



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Somalia

### **Situation Report # 51 – 26 December, 2008**

#### **Key Overall Developments**

On 21 December, a fire swept across Sakow town in Middle Juba completely destroying the homes of an estimated 721 families in a densely populated section of the town. One child was reportedly killed and seven adults severely injured due to the fire. The cause was accidental. A local NGO, SDIO, UNICEF and WFP immediately intervened and provided food aid and family relief kits to the 721 families (4,326 people) displaced by the fire.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is seeking US\$92 million to ease the plight of 230,000 Somalis living in the Dadaab refugee complex in north-eastern Kenya. The complex is overcrowded and can no longer accommodate newly arrived Somali refugees. The three existing Dadaab refugee camps – Ifo, Hagadera and Dagahaley – were built in 1991 to host 90,000 refugees. The continuing conflict in Somalia has led to a steady inflow of refugees over the subsequent years, and this shows no sign of easing up. In 2008 alone, more than 60,000 Somalis have crossed the border into Kenya. UNHCR, together with the Kenyan Government, is searching for more land to construct two new camps, which would each shelter up to 60,000 people.

On 25 December, UNICEF and WHO launched Child Health Days in Hargeysa, Somaliland. More than 1.5 million children under the age of five and women of child-bearing age all across Somalia will benefit from the package of preventive care delivered in local communities. Interventions comprise child immunization against measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and polio; Vitamin A supplementation; nutritional assessments; de-worming; the distribution of oral rehydration salts and water purification tablets; breastfeeding promotion; and tetanus toxoid vaccination of girls and women aged 15 to 49.

Speaking at the launch event, UNICEF Representative for Somalia, Christian Balslev-Olesen said “This campaign is historic because it marks the launch of multi-million dollar strategy to improve the survival rates of all Somali children. It is our largest ever campaign and it relies on partnerships for its outreach and its success. By working in partnership, we are aiming to reach every single child under the age of five with this high-impact life-saving package of interventions. Working together, we can protect children and their mothers against preventable diseases.”