



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOMALIA

Monthly Analysis

July 2006

This report was written in cooperation with the UN Agencies in Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS

According to the findings of the 2006 post-*Gu* Assessment conducted by FAO/FSAU and FEWSNET, around 1.8 million people – including up to 400,000 IDPs – are in need of critical assistance until the end of the year. Around 880,000 people are experiencing an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis, while around 425,000 – all in the southern regions - are in a state of Humanitarian Emergency. Although there is some improvement since January 2006 when 2.1 million people were found to be in need of assistance, the regional variations in Post *Gu* outcomes are significant and in several regions the food and livelihood situation security continues to deteriorate. The Humanitarian Emergency, particularly in the drought-affected regions of southern Somalia, continues which will require sustained and concerted engagement and support.

Among the greatest concerns for humanitarian partners remains the high malnutrition rates recorded in regions such as Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba. An estimated 58,000 children below the age of five are malnourished in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. The nutrition crisis in southern Somalia is far from over and preparedness measures as well as continued short-term and long-term humanitarian support need to be sustained.

Mogadishu experienced more heavy fighting in early July as militia allied to the Islamic Courts attacked and defeated remaining militia allied to the now defunct Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism. Since then, tension in the capital diminished considerably as the Courts exerted their control in and around Mogadishu. According to reports, local residents continue to benefit from improved security and freedom of movement, and more commercial benefits could come with the opening of the international airport in late July.

Following a UN mission on 9 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia led another humanitarian mission to Mogadishu on 2 August to discuss strengthening of humanitarian activities in the capital as well as coordination mechanisms between the Courts and the UN. Once again, the Courts reiterated their full control over Mogadishu and surrounding areas, and requested that the international community validate this new reality and deal with them as the new authorities. Among the challenges ahead are how to prioritise humanitarian needs and step up the provision of basic social services as well as how to involve civil society and women whose role is of paramount importance. UN Agencies intend to step up their activities, with a focused priority given to humanitarian programmes. While there is some optimism that conditions in Mogadishu may enable a wider coverage and response to needs, the current political developments also warrant caution. Additionally, enhanced engagement in Mogadishu should not detract attention from the ongoing humanitarian emergency as mentioned above.

Cases of polio continue to appear in Somalia. At the time of drafting, a total of 213 wild polio virus cases had been confirmed since the first case emerged in July 2005. Although there are decreasing cases reported in Mogadishu, the majority of the cases are in the capital. During the 2 August mission to Mogadishu, the Courts were urged to make every effort to help in the vaccination process, particularly to prevent refusals by local residents, one of the challenges faced in the polio eradication campaign.

The 2007 Humanitarian Appeal Process has started with two in-country mini-workshops held in Hargeisa and Garowe on 6 and 9 August respectively. A third workshop is expected in Baidoa on 16 August, while a fourth is under discussion with the Islamic Courts for Mogadishu. These in-country consultations, together with the findings of the Post-*Gu* survey, will all feed into a final CAP workshop in Nairobi on 30-31 August. Meanwhile, the 2006 Somalia CAP is around 49% covered, having received around US\$157 million out of the requested US\$ 323,819,942.

ACCESS and SECURITY

Heavy fighting took place in Mogadishu between 9 and 11 July when militia allied to the Islamic Courts attacked the stronghold of Colonel Qaybdiid - the only remaining leader allied with the now defunct Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism (ARPCT) in the capital. The fighting resulted in the death of approximately 140 people, and reported displacement of around 1,000 families who have since returned to their homes. Remaining militias loyal to Bashir Raghe and Musa Sudi subsequently handed over equipment to the Courts and since then, tension in the capital diminished considerably as the Courts exerted their control in and around Mogadishu.

Subsequent to UN security and humanitarian missions to Mogadishu in early July, a second humanitarian mission led by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia traveled to the capital on 2 August to further discuss with the Courts coordination mechanisms and communication channels for the implementation of humanitarian activities. The Courts once again reiterated their full control over the capital and requested that the international community validate their authority and work through them to facilitate planning and implementation. As with their public appeal for humanitarian aid on 12 July, the Courts requested UN agencies to immediately strengthen their support to residents in the capital - particularly the quarter of a million or so IDPs who live in squalid conditions in congested settlements. Their stated priorities included education followed by health, water, sanitation, infrastructure and reintegration of disarmed militias. In the meantime, ongoing humanitarian programmes continue and progressive steps will be taken to increase humanitarian presence and activities. In this regard, the Humanitarian Coordinator stressed the paramount importance of safety guarantees for humanitarian staff and the role that the Courts bear in ensuring this. On the assassination of the Swedish journalist on 23 June, the Courts assured the Humanitarian Coordinator that the investigation was still ongoing but that meanwhile, all measures would be taken to guarantee the safety and security of aid personnel.



Shelter tents delivered by UNICEF in Merka, Lower Shabelle. Source: UNICEF

In Merka, Lower Shabelle, some UN agencies have started to install permanent offices. Such a presence will assist in reaching not only vulnerable populations in the immediate vicinity but also in the rest of southern Somalia, where the effects of the drought and still being felt. Following a joint rapid humanitarian assessment of IDPs and other vulnerable groups in late June, UNICEF has distributed 200 shelter boxes (each containing a tent and other non-food items) in Merka benefiting 200 IDP families.

The security situation in Baidoa town deteriorated in the second half of July with two non-fatal shootings of the District Commissioner and a Member of Parliament on 22 and 26 July respectively, the assassination of the TFG Minister for the Constitution and Federal Institutions on 28 July, and ensuing demonstration throughout Baidoa town. UN staff members present in Baidoa were not relocated but UN missions to Baidoa were temporarily suspended. Flights to Baidoa have now resumed. The present tense and uncertain political environment in and around Baidoa could have serious implications on security and humanitarian access.

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The Juba regions continue to be unpredictable and volatile with constant reports of violence and killings during the month of July. The delivery of relief food to Lower Juba was constrained by insecurity that prevailed in several areas. About ten looting incidents at various food distribution points were recorded in July – eight of which occurred in and around Jamame town. The presence of freelance militia and absence of a cohesive administration are factors contributing to the spate of attacks. Given the uncertainty of such an environment, WFP will suspend distribution in the region until adequate measures have been taken by the local administration to improve security. WFP's provisional halting of general food distributions in Somalia during the harvest period (mid-July to September 2006) will provide an opportunity for the Agency to meet with local leaders and representatives to devise a way forward for safer food deliveries and distributions in Lower Juba.

More security incidents and fighting over control of resources are also impacting on humanitarian access in Gedo. In mid-July, following a threat against the UN and humanitarian community, all UN flights and missions into Garbaharey were suspended until further notice. A similar threat in Luuq also resulted in the suspension of flights to Luuq airstrip more recently. Also in Luuq district, conflict over the control of salt mines in Karaban and Dulmuruf villages that started on 4 July between the Gadsan (Dir) and the Moalinweyne (Rahaweyn) sub-clans is ongoing despite mediation efforts by traditional leaders. According to field reports a yet to be confirmed number of people have fled the fighting

moving into Wajid district. Field reports also indicate that Karaban village was burnt down and that inhabitants have scattered to nearby villages. Attempts to assess the situation in and around Karaban have so far failed due to insecurity.

PROTECTION

According to the Population Movement Tracking exercise led by UNHCR, in July, 2,677 Somalis arrived in Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, the majority from Lower Juba and Mogadishu. This brings the total number of new arrivals in the camps to 19,196 since the start of 2006. Most of these new arrivals cited fighting as the major cause of their departure, whereas approximately 10% stated drought as their primary reason for moving. There are now reports from Uganda that an increasing number of Somalis are also arriving in Kampala. Similarly, UNHCR Yemen has reported an increase in new arrivals from Baidoa and Mogadishu who claimed they left Somalia because of increased insecurity and drought in their regions.

Within Somalia, in the second week of July and because of clashes in Mogadishu, displacement was reported from Mogadishu to Afgoye, Marka Balad, Baidoa and Burhakaba. Movement between different districts within Mogadishu was also reported as people escaped the fighting in the south of Mogadishu in Hodan, Madina and Dharkeynley districts and moved to Bondhere, Waharade, Yaqshid, Heliwaa and Hamar-weyne. Following the end of hostilities, returns were reported in the third week of July, mostly from districts within Mogadishu. The most urgent needs of people remain protection, food, water, shelter, livelihood support and medicine.

Drought induced movement continued as people moved from Benadir and Middle Shabelle to Brava district in Lower Shabelle and within different areas of Lower Shabelle, mostly towards Merka in search of food, water, grazing space and livelihoods.

Continuing inter-clan conflict between the Hawadle and Badi'ado clans in Bulu Burti district (Hiran region) resulted in displacements, as people fled to Wardhigley (Mogadishu), Buq-aqable and Jalalaqsi districts in the first week of July. However, with the signing of a peace agreement between the two clans in mid-July, returns were monitored in the third week of July. The majority of those displaced have now returned home.

On 25 July, 231 individuals were deported in two batches from the Oman Sultanate to Bossaso, Puntland. Except for four Ethiopian women, all were Somali nationals. According to information gathered during interviews, the deportees were subjected to arbitrary incarceration and torture. The Puntland Authorities have stated that according to their sources, the Omani police had rounded up and detained alleged Somali illegal migrants and subjected them to cruel mistreatment, resulting in the death of three and nine serious injuries. The Puntland Authorities also claim that Oman has conveyed its intention to deport 400 'illegal Somalis' to which Puntland has responded that only Puntlanders will be allowed back. The Puntland authorities have sought UNHCR assistance to avert the deportations and mistreatment of Somalis in Oman. The UNHCR office in Riyadh, which covers Oman, is intervening with the Omani authorities to ensure international protection of such Somalis and avoid the risk of '*refoulement*' (forced return) of such persons.

Despite the monsoon season and high seas, people are still embarking on the dangerous journey from Bossaso to Yemen in search of protection and better economic opportunities. In July, 130 Somalis, 67 Ethiopians and two Tanzanians reportedly arrived in Yemen. The appearance of nationals other than Somalis and Ethiopians is a new trend which UNHCR is now monitoring. During the reporting period, eight individuals (three Somalis and five Ethiopians) died in two tragic incidents on 1 and 10 July.

As part of an IDP profiling desk-review, mapping of IDP settlements based on available information is making progress with active contribution from agencies in the field, specifically for Somaliland, Puntland and areas of South-Central Somalia, such as Mogadishu, Kismayo and Hiran region. The mapping exercise has enabled the identification of gaps (locations) where information on IDPs is missing. A concept paper is now being developed to further implement IDP profiling exercise in these locations. The profiling exercise, which started in June, aims to improve the knowledge of the extent and pattern of displacement in Somalia, as well as the understanding of the different levels and situations of displacement. This will ultimately enable the identification of short- and long-term interventions to meet the basic needs of IDPs and address underlying protection related problems.



State House site, Hargeisa. Source: OCHA

There are approximately 40,000 IDPs in Somaliland, some of whom have been living in desperate conditions for as long as 15 years. The Minister for Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reintegration and the Mayor of Hargeisa met with aid partners in mid-July to discuss the permanent relocation of 6,000-7,000 IDP households currently in temporary settlements in Hargeisa (*State House* and *Stadium*). Resettlement is complicated by issues of land acquisition and by differences arising over definitions of IDPs and returnees. Humanitarian organizations aim to prioritize assistance on the basis of vulnerability, while the authorities wish to prioritize the needs of IDPs from Somaliland itself. The authorities have agreed to allocate land to temporarily resettle IDPs, while they wish to prioritise the resettlement of IDPs from Somaliland into permanent settlements. Aid partners insist that the choice of land should be based on economic viability (e.g. proximity to potential employment) and

potential access to basic services. UNHABITAT and the Municipality are in the process of identifying suitable land. UNHABITAT is currently completing 170 houses on government-allocated land in *Ayaha 2*, a permanent settlement of 500 returnee households.

It is hoped that construction of another 170 houses at *Ayaha 2* will begin next year. Despite the challenges to resettlement of IDPs in Hargeisa, an enabling context exists (functioning local government and a relatively secure and stable working environment) that can allow the humanitarian community and local authorities together to make an impact on the lives of IDPs. Methodologies can be explored in a stable climate that can then be applied in the less predictable areas of South/Central Somalia. The Norwegian Refugee Council has also constructed 84 low cost houses, 64 of which were used to resettle IDPs from temporary settlements.

Daily life in Daami settlement

Khadra and Ilhan are related by marriage. Their families fled together to Mogadishu in 1988 during the conflict in Somaliland and returned to Hargeisa in 1992 to find half of their land had been taken. Now they live on the remaining two 40x40 ft plots in *Daami*, a site of 10,000 people made up of southern Somali IDPs, Ethiopian refugees and minority clans from Somaliland, many of whom are returnees. While some IDP sites are on government-owned land, *Daami* is completely ad hoc and has no basic services.

The women's families live in small huts made of pieces of clothing sewn together, oil cans hammered flat, plastic bags and large sacks. Neither have toilets. A neighbouring family agreed to share their toilet with them, but sometimes the door to the toilet is locked and Ilhan and Khadra's families must use pots and wait for the neighbours to unlock the toilet so they can dispose of the waste.

Ilhand is 30 years old and has seven children. Her husband works repairing metal objects. She says they receive no remittances from abroad and no direct help from any local or international organisation. None of Ilhan's seven children are in school; she cannot afford the fees. Her biggest concern is shelter. If the family had proper shelter, she says, the rest would not be so bad.

Khadra is 25, has two children and is pregnant. Her husband, a shoemaker, earns 5,000 – 20,000 Somaliland shillings per day (US\$ 0.80 - \$3). Khadra's biggest fear is that if there are complications with the birth, she will not be able to afford proper medical care. (Maternal mortality rate in Somalia is 1,100 per 100,000 live birth.)

The two women belong to the Gaboya clan (the collective name for different occupational minority groups who have traditionally suffered discrimination in the nomadic pastoralist-based society.) Both worry for their children's safety. As a minority clan, they have very little support. Last year, Ilhan's hut was destroyed by some boys her son had had a fight with.

LIVELIHOODS and FOOD SECURITY

According to the findings of the 2006 post-*Gu* Assessment conducted by FAO/FSAU and FEWSNET in cooperation with humanitarian partners, around 1.8 million people – including up to 400,000 IDPs – are in need of critical assistance until the end of the year. Of these, around 880,000 people are experiencing an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis, while around 425,000 – all in the southern regions - are in a state of Humanitarian Emergency. Although there is some improvement in the situation since January 2006 when 2.1 million people were found to be in need of assistance, the regional variations in Post *Gu* outcomes are significant and in several regions the food and livelihood situation security continues to deteriorate. The Humanitarian Emergency, particularly in the drought-affected regions of southern Somalia, continues.

While the *Gu* rains started well in some areas of southern Somalia, they were short-lived and not evenly distributed. The benefit the rains brought was thus marginal with very localized positive impacts. Water availability, pasture

conditions, livestock body conditions and milk production throughout the southern regions varies from average to poor, while cereal and other commodity prices are high. According to FAO/FSAU, *Gu* 2006 cereal production in southern Somalia is 71% of the *Gu* Post War Average and is the third consecutive *Gu* season with below normal cereal production. *Gu* cereal production almost completely failed in the three regions of Hiran, Lower and Middle Juba.

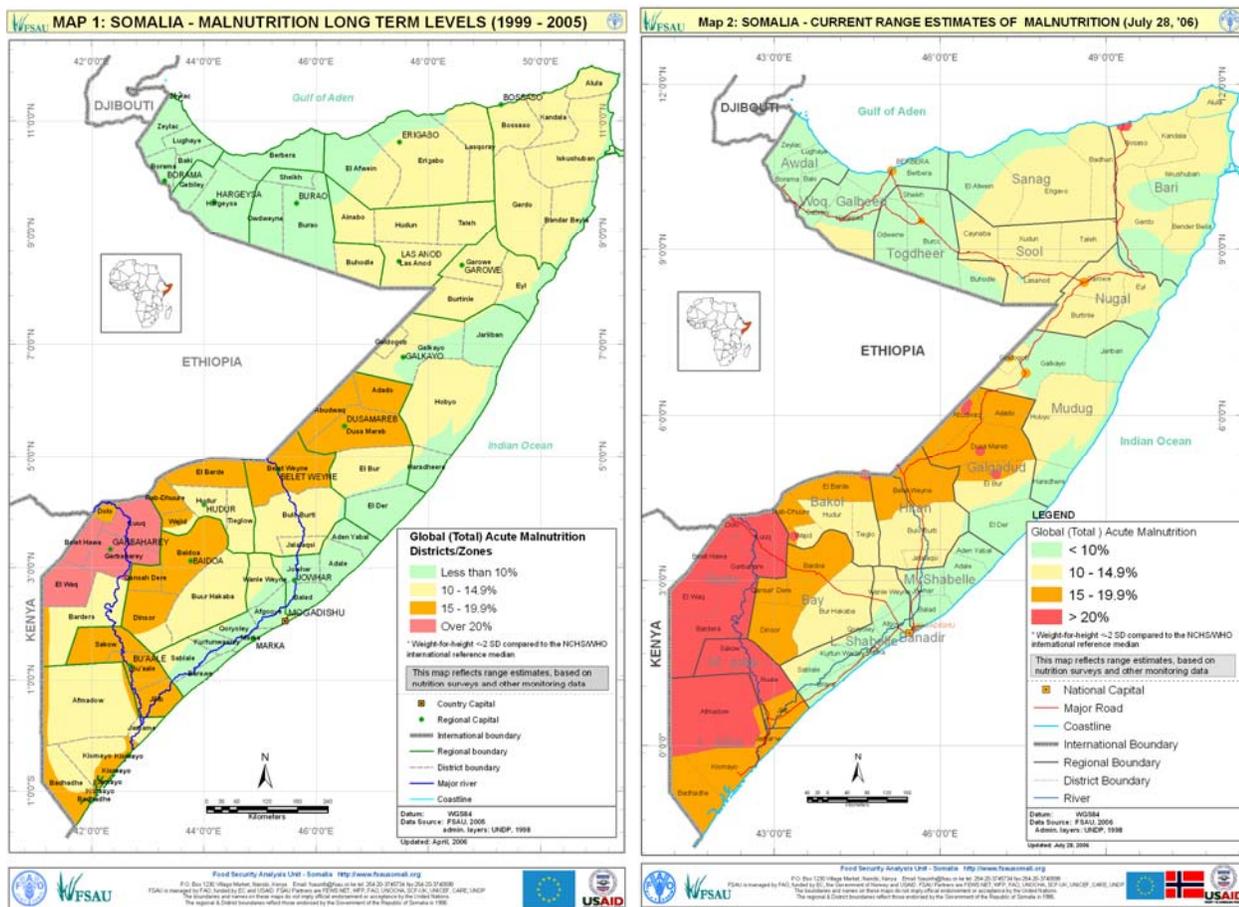
While the *Gu* rains helped avert the worst case scenario of a possible famine in Gedo, the region still remains in a state of Humanitarian Emergency as do Lower and Middle Juba. These regions all continue to experience unacceptably high malnutrition rates, low household purchasing power, high household debt levels, below normal crop production, poor terms of trade, and significant livestock losses. In Gedo, cattle losses are estimated between 40-60%. While there has been some improvement in areas of Bay, of note is the deteriorated situation in Hiran and northern Bakool, both now experiencing an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis.

In the north, the regions of Togdhere, Sool, Sanaag and Bari continue to experience an Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis, however, recovery continues and the number of people in this state is significantly reduced thanks to increased herd sizes, reduced debt levels and generally improved access to rangeland and water.

As planned, as of 31 July 2006, WFP and CARE provisionally stopped general food distribution during the harvest period (Mid July to September 2006). ICRC in mid-July 2006 stopped its relief food distribution in southern Somalia and handed over the caseload to WFP. WFP social support projects such as selective feeding programmes, emergency school feeding, food-for-work, food-for-assets, and food-for-training initiatives will continue.

NUTRITION

For years the nutrition situation in most parts of South and Central Somalia has been of concern with acute malnutrition levels of 10% and above (see FAO/FSAU's Map 1 for long term levels). The FAO/FSAU nutrition surveillance system and recent nutrition assessments conducted by FAO/FSAU and partners (in Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba, Bay and Bakool), indicate that the worrying nutrition situation has deteriorated with acute malnutrition levels of 15% above registered in most of the areas (see FAO/FSAU's Map 2 for current levels).



A nutrition assessment conducted by MSF- Switzerland in July 2006 in Dinsor district (Bay region) reported 19.8% Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and 3.2% Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). These rates reflect a critical nutritional

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situation according to WHO categorization. Vulnerable groups include IDPs in Bossaso and Galkayo, and destitute households whose mainly pastoral livelihoods have collapsed following years of drought, are also currently experiencing deterioration in the nutritional status.

The immediate factors associated with the critical levels of acute malnutrition are poor access to quality diet and increasing incidences of communicable diseases. Underlying factors include limited access to food, safe water and health care services, besides poor child feeding practices.

About 58,000 children are malnourished in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba. To avert mortality, the nutrition response activities have been gradually increasing amidst access and capacity constraints. The number of supplementary feeding programmes in these regions has increased from 10 to more than 24 while community-based therapeutic care programmes have been established in Gedo, Bakool and Middle Juba. The selective feeding coverage has increased from 12% (March) to about 19% (June) of the 58,000 children.

A holistic approach is being taken in responding to the nutrition crisis by ensuring complementary responses with programmes on health, water and sanitation, food aid, food security and livelihood promotion, among others. Treatment of common illnesses and micronutrient supplementation is ongoing during supplementary feeding programmes. Families with malnourished children are receiving family rations and being closely monitored. The food basket in the general food distribution (now temporarily suspended during the harvest period) consisted of fortified blended food to provide micronutrients.

According to a response gap analysis, southern parts of Gedo, Lower Juba and rural areas of Bay region are receiving limited interventions. In order to address this gap, involvement by national NGOs is being sought (despite their limited capacity), and capacity building of national staff from national and international NGOs is ongoing. Due to the uncertainty in the current political environment, contingency plans are also being undertaken to ensure adequate nutritional supplies in the required regions.

The nutrition crisis in southern Somalia is far from over and preparedness measures through to the next rain season should be taken. There is need for continued short-term and long-term humanitarian support to the recovery.

HEALTH

As part of unwavering efforts to stop the further spread of the current polio outbreak in Somalia, a house-to-house immunization campaign targeting 1.6 million under-fives was conducted in Somalia from 16 to 18 July, in synchronization with Ethiopia. Approximately 91% of the target children were vaccinated during this round. Since July last year, when the first case (imported from Yemen) was identified, ten rounds of National Immunization Days (NIDs) and one Sub-national Immunization Day (SNID) have been conducted. Additionally, a special mop-up campaign was used as a prototype in parts of Somalia in May and July. This strategy aims to boost coverage in priority areas in short intervals of time (on three days of a week), and will be implemented using all windows of opportunity possible for accessing areas with high active virus circulation, insecurity, and difficult-to-reach or nomadic populations.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, Somalia has confirmed 213 wild poliovirus cases, out of which 28 were identified in 2006. The last case was identified in June 2006, in Abudwak, Galgadud region. Although cases reported in Mogadishu have declined (85% of the cases reported last year were from Mogadishu, compared to a mere 25% this year), the outbreak has spread to other regions, leaving 13 out of Somalia's 19 regions infected with the crippling virus. In line with the recommendations made during the cross-border meeting -- held in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia in July, the polio Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the HoA will convene in Addis Ababa from 14 to 16 August, 2006. Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Sudan and Somalia will be represented. This meeting will review the current situation and progress of polio eradication in the Horn of Africa countries, and neighboring countries; ensure that countries share experiences, discuss issues of interest in common areas where there is virus circulation, and design synchronized vaccination strategies to ensure better access and improved campaign quality. In addition to the resource mobilization efforts made thus far by WHO and UNICEF for Somalia, donor agencies were approached to explore the possibilities of securing joint funding for Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti. With regard to this, a submission for CERF funding is currently underway at HQ level. The next NID for Somalia is scheduled for 10 September 2006.

The measles vaccination campaign in Mogadishu, interrupted in May 2006 due to fighting between the Islamic Courts and the ARPCT, resumed on 29 July. Conducted by WHO, UNICEF, health partners and in coordination with the Islamic Courts the campaign began in the districts of Waberi, Abdul Aziz and Hamarweyne, continued in Hamar Jab Jab on 31 July, and in Heliwa on 1 August. Training for the campaign also started in Yaqshid (South) on 1 August. It is expected that the six districts will finish the measles campaign by 15 August. The measles vaccination campaign in the remaining districts of Bay (Baidoa and Dinsor) and Gedo regions (Garbaharrey and Buurdhuubo Districts) was successfully concluded during the month of July and therefore all districts of the five drought affected regions of South/Central Somalia have been covered.

On 15 July, a team comprising OCHA, WHO, and WFP representatives undertook a rapid assessment in various Mogadishu health facilities to identify needs, gaps and priorities for medical care, particularly in view of the high caseload of patients following the fighting in the capital in early July. The team visited Medina hospital, Temporary Benadir II, Ramadan, Hyat, Ayan, Hassan Jiis, and Ubeyi Ibnu Kabeb health facilities. According to information collected from all sites, out of 567 patients admitted, 14 had died, 190 had been discharged and 363 remained hospitalized. Medina hospital is fully serviced by ICRC while the priorities identified in the other facilities included fuel for generators, food for patients, emergency medical kits/supplies and cleaning materials. Between 18 and 19 July, WHO supplied one Emergency Health Kit containing supplies for 10,000 people for a period of three months, and other participating organizations have also committed assistance.

WATER and SANITATION

Partners working in the water and sanitation sector continue to focus support to the rehabilitation of water management infrastructure. According to data, the response coverage in the drought affected areas is as follows: Bakool 46%, Bay 20%, Gedo 11%, Middle Juba 12% and Lower Juba 13%.

Efforts in Bay are concentrated on extending the rehabilitated boreholes with mini-water supply systems reaching out to 4,500 beneficiaries per water supply system. In Bakool, gaps have been identified in El Berde and Tyee glow. In Gedo, gaps have been identified in Gedwein, Dolow, Luuq, Garbahare and Burdubo. Partners are being encouraged to expand activities in the rehabilitation of boreholes. In the Juba regions, needs have been identified to upscale activities in hygiene and sanitation and deepening of shallow wells. World Vision International, COOPI, and Save the Children UK are undertaking and programming activities in respective areas to fill the gaps. UNICEF has started community hygiene awareness promotion training in different locations in all drought affected zones. In Mogadishu, chlorination activities are being conducted by partners and sanitation tools have been provided to organize a clean up in town. Partners are also planning to upscale activities in rehabilitating boreholes and deepening shallow wells, activities long delayed due to insecurity.

HIV/AIDS

The South Central AIDS Commission (SCAC), launched in March of this year, is the youngest of the three AIDS Commissions in Somalia and as such still requires some institutional support (Commissions for Somaliland and Puntland established in 2005). UN Agencies and partners in the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) met with the SCAC, the TFG Prime Minister and other Ministers of the TFG on July 4 to discuss modalities for the strengthening of the SCAC to raise it to the operational level of its counterparts in Puntland and Somaliland. As a result of the meeting, a consultant was deployed to the SCAC for a period of five months to guide it in coordinating the response for the area and formulate an integrated plan for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. A key outcome of this process will be to bring the 11 regional HIV/AIDS working groups in South Central Somalia, originally formed through the facilitation of UNICEF for coordination purposes, under the umbrella of SCAC for more effective coordination.

A Somali delegation made up of Executive Directors from the AIDS Commissions of Puntland, South Central Somalia and Somaliland participated in a regional workshop on "HIV/AIDS: Vulnerability and cross-border mobility in the Horn of Africa" in Djibouti from 28 June to 3 July 2006. The meeting's objective was to obtain a common vision for action and outline concrete steps towards a sustainable partnership for reducing HIV/AIDS vulnerability arising from high cross-border movements in the Horn of Africa. This is an important initiative for Somalis given the relatively higher HIV prevalence in neighbouring countries like Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia. As cross-border movement is one of the factors that creates vulnerability to HIV infection, a partnership and joint regional strategic plan is urgently needed. An interim regional working group, chaired in the interim by Minister of Health of Djibouti, was formed at this meeting. A follow up meeting of Ministers of Health from the region will be held in September 2006 to formalise the partnership and formulate a strategic plan.

COORDINATION and CONSOLIDATED APPEALS PROCESS (CAP)

Given events over the past couple of months, IASC partners have been developing a contingency plan to ensure adequate preparedness and response plans for the delivery of humanitarian assistance along various possible political and security-related scenarios. One of the factors being closely monitored is the movement of people as there exists a potential for new displacement (internal and cross-border) in the near future. In this regard, UNHCR is leading the development of response plans should such displacement occur. A Regional UNHCR Contingency Planning meeting took place on 7 August between UNHCR Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda to detail a coordinated response. According to FAO/FSAU, if there is any widespread fighting resulting from heightened tension in the political environment, the number of people affected in terms of food security and livelihoods could be as high as 2.7 million, including estimates of new displacement. Given the dynamic environment, the contingency plan will be reviewed regularly.

The interagency evaluation mission on the response to the 2006 drought in the Horn of Africa will soon start. Initiated by UNICEF at HQ and presented by a joint team (UNICEF, WFP and OCHA) to the Somalia IASC in June, the evaluation will be implemented in three countries - Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia - and will focus on the timeliness and appropriateness of the drought response during the first six months of 2006. There will be special emphasis on early warning systems, CERF resource mobilization and the cluster leadership approach. The evaluation will be conducted in Somalia from 14 to 31 August, in Ethiopia in September, and in Kenya in October. The emphasis of the assessment will be on consultation with staff from humanitarian actors and to the extent possible, with beneficiaries. The preliminary findings of the assessment in Somalia will be presented during the 2007 Somalia CAP workshop in Nairobi and feed into the CAP.

The 2007 Humanitarian Appeal Process has started. Following on from last year's experience, and with the aim of involving as many local partners and stakeholders as possible in identifying the most pressing humanitarian needs and strategic priorities for 2007, two in-country mini-workshops took place in Hargeisa (6 August) and Garowe (9 August). A third workshop is scheduled in Baidoa for 16 August, while a fourth workshop is presently being discussed with the Islamic Courts to take place in Mogadishu. The final CAP workshop in Nairobi will be held on 30-31 August.

2006 Somalia CAP¹	
Sector	% Received
Agriculture	9
Coordination & Support Services	46
Economic Recovery	0
Education	9
Food	65
Health	12
Multi-sector	30
Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law	14
Security	10
Shelter & Non-Food Items	0
Water & Sanitation	46
TOTAL	49

In terms of the 2006 Somalia CAP, over US\$157 million has been received out of the requested US\$ 323,819,942, or 49% of the Appeal. An added US\$ 5 million is pledged. There is no change in the sectoral funding situation with sectors enabling the provision of basic social services and livelihood recovery still poorly covered. Now that general food distribution has been temporarily suspended during the harvest period, donors are called upon to provide generous funding for health and water interventions to help alleviate the nutritional crisis. Similarly, to help rebuild the livelihoods of Somalis, more funds must be made available for the agriculture and education sector.

**Throughout 2005/2006, OCHA Somalia has received funding from:
Australia, ECHO, Ireland, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom**

¹ For more information on the funding status, visit: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc105?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-635PL7>
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