HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Security & Access

The overall security situation in Somaliland remained stable. A verdict was issued on the trail case of the 10 arrested suspects of the killings of four humanitarian workers occurring in 2003 and 2004. The case originally started in March 2005. According to the regional court in Hargeisa, 8 men were found guilty of “terrorism” and were sentenced to death. Following the killing of the 4 expatriate humanitarian workers, the UN in collaboration with the national authorities established a Special Protection Unit (SPU) initially to provide protection for humanitarian workers of UN & international NGOs, subsequently extended to the rest of the community. Since then no further incidents were reported.

A deadly mine accident occurred in Burao on 16 November 2005 where a vehicle diverted from the main road towards a roadside short cut. Three out of a total of seven passengers were reported dead, including one UN staff member. Somaliland Mine Action Center (SMAC), supported by UNDP, coordinates mine action activities, since late 1999, an approximate area of around 115 million square meters has been cleared.

Food Security/Livelihoods

Deyr rain started on time, whereby most areas received normal to above normal rains except for parts of southern Awdal region. Rainfall distribution and intensity were good and allowed for further replenishment of water and pasture resources. Livestock reproduction was reported as above normal with increased availability of milk and ghee at household level and better livestock products for consumption and sale. The Food Security Analysis Unit of FAO (FSAU) has initiated the GU/Karun crop assessment; fieldwork was conducted among the agro-pastoral regions of Awdal & Togdheer between 22 November and 4 December 2005.

IDPs/Returnees

Findings of a nutrition assessment conducted in October 2005 among Burao IDP/returnee settlements, namely Kossar, Aden Suleiman and Ali Hussein, showed no improvement from the situation observed in previous studies (2003). Unlike the settlements of Hargeisa that displayed an appreciable improvement (7.6% in 2005 compared to 15.3 % in 2003), the global acute malnutrition rate was estimated at 15.1%, while severe acute malnutrition at 3.2%. The assessment was conducted by FAO/FSAU in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Labour (MOH&L), the Somali Red Crescent Society, Save the Children Fund, Candlelight and Havoyoco. Sources of income among Burao settlements were labeled more irregular and unreliable. Besides, social support mechanisms were either lacking or extremely strained. The limited health facilities available were hampered by lack of staff and deficiency in drugs. While schools were available, access was hindered by lack of fees and uniform. Main coping mechanisms included borrowing from shops and neighbours, reduction of food intake and consumption of less preferred foods. The assessment recommended implementation of targeted supplementary feeding, support of school feeding, income generation activities, sanitation interventions and intensification of immunization programs. WFP has recently constructed a school canteen in the settlement of Kossar where there is intention to initiate a school feeding program. During the month, UNICEF undertook a community hygiene promotion program at Kossar settlement in collaboration with HEAL, a local NGO.

During the reporting period, UNHCR organized a need assessment mission within the main returnee reintegration areas of Awdal Region. The mission
comprised government authorities (Ministries of RR&R, Education, Water, Agriculture, and Health), UNICEF, international NGO (DRC, NRC, CARE International, Health Unlimited & Cadastral Survey) and national partners (ADO, HAVOYOCO, HORSEED & COSONG). The purpose of the mission was to evaluate the completed and the ongoing projects of the returnee reintegration programme and to identify the gaps that need to be addressed during 2006 in the sectors of Protection, Food Security, Water, Community Service, Health, Education, Environment and Income Generation Activities. The mission also examined issues pertaining to enhancing the absorption capacities of the basic services for the returnee receiving communities in an area where some 8,000 refugees are expected to return from Djibouti by first half of 2006. By bringing all partners together, the other objective was to ensure ownership of UNHCR programme by all our partners, including the beneficiaries themselves. A debriefing Session on the conclusions of the mission was organized by UNHCR to plan for UNHCR 2006 programme in view of mission conclusions on community-felt needs identified.

**Health**
A total of 13 people (of whom 8 were below the age of 15) were reported dead of measles in Awdal region, mainly in Zeila District. Furthermore 23 measles cases were also diagnosed in nearby areas. Measles' vaccination coverage was reported very low due to the remoteness of the area. UNICEF & WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Labour launched a measles vaccination campaign in Awdal and Sahil regions within the month of November. The campaign would cover all six regions within Somaliland.

**HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**
**Food Security/Livelihoods**
Acts of piracy along the Somali coast had negative impacts on WFP’s food pipeline and hence no distribution was undertaken within the drought-affected areas within Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag. Food balances were mainly allocated for selective feeding program, namely school feeding and social support programs. Under social support WFP distributed a total of 46 MT of mixed food commodities to 2,616 beneficiaries out of whom 36% were females covering a total of 25 projects in Hargeisa, Gebiley, Berbera, Burao, and Borama districts. Beneficiaries under this support include orphans, street children, TB patients and in-hospital feeding.

HAVOYOCO is implementing a restocking scheme in 22 villages within Togdheer region. Those villages had earlier benefited from a cash for work/cash relief project for 5 months in 2005. 1,050 shoats were distributed for 105 families of pastoral organisation members in 7 villages. The implementation started in October and was concluded in November. 180 pack animals would be distributed to the remaining 15 villages by December 2005, 12 pack animal per village. This scheme is mainly targeting destitute pastoralist families who lost their pack animals following the prolonged drought of the past 3 years. Community mobilisation, selection of beneficiaries, by the communities themselves, verification of the beneficiaries by HAVOYOCO and purchases of animals were finalized within the month of November. Domestic purchases approach was applied for increasing pastoral communities income as one objective and considering animal health as the other. Somaliland authorities, communities leaders, other social intellectuals are contributing to the project implementation on voluntary basis. The project is funded by OXFAM GB.

Demonstration of row planting in Agamso, Source: ICDP

Within a series of extension trainings, the integrated Community Development Program (ICPD) facilitated
training for the District Agriculture Extension Officers (DAEO) working with the project on methods of improving both the quality and quantity of crops in the program area. This included the introduction of new agronomic techniques and drought-resistant varieties, of these were the quick maturing, drought-resistant, high yielding variety of cowpea, known as Ein Elghazal. A consultant from El-Obeid Agricultural Research Center, Sudan conducted the training; the trained DAEO would in turn train Community Agriculture Workers (CAW) at community level. ICDP is funded by IFAD/UNOPS and is implemented within the two regions of Hargeisa and Awdal. UNOPS/IFAD is also launching a new pilot project at Sheikh town to cover eastern districts of Hargeisa, Sahil and Togdheer regions. Similar to activities in western regions, the new project will support sectors of water & agriculture.

While Somaliland is predominantly a nomadic pastoral community, agriculture ranks second to livestock. The main agricultural activities are concentrated in the districts of Hargeisa, Gobley, Borama and Baki. Other areas that are not fully exploited are Sheik, Odweine and Erigavo plateau. Constraints within the agricultural sector include erratic rainfall, mono-cropping, poor soil fertility, endemic pests and diseases, lack of pesticides and sprayers, inadequate extension facilities, labour shortage and lack of farm tools. Soil erosion is another serious problem that is eating topsoil and reducing farmland. This was experienced in the last flooding that hit Hargeisa in April 2005, whereby large farms were washed away. Land tenure is also among issues that need to be addressed, Cadastral Surveys (NGO) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture & Elders in the areas is engaged in surveying and mapping of farm boundaries in the districts of Gobley & Dilla. Farm demarcation contributed to reduction of land disputes, it would also facilitate enhanced planning and land management including effective tax revenue systems. Other actors engaged in the agricultural sector include German Agro Action, and Agricultural Development Organization.

**IDPs & Returnees**

During the month, UNHCR resumed its voluntary repatriation of refugees from Djibouti to Awdal region. Three convoys, comprising of 335 families and 1,467 individuals, were received from Djibouti on 15, 22 and 30 November 2005. This brings the total number of refugees repatriated this year to 1,759 families and 9,977 individuals.

During reporting period, DRC had undertaken a number of activities including construction of a primary school at Habas, rehabilitation of the road between Zeila and Tokhoshi, training, provision of revolving fund & rehabilitation of stores & offices of Tokoshi Salt Production Cooperative in Zeila district (Awdal Region), in addition to feeder road maintenance at Habas, Ceelbaxay, Carroweyen and Dhoobo (Awdal). These activities were implemented in collaboration with UNHCR. DRC has been providing humanitarian assistance to most regions of Somaliland since 1998, focusing on issues of sustainable livelihoods for returnee populations. Interventions are mainly undertaken in the fields of integrated community development areas (namely in Da’arbudhuq Garadag, Lughaya & Zeila), provision of basic needs and advocacy. To ensure the long-term nature of the return and to reduce chances of new conflict causing renewed dislocation, DRC works through traditional governance structures to support conflict resolution, engage local authorities in target districts and promote respect for human rights.

**Education**

Under the school feeding program, WFP distributed 48 MT of mixed food commodities in a total of 19 schools reaching a total of 7,122 school children (29% girls). WFP also conducted training for Community Education Committees in Bura on WFP School Feeding procedures. A total of 51 participants in addition to 3 officials from the Ministry of Education attended that training. School feeding has proven efficient in enhancing enrolment and sustaining attendance, primary enrolment is currently estimated at 35%, about one third of those enrolled being boys.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF organized a training workshop for 16 new community education committee mobilizers from all six regions of Somaliland. The objective of the training was to provide trainees with mobilization and leadership skills and to clarify their roles and responsibilities.

**Health & Nutrition**

In collaboration with the MOH&L and the Network Against Poverty (NGO), UNICEF initiated an integrated nutrition intervention in the Hawd of Hargeisa Region, particularly in Salahlay area. Activities included nutrition screening, Vitamin A & iron folic supplementation to women and children, de-worming for under-five children and nutrition education to mothers and caretakers.
Within the overall measles campaign, a total of 100 supervisors were trained by UNICEF to undertake the Measles campaign and adequate quantities of vitamin A were pre-positioned to all regions. Three sensitization workshops were also facilitated by UNICEF engaging 120 influential community members, whereby mobilization committees were established in each region. The 3rd round of Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) acceleration activities was conducted in Lasanod and Erigavo towns. During the five days immunization campaign at each town, Vitamin A, iron & folic acid were provided to pregnant mothers and children between 6 to 59 months. Target reached include about 1,200 children under the age of one year, 2,700 children over one year and 1,820 women of child-bearing age. Furthermore the 2nd round of EPI acceleration activities was conducted in Hargeisa, reaching around 1,750 children under the age of one year and 3,500 children over one year. UNICEF conducted as well a five-day training at Garbodadar (Lughaya district) on growth monitoring and promotion for 14 staffs from 7 health centers in Awdal. The training was in collaboration with Awdal Regional Health Office and World Vision.

In collaboration with the MOH&L, ICDP facilitated training on nutrition and growth monitoring for 11 CHWs (Community Health Workers) and 11 TBAs (Traditional Birth Attendants) from Hargeisa and Awdal regions. A second trench of medical drugs was also transferred to Gebiley District Hospital by ICDP under a drug revolving fund initiative. Furthermore medical drugs revolving fund was also made available for 12 villages in the program area (Awdal & Hargeisa). The objective is to avail drugs for simple cases at the community level to alleviate the sufferings of the rural people. This activity would be expanded to 20 communities by the end of 2006.

ICDP also facilitated Training of Trainers (TOT) for 12 women from 3 family centers in Arbsiyo, Gebley and Borama. Training topics included food processing skills for the purpose of income generation, awareness on nutritional value of locally available foods and techniques of preserving crops when in surplus to be used during seasons of scarcity. An exhibition of food products was made in Hargeisa on 26 November 2005, it was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and a large number of international NGOs and local people.

Water & Sanitation
The installation of El-lahley mini-water system was successfully undertaken by UNICEF in collaboration with Handicap. Three hand pump wells and one livestock well were also completed in Garbocawl and Afdoox rural communities. In collaboration with HEAL NGO, UNICEF carried out community hygiene promotion in 3 sites; namely Burao (Kossal IDP/returnee settlement), Odewe & Ainabo reaching around 1,500 households. In collaboration with the Ministry of Water & Mineral Resources a workshop on effective water management was conducted for 21 water supply managers in Gebiley. UNICEF also undertook training in Hargeisa for 25 teachers focusing on hygiene education.

During the reporting period, a geophysical survey was undertaken under the support of ICDP. The first results were promising with sites such as Botor, Kalabaydh and Tulli spotted for an abundant potential of underground water. Two balleys were also constructed in Duburta-Bari of Gebiley district and Darfacle of Bailigubadle district. Shortage of water for human and livestock consumption is prevalent especially during the dry season; the ICDP project supports the beneficiary communities in enhancing their access to water for through the construction of balleys, shallow wells and boreholes.

HIV/AIDS
In November, NRC carried out HIV/AIDS Awareness training for their staff, SPU Police on duty, 38 of the Alternative Approach to Basic Education teachers, NRC Teacher Trainers, members of the Refugee Community, local NGO’s. In total 94 participants were trained. Dr. Jill Lewis, an expert on Gender, Youth & HIV/AIDS, facilitated the training. The training focused on clarifications of core perceptions of the virus, modes of its transmission in addition to identification of conditions and contexts of risks in Somaliland. “I realized that the danger of HIV/AIDS is much closer to me then I thought, because there are many infected people and there are
"risks and easy ways of transmitting the virus”, one of the participants stated in her evaluation. Furthermore the sessions explored the challenge of communication when talking with men and young people about HIV/AIDS. The training was well evaluated by all participants.

Three refugee representatives attended a one-week workshop conducted by the newly-established National AIDS Commission (NAC), in which government officials, traditional leaders, NGOs and civil society representatives discussed the impact of HIV/AIDS in Somaliland, examining issues such as stigma, awareness-raising and prevention. Following this, refugees and asylum seekers were invited by UNHCR to volunteer to participate in a Refugee HIV/AIDS Awareness Committee. The Refugee Committee made the final selection of the twelve-member Committee, with special efforts made to ensure the participation of women, and representation of different age groups, ethnic groups and nationalities. A short project to support the Committee to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out awareness raising activities amongst the refugee community has now commenced, in partnership with the Somaliland HIV/AIDS Network. In November, the Committee participated in a two-day workshop with SAHAN, in which they examined their own attitudes and knowledge and developed tools to assess the current level of knowledge within the community.

UNHCR Hargeisa contributed to an HIV/AIDS conference held in Hargeisa from 27 to 29 November 2005. The conference was organized by the International Cooperation for Development (ICD) and in collaboration with a local NGO called SAHAN under the theme “strengthening the coordinated response to HIV/AIDS” to promote a forum for HIV/AIDS stakeholders.

During the reporting period, UNICEF facilitated a 5-day HIV/AIDS workshop in Borama for 21 women from Awdal and Sahil regions. The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and on provision of care and support for those who are infected. A refresher course was also conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Religion & Islamic Endowment and the Kenya Association of Professional Counsellors. The course engaged 20 religious leaders from Hargeisa, Awdal & Sahil who were originally trained in 2004. The objective was to examine progress made and explore ways of enhancing their acquired knowledge and skills.

Protection
UNHCR’s continued to conduct refugee status determination interviews with asylum seekers. At 30 November 2005, there were 480 recognised refugees in Somaliland, and 322 asylum seekers awaiting final decisions on their cases. UNHCR continued to provide protection counseling to refugees, and intervened to secure the release of two refugees who had been detained.

Coordination activities/ missions/workshops
A number of workshops and coordination activities took place during the month including the conduction a Country Response Information System (CRIS) training by UNAIDS in Hargeisa between 8 to 13 November 2005. The workshop was attended by 32 participants including UNAIDS Focal Points, NGO consortiums, national coordinating bodies, Ministry of Health & UN Agencies.

Furthermore UN-HABITAT and the UNA Consortium, in coordination with ILO and UNICEF’s Water Programme organized a two days workshop on 16 to 17 November in Hargeisa to launch a Call for Proposals for Strategic Local Projects and to debate on urban sanitation activities.

A major international conference on Regional Resource Based Conflict (RBC) was conducted in Hargeisa from 30 November to 4 December 2005. The conference was funded by NOVIB and brought together Non-State Actors from Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya and Somaliland/Somalia. The purpose of the conference was to consolidate efforts aimed at addressing resource based conflicts in the Greater Horn of African.