

Key Overall Developments

During the week, some humanitarian operations in Middle Juba region, Somalia were halted. This followed forced entry into the compounds of several international NGOs by Al Shabaab who also made away with materials, computers, office and store keys.

The situation in Mogadishu was relatively calm during the reporting period except for sporadic attacks on government forces' bases. UNHCR reported that nearly 57,000 people have been displaced since 1 July 2009, with 21,000 displaced within Mogadishu. Some 36,000 people are reported to have left Mogadishu for other parts of the country.

The World Breastfeeding week was observed from 1-7 August, with the theme 'Breastfeeding, a Vital Emergency Response'. In Somalia, two of the key contributing factors of high global acute malnutrition levels of 18.6 percent (emergency threshold 15 percent) are delayed initiation of breastfeeding and the use of unhygienically prepared formula and powdered milk. In a press statement issued on 31 July, UNICEF stated that exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months would be one of the most effective life-saving interventions for thousands of children in Somalia, where one child in every ten dies before its first birthday. UNICEF is committed to mobilizing resources to expand efforts of promoting and supporting breastfeeding.

On 4 August, the UNHCR High Commissioner for Refugees visited Dadaab Refugee camp in North Eastern Kenya highlighting the 'dramatic' Somali refugee crisis and called on the international community for more help. The long-term refugee population of nearly 300,000 urgently needs improved infrastructure, including water distribution networks and expanded services such as health and education. An average 6,500 Somalis arrived at the camps each month during the first half of 2009, putting a further strain on the overstretched resources.

Field consultations for the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) 2010 will take place next week, on 10 August in Hargeysa, Somaliland and on 12 August in Garowe, Puntland. These workshops will review the 2009 achievements and discuss the needs and response for 2010 based on scenario planning.

Response

During the week, WFP completed a nutrition screening exercise in Afmadow district, Lower Juba region. Some 4,500 vulnerable people, majority of them children under five years, expectant and lactating women will benefit from 190 metric tons of food through a targeted supplementary feeding programme (SFP). Further screening is ongoing in Dobley district in the same region. In August, WFP will assist around 70,000 people under SFP in Somalia.

In Bay and Bakool regions, WFP distributed 890 metric tons of SFP benefiting 76,500 people, while some 256,000 people received 3,125 metric tons of food under the General Food Distribution programme in Hiraan region. In Hobyo district, south Mudug, a total of 3,200 people benefited from a blanket supplementary feeding program while in Puntland, WFP and partner Danish Refugee Council distributed 1,638 metric tons of food to 112,000 IDPs and urban poor in Bossaso and its environs.

During the week, UNICEF completed the construction of a 2 km water network to provide safe drinking water. The structure also included a 40 m³ storage tank and 10 water kiosks benefiting some 16,900 IDPs and host communities in Kaa Shiqal camp in Banadir district. Over 10,500 people mainly new IDP arrivals, will benefit from 200 newly constructed latrines in Gubadley, Xaji Abdi, Cel-cadde, Cel-macan, Galgalato and Fiiq IDP camps in north Mogadishu and 150 latrines in Kaq Shiqal in South Mogadishu.

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