climatic factors are only one of the many underlying causes of food insecurity in the region and therefore people in *stressed* situations will not necessarily become self-sufficient due to the good Gu rains.

Nutrition: The integrated nutrition situation analysis of FSNAU (June 2012) indicates a sustained *serious* nutrition situation among IDPs in Hargeisa. The results of a nutrition assessment conducted among the IDPs in Hargeisa town in June 2012 reported a GAM rate of 12.0 per cent (9.2-15.5) and a SAM rate of 2.9 per cent (1.7-4.8), rates which are similar to the a GAM rate of 12.0 per cent (8.9-16.1) and a SAM rate of 1.3 percent (0.7-2.3) reported in November 2011 assessment. The nutrition situation in the rural and non-IDP urban areas remains alarming but stable.

¹ It should be noted that it is the Government of Somalia that named the region Woqooyi Galbeed. Somaliland authorities have since created new districts, and some agencies and data analysts split the region into Maroodi Jeex and Saxil regions.

Health: So far in 2012, there is no cholera or other disease outbreaks in the region. However, morbidity levels (seasonally adjusted) remain very critical with an average of 31.8 per cent (boys at 31.5 per cent and girls at 32 per cent). Immunization status for vitamin A and measles also remain at alert levels with 84.5 per cent and 83.7 per cent respectively. Basic and secondary health services are also not adequate and often poor quality.

Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH): Like in other northwestern agro-pastoral zones, people in Woqooyi Galbeed experience difficulties in accessing safe water, sanitation and health facilities. According to FSNAU surveys from 2009 to 2011, 20-40 per cent of the population access improved sanitation, and less than 40 per cent have access to a protected water source. In Hargeisa district, less than 20 per cent of the population accesses a protected water source, and in the majority of IDP settlements water trucking remains the most prevalent source of household water. In the longer established settlements IDPs pay for their water.

Protection and Shelter: Woqooyi Galbeed hosts the largest number of IDPs (45,000) in Somaliland. Most of these IDPs live either in traditional *buuls* or semi-permanent shelters constructed by NGOs and the UN. Both UN-HABITAT and NRC constructed a limited number of permanent shelters in Hargeisa, and the government has appealed for more action. There are minority groups among IDPs from southern and central Somalia in Hargeisa who face protection issues, including expulsion from Somaliland by local authorities. Sexual and gender-based violations are also routinely reported in the IDP camps. More recently, Ethiopian migrants living in Hargeisa for years were expelled following calls by the government to terminate employment of undocumented migrants. The Government repatriated hundreds of migrant workers back to Ethiopia while IOM facilitated the voluntary return of several hundreds more. The main protection concern with regard to refugees and asylum-seekers remains the threat of forced repatriations.

Response & Gaps

Food Security: The Food Security Cluster (FSC) partners planned to assist a maximum of 111,000 people per month, with interventions geared towards improving access to food and safety nets in Woqooyi Galbeed. The FSC assisted 35,319 people (32 per cent of its target) and 34,868 people (31 per cent of its target) in the months of June and July 2012 respectively. The FSC targeted a monthly maximum of 96,000 in August 2012, of which it has reached 21,184 (22 per cent of its target). These activities included general food distributions, wet feeding, and market access via voucher and cash responses. In addition, the FSC also assisted a cumulative total of 21,078 (84 per cent of its target) to date through livelihood investment. These livelihood investments include providing livelihood inputs and support to drought and conflict-affected communities with the reconstruction of livelihood assets.

Water Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH): As of September, the cluster partners assisted 20,751 people with sustained access to water against a target of 127,957. Other WASH activities in the region included the construction of latrines in schools, health and nutrition centres, borehole and *Berkad* rehabilitation, hygiene promotion, construction of roof catchments and rainwater catchment (dam) rehabilitation which benefitted 24,490 people.

Nutrition: As of September, the Nutrition Cluster assisted a cumulative total of 6,461 out of a year-end target of 21,034 children of 6-59 months with treatment of acute malnutrition. The cluster also provided preventative food-based interventions to 12,639 children of 6-59 months, and pregnant and lactating women as of August 2012, out of a year-end target of 106,410. Outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP), blanket supplementary feeding programmes (BSFP), and targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP) are being implemented in selected sites in Hargeisa and Gabiley districts, providing both ready to use food (RUTF) and corn soy blend (CSB) in Mother and Child Health Centres (MCHs). UNICEF supports 15 OTP fixed sites and 27 outreach sites in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MOH), World Vision (WV), and Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS). WFP in partnership with the MOH, supports BSFP for children below two years (from 6 months old), and pregnant and lactating women through MCHs.

Health: The Health Cluster provided primary and basic secondary health care services to 40,167 as of September against a year-end target of 129,964. This shows that the coverage level is very low, although not as low as the figures indicate, as there are non-cluster members and the private sector that also provide these services. For the same period, a cumulative total of 271,431 under-5 children and women of child-bearing age out of a year-end target of 384,445 were given Polio vaccination and Vitamin A supplements.

Shelter: UN-Habitat plans to construct 350 permanent shelters in Ayaha III settlement. The contract is already awarded and construction is expected to start soon. As of September, the Shelter Cluster assisted 7,140 IDPs with Emergency Assistance Packages (EAPs)/NFIs against a year-end target of 59,089. The EAPs/NFIs include jerry-cans, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, soap, sanitary items, and 4x5 plastic sheeting. The number of IDPs coming to Hargeisa due to droughts or pastoral drop-outs is increasing each year. Therefore, there is a need for an increase in shelter interventions in the region.

Protection: At of September, the cluster partners had assisted 93,076 people at heightened risk of protection violations to access preventive and/or responsive protection services. They received legal, psychosocial, medical support and protection services through the livelihoods initiative. About 3,778 people have also benefitted from various capacity-building initiatives.

Likely Developments

The major urban centers of Waqooyi-Galbeed such as Hargeisa and Gabley each year receive pastoral drop-outs. Hargeisa in particular receives a significant number of drought and conflict IDPs. However, the political changes in south Somalia may deter some of the usual influx of conflict IDPs from Somalia. While some displacement could occur locally in eastern parts because of political tensions, it is unlikely that it will be substantial or that it will lead to people relocating to Hargeisa or other parts of the region. Climatic factors have also been favourable to the region in 2012, and therefore, drought IDPs may have not been congregating towards major towns during the year. The UN and the Government of Somaliland have discussed the need for Somaliland to diversify its economy and highly prioritise urban poverty programming. The permanent resettlement of IDPs in Hargeisa also promises to remain a focus of the current Somaliland government. A combination of advocacy strategies for the dignified relocation of IDPs based on agreed guidelines and responsiveness will be required on the part of humanitarian actors, for the benefit of newly relocated IDPs.

Operational Partners

Protection: UNFPA, UNHCR, DDG, UNMAS, UNICEF, CESVI, NRC (through partners)
Food Assistance: WFP, SRCS, HAVOYOCO, SCODO, Taakulo
Education: UNICEF, AET, EDC, Save the Children, Caritas, ADRA, CARE, UNHCR
Nutrition: UNICEF, WFP, World Vision, Ministry of Health, SRCS, MEDAIR, IMC
Shelter/NFIs: NRC, DRC, UNHCR, World Vision, SRCS
WASH: ADRA, OXFAM GB, NRC, ACF, UNICEF, HAVOYOCO, PartnerAID, DRC, Caritas
Ag/Livelihoods: NRC, Save the Children, FAO, PartnerAID, OXFAM, MEDAIR

Sources

1. UNDP population Figure - 2005
2. Cluster 3 W data for the region (OCHA)
3. Nutrition Analysis Post Gu 2012, Technical Series Report No VI. 47, September 26, 2012.
4. Food Security and Nutrition Analysis, Post Gu 2012, Technical Series Report No VI. 48 ,October 18, 2012
5. Single Reporting Format- July 2012

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