

This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA in New York. It covers the period from 17 to 23 August 2011. The next report will be issued on 30 August 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The next rainfall season is expected to be below average, which could extend the emergency into 2012
- Confirmed cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhea are on the rise, including in Mogadishu, Kismayo (Lower Juba region) and other crowded urban centers
- Suspected measles cases have increased by over 660% compared to the same time last year
- Between June and July, internal displacement has increased dramatically by 163%

II. Situation Overview

Somalia's drought and famine crisis that is affecting 3.7 million people continues to manifest in the massive displacement of people in search of life-saving assistance and in increasing cases of malnutrition, mostly in children. Latest figures from the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit's (FSNAU) show a 15 per cent increase in the number of child malnutrition cases, from 390,000 children to 450,000 children, of which 190,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition. An estimated 336,000 children, representing 75 per cent of all malnourished children, are in the south.

This crisis has also caused an estimated 1.7 million people to become drought displaced. This is almost half the number of people who are in crisis as a result of the drought. According to UNHCR, about a quarter of the country's 7.5 million people (1.8 million people) have been uprooted since the beginning of the year, and massive displacements continue, both within Somalia and to neighboring countries. Between June and July 2011, an unprecedented increase in movements of people was reported in Somalia, from 24,000 to 63,000 – the most displacements since March 2010. Throughout Somalia, drought-related displacements accounted for 89 per cent of all displacement. The districts of Qoryooley and Kurunwaarey in Lower Shabelle are the most affected areas, with over 12,000 displacements to date. More than 15,000 of the 24,700 displaced persons who arrived in Mogadishu in July originated from Lower Shabelle.



It has been more than two weeks since Al Shabaab abandoned their front lines in Mogadishu, and security incidents by clan militias continue to take place. Most of southern Somalia remains inaccessible to the majority of humanitarian organizations, making the provision of humanitarian assistance challenging.

Field reports indicate that more than 2,000 displaced households (12,000 people) have settled in a new IDP camp established by Al Shabaab in Jamaame district, in Lower Juba region, and more people are arriving daily.

According to FAO, seasonal forecasts for the remainder of the year are as follows. While most of the greater Horn of Africa is expected to receive normal rainfall, below average rainfall is predicted for the October to December rains in the greater Mendera triangle (where Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia meet) as well as for the November to January rains in south and central Somalia. This means that emergency conditions could persist well into the first quarter of 2012 in southern Somalia, and recovery may not start until the next harvest in August 2012. Food prices may drop somewhat when the current harvests reach the markets in the next few weeks, but this relief will be short-lived.

As reported last week, large groups of livestock are heading from different parts of Somalia and Kenya towards the coastal areas of Lower Shabelle region which are greener, leaving large-scale environmental destruction in their wake. Local clans in these areas cannot preserve pasture for their own livestock, meaning that poor agro-pastoral communities in these areas are likely to be displaced. There is little humanitarian access in these areas.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response in Southern Somalia



FOOD ASSISTANCE

Needs: 3.7 million people currently require food assistance throughout Somalia.

Response: As of August, cluster members and other humanitarian actors are assisting an estimated 1.77 million people across Somalia, which covers an estimated 48 per cent of those in need. However, due to continued access restrictions, very little assistance is being provided in the south, where the greatest needs are.

To date, WFP has reached 1.5 million people across Somalia – including in Mogadishu, central and northern Somalia. This month, it is scaling up its interventions to reach an additional 850,000 people in southern Somalia and Mogadishu as new areas become accessible and is working with Food Cluster partners to reach the whole crisis-affected population. Other humanitarian organizations report they will reach an additional 104,000 people in August. Direct Aid distributed food aid to 5,250 households (31,500 people) across southern Somalia, including in the regions of Banadir, Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool. Also, ACF reached 1,448 households (8,438 people) in Lower Shabelle through general food distributions. Another INGO is currently distributing food vouchers to 30,000 households (180,000 people) in Lower Shabelle, Bay, and Mogadishu, to be completed by end August. UNCHR has also airlifted enough high energy biscuits (HEB) into Mogadishu to feed 4,166 people for one month. The Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and the ICRC have begun distributing emergency food rations for three months to more than one million people in central and southern Somalia. In the first week of August, ICRC covered the needs of 162,000 people for one month.

UNICEF's wet feeding programmes in the regions of Gedo and Lower Juba are ongoing in the key border towns of Doolow, Luuq and Dhoobley, where a large number of displaced persons are transiting to refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya. Initial reports show that after the first week of implementation, a total of 5,591 households (33,546 people) had been registered for the programme. On average, these programmes provide 4,400 people with cooked meals three times a day. Efforts are underway to roll-out a package of integrated services at wet feeding sites, with WASH, health and protection interventions.

Blanket feeding distributions have meanwhile started in the Ayub and Below internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Lower Shabelle for approximately 1,850 families. Distribution is also being rolled out for 12,750 families (76,500 people) in other parts of the region, including the K50 IDP camp.

Gaps & Constraints: Around 2.2 million people are still in need of food assistance, primarily in the south. Access to certain affected areas in the south remains a challenge. WFP is exploring ways to reach the remaining population in need in these areas. The current strategy is to preposition food stocks along the border so as to be able to respond rapidly should humanitarian access improve.



NUTRITION

Needs: According to FSNAU, child malnutrition rates have increased from 390,000 children to 450,000 children, of which 190,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition. An estimated 336,000 children (75 per cent) of all malnourished children are in the south. Of these, 161,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Response: UNICEF and partner NGOs have 800 feeding centres across Somalia, of which 500 are in the south. Currently, these centres are assisting 35,000 children daily with nutritional supplements, and plans are underway to increase that number to 100,000. WFP has also airlifted enough supplementary food into Mogadishu and the regions of Lower Juba, Gedo and Bakool to assist 42,000 malnourished children under the age of 5 years for one month.

As an interim measure to bridge current gaps in its therapeutic feeding programme, UNICEF is providing rice to partners to be distributed to 5,932 households (35,592 people) in Baidoa, Dinsor and Qansadheere districts.

Gaps & Constraints: The cluster continues to strongly discourage the donation and use of breast milk substitutes as they can significantly increase the risk of morbidity and mortality among infants. Furthermore, there is a shortage of safe, clean water to prepare the milk substitutes, which places children at risk of water-borne diseases.



HEALTH

Needs: The Health Cluster aims to assist 2.6 million people with access to primary and/or basic secondary health care services, as well as vaccinate 518,000 children under five years of age and 296,000 women of child-bearing age.

According to WHO, the number of suspected measles cases in Somalia has increased by over 660% compared to the same time last year. In July, 1,019 suspected measles cases and 31 related deaths were reported in south and central Somalia, compared to 133 cases in July 2010. The major factors driving this increase are low coverage, malnutrition, population movements and over-crowded IDP camps. It is feared that the measles outbreak could lead to serious illness and a high number of deaths, especially among the vulnerable IDPs whose overall health is already fragile.

There is also an increase in the number of confirmed cholera cases in Mogadishu, as well as in reports of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in Kismayo (Lower Juba region) and other crowded urban centers. Since January, 4,272 cases of AWD/cholera have been reported in Benadir Hospital in Mogadishu alone. About 75 per cent of all cases of AWD are children under 5 years of age. This increase is due to a combination of poor sanitation conditions, a shortage of safe water, overcrowding and high malnutrition rates. With the onset of rains, there is likelihood of an increase in the reported cases of AWD and cholera in the country. Both the Health and WASH clusters are currently preparing for a potential 100,000 cholera cases, including 80,000 moderate cases and 20,000 severe cases.

Response: Measles can be prevented by vaccination. However, routine immunization against measles in Somalia currently covers only 29 per cent of children. In response to the suspected measles outbreak, WHO, UNICEF and health authorities have started an emergency measles vaccination campaign in all accessible areas of south and central Somalia. About 2.3 million children aged between 6 and 15 years in 10 regions, including 745,000 children in Mogadishu, will be targeted during this campaign, which will be completed in the next 10 days in Mogadishu and the next 2 to 3 months in the rest of south and central Somalia.

In response to the increase in cholera and AWD, an urgent multi-sector response is being mounted. Emergency diarrheal disease kits (DDK) have been sent to 13 hospitals across the south. An additional 200 DDKs, each able to treat 100 severe cases and 400 moderate cases, are being procured and should be in southern Somalia in the next few weeks. In addition, the case management of severe dehydration with and without malnutrition is being strengthened and focus is now on mobilizing a network of already trained community health promoters to move from door to door with health hygiene education messages. Health posts will be stocked with essential medicines and ORS to identify and promptly treat patients.

Gaps & Constraints: The cluster's major concern in relation to cholera and AWD is to monitor and detect new disease outbreaks in the many informal settlements in and around Mogadishu. For the last few years, a network of health workers reporting to the early warning system has been established. However, the large number of displaced people in Mogadishu is making it more difficult to record cases. There is an urgent need for more mobile clinics to provide basic health care services to the many displaced.



WATER SANITATION HYGIENE

Needs: The WASH cluster aims to reach 2.8 million people with emergency water and 1.3 million with emergency sanitation by the end of 2011.

Response: To date, the WASH cluster has provided emergency water to 1.4 million people in southern Somalia. Many of Southern Somalia's rural areas and urban centers rely on shallow wells, which unless protected or treated with chlorine, can serve as the perfect breeding ground for water borne diseases. To respond to this threat and prevent a major outbreak of cholera or AWD, the WASH cluster is scaling up its actions to target 1.5 million people across high risk areas of the south. Supplies of chlorine and essential items for hygiene and storage of water are being distributed. Already 217 water sources and 58 water point outlets are being chlorinated and benefitting 483,200 residents and IDPs in Mogadishu. In addition, household hygiene supplies, including water purification tablets, soap and buckets, enough for 48,000 households (288,000 people), are being distributed at existing feeding centers for malnourished children. Campaigns to educate families about the treatment of drinking water, safe disposal of waste and encourage hand washing with soap will also be scaled up in high risk communities.



AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS

Needs: The Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster aims to provide agricultural assistance to 2.6 million people in Somalia this year, which is 70 per cent of the 3.7 million people in crisis nationwide – the number of people the cluster estimates it will be able to reach. The number of people targeted for immediate cash and food assistance is 2.24 million by end of 2011.

Response: The cluster's strategy is to mitigate the crisis by 1) increasing access to food vouchers to famine and drought affected people; 2) providing cash-for-work opportunities; and 3) providing farmers in the agro-pastoral and riverine communities with timely agricultural inputs such as seeds, tools, tractor hours and fertilizers in preparation for the October rains. An estimated 2.12 million people are currently being targeted with multiple interventions and 1.6 million people with single interventions that are either ongoing or already have committed funding.

UNICEF is rolling out an emergency cash-based response to support a total of 70,000 households (420,000 people) over the next six months. In Lower Juba region, UNICEF through NGO partners is implementing unconditional cash grants distribution of \$115 per month for six months to 5,000 vulnerable households (30,000 people).

In Lower Shabelle region, UNICEF through NGO partners have started distributing food vouchers (\$90 per month for six months) to 4,000 vulnerable households (24,000 people). The use of vouchers modalities (instead of cash grants) will address preventively weaknesses of local markets in Lower Shabelle. The first round of distribution of food vouchers will be done in the last week of August.

In southern Somalia, FAO is currently assisting 28,278 households (152,070 people) through cash-for-work initiatives. UNDP has already assisted or are currently assisting 10,975 households (65,850 people) with cash-for work activities, which include the rehabilitation of schools, hospitals and roads.

FAO is targeting over one million animals for treatment, aimed to benefit 25,625 households (151,000 people) in the regions of Gedo, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, Galgaduud, Mudug, Bay, Bakool and Hiraaan. The activities are expected to continue until 21 September.

Gaps & Constraints: 470,000 people still need to be targeted with multiple interventions, and another 960,000 with single interventions.



EDUCATION

Needs: According to the Education cluster, of the estimated 2.3 million children between 5 and 17 years of age in south and central Somalia, an estimated 1.8 million are not attending school normally. This number is expected to increase dramatically when schools open in September.

Response: Together with the Protection cluster, the Education cluster is establishing about 400 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in priority regions of south and central Somalia. To date, communities have been mobilized and sites have been identified in IDP settlements to assist 6,600 children.

Gaps & Constraints: With less than a month left to support schools to re-open, and while the cluster is ready to scale-up across the board in southern Somalia, continuing funding shortfalls are still preventing a full roll-out of efforts. Meanwhile, in the context of cholera threats in the capital, schools which remain closed will lose a critical opportunity for hygiene education and provision of access to safe sanitation facilities for children living in over-crowded IDP camps.



EMERGENCY SHELTER & NFI

Needs: The Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster is targeting 1.8 million people this year through the provision of emergency assistance packages (EAP) and temporary/transitional shelter across Somalia .

Response: The cluster's primary response plan has been to do large distributions during July and August so that every newly displaced household receives an EAP. These EAPs contain plastic sheeting, sleeping mats, blankets, jerry cans and kitchen utensils, each able to support one household. Since March, UNHCR has distributed 34,655 EAPs across southern Somalia, assisting 207,930 people. UNHCR conducted three airlift flights to Mogadishu over the past two weeks, delivering 5,000 EAPs, which have already started to be distributed to an additional 30,000 people in the Mogadishu area. During August, 1,790 EAPs have been distributed in Gedo region, 950 in Middle Juba and 1,815 in Cabudwaaq IDP settlements and poor host communities in Galgaduud region (reaching a total of 27,330 people). Preparations are being made to deliver assistance to some 180,000 people in Mogadishu and south central Somalia by end of August.

Gaps & Constraints: Approximately 1.35 million people still require EAPs and temporary/transitional shelter across Somalia.



PROTECTION

Needs: Protection risks are rife among the population on the move. Armed bandits attack and sometimes rape women who often travel alone. In many cases, the men in the family have gone with their livestock in search of water and pasture. Pregnant women and children have to make the long and dangerous trek in search of food and safety and often arrive at their destination with medical complications, including severe malnutrition. Within the host community at the Kenyan village of Liboi, just across the Somalia border, health centres are reporting cases of sexual violence amongst newly arrived Somali refugees. In July 2011, the cluster recorded 236 protection related incidents involving a total of 461 victims. The Protection cluster aims to assist 15,000 survivors of human rights violations and assist 2,600 households (15,600 people) through livelihood support and community protection initiatives.

Response: Given that there are no rape management services in place at Liboi village, arrangements for training, supplies and protocols for rape management are being made. In addition, CFSs are increasing their beneficiary target to assist 40,500 children at transit points and 40,000 children in IDP camps, for a total estimated target of 80,500 children over the next three months. Reintegration programmes for children associated with armed forces/groups and children at-risk of recruitment have also been scaled up from 330 to 950 children in Mogadishu, and Dhuusamarreeb and Guri Ceel in Galgaduud region. Partners have recently completed a rapid assessment in Mogadishu districts previously under the control of Al Shabaab to identify former child combatants with a view to refer them to existing programmes.



LOGISTICS

Response: The Logistics Cluster is looking into new corridors into southern Somalia to ensure the timely delivery of life-saving relief items to previously inaccessible populations. This could lead to the establishment of corridors from Somaliland/Puntland or across Ethiopia to facilitate entry into border areas of southern Somalia. A safe and regular shipping service to Mogadishu with the capacity to carry 800 tons per voyage twice a month has been secured for inter-agency cargo. Tactical airlifts with provision for about forty 5 ton cargo flights between Kenya and South Somalia are also being used while warehousing facilities are being augmented in Mogadishu and southern Somalia. The Cluster has secured a common warehousing facility of 5,000 m² in Mogadishu Port, for interagency storage. This facility has been secured through a private sector partner. Mobile Storage Units are being made available in strategic locations to organizations that require them.

IV. Other regions

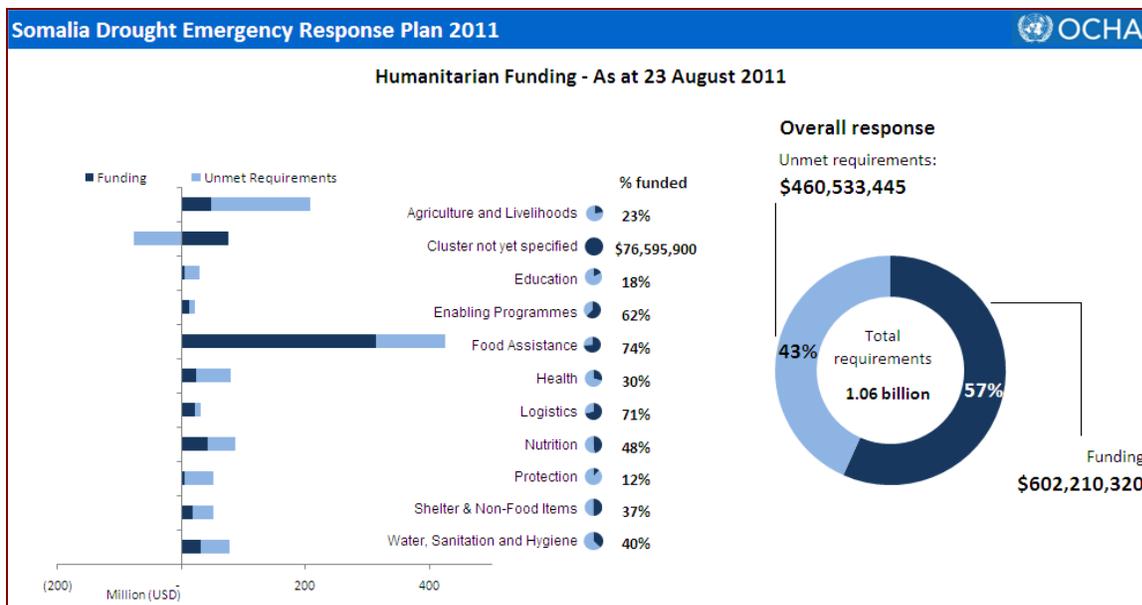
Malnutrition continues to be a concern in Puntland and Somaliland. Updated figures on malnutrition rates in these regions based on the latest assessments are expected by end August.

VI. Funding

- The emergency revision of the Somalia Consolidated Appeal has been completed and can be downloaded here: http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Full%20Report_123.pdf
- On 17 August, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) pledged US\$350 million in aid to Somalia at an emergency summit held in Istanbul, Turkey.

1 Billion
requested (US\$)

57%
funded



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

VII. Humanitarian Giving

To make a donation through the United Nations, please consider one of the following options:

- Support the Appeal for the Horn of Africa
- Give to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- Give to the Pooled Funds in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia
- Give to OCHA's response to the Horn of Africa Crisis

For details on how to make a donation, please consult the "OCHA Guide to Humanitarian Giving" on the OCHA website: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/horn-africa-crisis>

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