

Key Overall Developments

On 20 July, three United Nations agencies – UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) - operations were banned by Al Shabaab in areas they control. Following the ban through a press statement, Al Shabaab militia entered the Baidoa and Waajid compounds and looted emergency communication equipment, furniture and vehicles. The UN relocated its international staff and temporarily suspended operations in Baidoa. The UN in Somalia issued a press statement on the same day saying that it expects authorities to reconsider these decisions and allow critical humanitarian assistance to continue in Baidoa and its surroundings. The UN Secretary-General also condemned the incident saying, “The UN is providing life-saving support to people in need throughout Somalia, and will continue to do all it can to help the country emerge from decades of violence.”

On 17 July, three foreign aid workers were abducted from a Kenyan boarder town and taken into Somalia by unknown Somali gunmen. Their whereabouts are unknown. On 21 July, a staff member of the Somali Red Crescent Society was killed in crossfire in the centre of Mogadishu as he was traveling in a public transport vehicle. Since January, eight humanitarian aid workers have lost their lives in Somalia.

During the week, fighting between government forces and insurgents raged on in Mogadishu in Hodan, Dharkenley, Wardhiigleey, Boondheere and Karaan districts. At least 40 people were killed and over 60 others were wounded. Since 1 June, 141,000 people have been displaced from Mogadishu with 39,000 moving to other areas within the city, 37,000 have moved in the Afgooye corridor and 64,000 have gone to other parts of the country.

The Famine Early Warning Network (FEWSNET) said in an update on 18 July, that the food security situation in Somalia is not expected to improve significantly over the next six months and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance could remain high. This is due to increased armed conflict, displacement and drought in the country. Results from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) post-*Gu* seasonal assessment in August will help to further refine this outlook.

WFP urgently requires 209,000 metric tons of food (US\$208 million) to avert the current pipeline break to feed 3.5 million Somalis for six out of the remaining eight months of the planned emergency operations. The pipeline break would affect over 1 million vulnerable IDPs and relief beneficiaries. More than 500,000 malnourished children, pregnant and lactating women would also lose their major source of nutrition, and nearly 100,000 children would miss their school meals.

Response

During the week, WFP and partners distributed 432 metric tons of food commodities to 3,675 beneficiaries under food for work, institutional feeding and general food distribution programmes in Hargeysa, Awdal and Togdheer regions in Somaliland. Some 112,830 people benefited from general food distributions in Galgaduud, Gedo and Bakool regions while another 7,134 beneficiaries received supplementary feeding in south Gaalkacyo in Mudug region.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners continue with water trucking initiatives in Togdheer and parts of Sanaag regions. Even with the current interventions, emergency water needs remain high in these regions, including Sool region. Nutrition cluster partners are responding to needs reaching more than 6,000 people in Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer regions.

In Gedo region, Veterinaires Sans Frontieres has been conducting an animal vaccination campaign reaching over 50,000 animals including sheep, goats, camels and cattle. The campaign aims at enhancing livelihoods by improving animal health.

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