

Key Overall Developments

Drought, Displacement and Coordination

An average of 80 people a day are reported to be moving to Boqol Manyo and Malkadida refugee camps in south east Ethiopia from Bay and Bakool regions of southern Somalia via Luuq and Doolow districts. The majority of those moving, on foot, are women and children since Al Shabaab has stopped trucks from accessing these regions. The main reason for the flight of these people is the drought affecting their area of origin. The displaced report that they have recently lost large herds of livestock and are moving in search of livelihoods.

The levels of the Juba River and Dawa River, a tributary that joins the Juba River in Doolow, at the border of Somalia and Ethiopia are reportedly increasing due to some substantial rains in the Ethiopian highlands where the two rivers originate. This will positively impact the situation of the population living in the area. .

WFP carried out a two day (2-3 May) joint programme, logistics and security mission to four districts in Galgaduud region. The team assessed drought conditions, sought to strengthen ties with local authorities and visited WFP warehouse facilities in Dhuusamarreeb. Heavy and sustained rains were observed during the mission and pasture and livestock conditions seemed to be improving. WFP met with local authorities and explained pipeline breaks due to limited funding as well as WFP's new programme strategy of increased focus on targeted interventions.

Number of Somali refugees increases in 2011

According to UNHCR, nearly 50,000 new Somali refugees have been registered in the first quarter of 2011 in neighbouring Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen in comparison to some 23,000 who fled Somalia at the same time last year. The majority of the refugees are coming from Bay and Bakool regions, forced out by the insecurity and the ongoing drought. The refugees all speak of a grim situation marked by relentless violence and human rights abuses. Nearly 22,000 refugees from the region crossed to Yemen during the first three months of 2011, compared to 9,400 people at the same time last year.

Somalia remains one of the countries generating the highest number of refugees and IDPs in the world. An estimated 1.46 million Somalis are internally displaced while another 680,000 live as refugees in the neighbouring countries.

Mixed Migration Task Force

Since January, 420 Somali refugees returned to Somalia from Yemen due to the civil unrest in the host country. Humanitarian actors working on mixed migration issues are developing a contingency plan to respond to the potential increase in the rate of returns. Representatives from the Somaliland Mixed Migration Task Force travelled to Berbera to discuss with the local authorities the emergency response plan for the returnees coming through Somaliland. As a way forward, it was agreed that the immigration authorities and the coastal guards share regular information on new arrivals from Yemen with all members of the Somaliland taskforce, to ensure that the rights of the returnees are respected.

Conflict and Displacement

Gedo region: On 2 May, heavy fighting occurred in Garbahaarey between pro-TFG forces and Al Shabaab, killing at least four civilians and wounding three others. There were high numbers of combatant casualties. Reports indicate that several houses, including business premises, were burnt down during the fighting. An unconfirmed number of people were displaced.

Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) updates

The HC has cleared 85 out of 89 projects funded under the 2nd CHF Standard Allocation. Funds have been disbursed to 21 projects mainly targeting drought-affected people. Overall, about 38 per cent of the funding from this allocation goes to international NGOs, 17 per cent to Somali NGOs, and 45 per cent to UN agencies. Once funds forwarded to implementing partners are taken into account, the share of NGO funding increases from 55 per cent to 64 per cent. The figures are preliminary until the remaining four projects are cleared.

Response

The mission of OCHA is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action

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Food Assistance

During the week, WFP delivered a total of 1,406 metric tons of mixed food commodities to 224,000 beneficiaries through emergency school feeding, general food distribution, and food for work programmes. Out of the total targeted beneficiaries 8,900 were school feeding beneficiaries in Somaliland, 206,000 were drought and conflict affected IDPs in central regions and 9,000 were drought-affected food-for-work beneficiaries in the Al Jaziira IDP settlement in Mogadishu. All programmes were affected by ration cuts due to WFP's ongoing pipeline breaks.

Nutrition

Nine new nutrition programmes, eight Outpatient Therapeutic Programmes (OTP) and one Stabilisation Centre (SC) have been established in Somaliland in response to the drought bringing the total number of OTPs to 61 centres supported by UNICEF and WFP through partners. A total of 16 Mother and Child Health (MCHs) Centre workers were trained in six districts to build their capacity to respond to the situation.

The Somaliland Ministry of Health also commissioned two mobile OTP teams to 22 locations in Togdheer region, supported by International NGO Medair and UNICEF.

Due to rising cases of malnutrition in the recent months due to the ongoing drought, nutrition partners have screened at least 14,173 children under 5 years of age in six districts in Puntland. Among them, 418 or 3 per cent and 3,035 or 21 per cent were found to be severely and moderately malnourished respectively and have been placed on treatment.

There has been a significant increase in admissions in OTP programmes and Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) supported by Medair within and around Burco in Somaliland, ranging between 124 to 180 for OTP and 358 to 582 for TSFPs; 16 cases were admitted.

The OXFAM/SAACID's nutrition programme in Mogadishu witnessed an increase in admissions from 4,498 to 7,536, a 59 per cent increase and from 1,379 to 2,045 a 67 per cent increase between February and March.

Currently 55,000 women and children 6-23 months are enrolled in the Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme supported by WFP which has been expanded from 27 to 72 sites since the beginning of year in Puntland and Somaliland. WFP has also increased TSFP programme sites from 49 in the beginning of the year to 119 in northern and central Somalia.

Local NGO Direct Aid (African Muslim Aid) has reported a substantial increase in the number of beneficiaries in their wet feeding programmes in Bulo Mareer area of lower Shabelle and Banadir. At least 1,568 children under 5 years of age and 125 pregnant and lactating women are enrolled in this programme.

Health

WHO is sending one diarrhoea disease kit to treat 100 patients suffering from Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and one inter-agency health kit for 10,000 people for three months, to complement outbreak response activities in Garowe, Puntland.

Two WHO health workers and field staff travelled to Biyo Guur settlement and Suubey village in Bay and Bakool regions respectively to investigate rumours of increased reporting of AWD cases. The team carried medical supplies to treat about 50 children under 5 years of age with severe dehydration. The response team will provide treatment for the cases and conduct active surveillance.

Education

This week, water trucking to 34 drought-schools with 6,120 students (30 per cent girls) started in Marjeh and Togdheer regions in Somaliland. The students received 5 liters of water each per day; this is the standard adopted for water trucking for the 34 schools. Water is distributed through the vouchers which the Community Education Committee (CEC) is authorized to receive and sign on behalf of the education facilities.

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