



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Somalia

Situation Report # 48 – 5 December, 2008

Key Overall Developments

The 2009 Somalia Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) was launched in Nairobi on 1 December 2008 appealing for just over US\$918 million in support of some 200 projects from 14 United Nations agencies, 32 International NGOs and 39 National NGOs. The increase in scope and funding size of the Somalia appeal from US\$662 million in 2008 to US\$918 million for 2009 reflects not only the dramatic increase in the number of people in need (3.2 million) but also the sharp rise in commodity and delivery costs for Somalia.

“What we are looking at today is a situation in which nearly half the population is in crisis or need of assistance. There is no doubt it has reached an undeniable level of immensity,” said UN Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator, Mr. Mark Bowden. “Without question, throughout 2008, humanitarian operations have struggled to address the widening crisis and support the growing number of vulnerable populations in an environment of shrinking humanitarian space. In this difficult environment, humanitarian operations have overall delivered what was needed where it was needed in a timely manner. In addition to an integrated response for health, nutrition, water and sanitation for immediate life-saving purposes, parallel livelihood support is urgently needed to prevent households from falling into intractable poverty given the high food prices, loss of assets and lack of access to food. We can, and we must, do this in 2009.”

The 2008 humanitarian appeal for Somalia was 70% funded as of 4 December 2008. However, there are some variations in funding levels between sectors - safety & security for staff (8%), agriculture & livelihoods (24%), health (40%), education (42%) and protection (42%).

The latest nutrition surveys conducted by the UN Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) in October and November confirm the continuing humanitarian crisis, particularly in central Somalia where some levels of severe malnutrition are nearly 6% compared to 3% in May 2008. The emergency threshold is 4%. FSAU highlighted the urgent need for livelihood and humanitarian interventions to save lives and livelihoods.

WFP reported that some 1,250 mt of food aid in 41 trucks crossed the Kenya-Somalia border into Gedo, Lower and Middle Juba regions of Somalia through Mandera and Liboi border following the reopening of the border posts on 28 November. The Kenya Government had closed the border even for the passage of relief cargo due to security concerns triggered by the abductions of two nuns in El Waaq, Northern Kenya, on 10 November. Trans-border deliveries of humanitarian food aid into Southern Somalia were hampered, causing decreased deliveries for November distributions.

On 30 November, a ship delivering 11,000 mt of sorghum, Corn Soya Blend (CSB) and vegetable oil safely arrived at Berbera port, Somaliland. The vessel sailed from Mombasa through the piracy plagued Somali waters under NATO escort for ten days on the seas. This is the first shipment from Mombasa to Berbera in the recent past. Most shipments to Berbera and Bossaso ports originate from Djibouti.

Response

During the reporting week, WFP dispatched a total of 1,366 mt food aid targeting 368,322 beneficiaries in Northeastern and South Central Somalia.

WFP plans to distribute 27,630 mt of food to 1.6 million Somalis in December across Somalia. Among the beneficiaries for the month include 260,860 vulnerable Somalis targeted under a social support programme (including nutrition interventions), 656,980 internally displaced persons and 420,280 vulnerable Somalis targeted through general food distribution as well as 111,900 beneficiaries through Food for Work and training. Insecurity in some parts of Somalia is the main likely challenge that may affect the distribution plan for December.