



UNITED NATIONS

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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Somalia

Situation Report # 47 – 28 November, 2008

Key Overall Developments

This week, Mogadishu experienced some of its heaviest fighting in months. Fighting escalated over the weekend of 22-23 November in seven out of the 16 districts in the city. The number of civilian deaths is estimated to be at least 55 and the number of wounded more than 80, according to hospital records. In Medina district alone, 24 people including six children, were killed as Transitional Federal Government troops clashed with insurgents.

UNHCR estimates that more than 100,000 people have been forced to flee the violence in Mogadishu since 1 September 2008. Some 45,000 of these moved to relatively safer areas in Mogadishu while others went to the Afgooye corridor, adding to the population of more than 360,000 displaced people living in appalling conditions. The total displacement from Mogadishu this year is estimated at 250,000 people.

On 20 November, a team of WFP staff members and local administration conducted a rapid assessment of flood-affected districts in Lower and Middle Juba regions. Findings show that large areas of cultivated farms in Sakow, Salagle Jilib and Bu'aale districts were flooded and crops damaged. Food reserves stored in underground pits were also destroyed. The assessment concluded that about 1,000 affected households in the four districts are in need of humanitarian assistance including food aid. It is estimated that some 1,400 households have been affected by the recent floods in Southern Somalia.

On 27 November, an explosion occurred on the road between Bu'aale airport and the WFP compound in Bu'aale while a WFP convoy with staff members was passing. A device allegedly exploded underneath one of the vehicles. The staff members safely escaped the incident.

FAO's Food Security Analysis Unit reported that the outlook for the ongoing *Deyr* rains (short rainy season from late September to December) is promising and expected to be normal throughout Somalia. Grazing and water availability has improved country-wide and cereal crop harvest is expected to be good in main producing areas of the South. Depending on the outcome of the cereal harvest and prices, in areas of good crop production (Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions), the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance could decline over the coming six months.

NATO and Dutch Naval Frigates successfully escorted three vessels with 18,730 mt of WFP food shipments to Marka and Mogadishu between 23-27 November.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) could not confirm recent media reports concerning a high number of deaths in Cabudwaaq district, Galgaduud region, due to the reported outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD). According to WHO data received from eight health facilities in Galgaduud region between 1 January and 7 November 2008, a total of 2,105 cases of AWD including 26 deaths were reported from the region. This figure includes 302 cases and 25 deaths from Cabudwaaq. The trend in Cabudwaaq showed a sharp increase in reported cases from the first week of October, reaching a peak during the third week of October. No new cases have been reported since the first week of November. The Somali Red Crescent Society and ICRC responded to the October outbreak by sending medical supplies for case management and chlorine for disinfection of wells.

Two international journalists were abducted on Wednesday 26 November. They were abducted by an unidentified armed group in Bossaso, Puntland. Two other foreign journalists were abducted in August in Mogadishu and are still in captivity.

Response

During the week, WFP distributed 2,838 mt of assorted food commodities for 223,688 beneficiaries in South/Central and Northern Somalia. Some 16,000 beneficiaries of Food For Work received 796 mt of mixed food commodities in Marka, Lower Shabelle. Another 1,070 mt of mixed food was distributed through general food distribution and wet feeding to 128,727 beneficiaries including IDPs in Mogadishu and Marka.

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