

Key Overall Developments

WFP urgently needs 217,000 metric tons of food - US\$218 million - to feed 3.5 million people by the end of October when stocks will run-out. The latest Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) assessment says half the Somali population, or 3.8 million people – an 18 percent leap from 3.2 million in only six months - are in need of assistance. WFP is calling for critical donor contributions to avert a looming humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia.

On 29 and 30 August, some 16 Somalis died crossing the Gulf of Aden when smugglers pushed passengers to one side of the boat. In another incident, smugglers who feared detection by Yemeni authorities forced more than 40 passengers to swim ashore; three people drowned and three were reported missing and presumed dead. Since January, more than 36,000 people, including at least 16,000 Somalis have attempted the dangerous journey, which costs between US\$ 120 – 130. The state of insecurity and the prevailing drought situation in Somalia are the key factors driving people to seek a better life in Yemen and beyond; the majority of the migrants are from South/Central regions.

Somali refugees continue to stream into the over-stretched Dadaab refugee camp in northeastern Kenya. More than 45,000 new arrivals from Somalia have been registered this year, mainly from South/Central regions and especially Mogadishu. By the end of August, the overall population in Dadaab stood at 288,000 people, a 23 percent increase since January. The refugees are living in squalid conditions due to lack of basic services and overcrowding. Agencies working in the area have warned of a public health emergency in the camps, needing urgent attention. On 3 September, Oxfam International issued a press statement saying, “Somalis flee one of the world’s most brutal conflicts and desperate drought, only to end up in unimaginable conditions in camps that are barely fit for humans ...” They called on the international community to commit to end suffering in Somalia. In August, UNHCR and IOM relocated 3,258 of the planned 12,900 Somali refugees from Dadaab to Kakuma camp, northwest Kenya, to ease the congestion.

The total number of IDPs in Somalia now stands at 1.55 million countrywide with 524,000 in the Afgooye corridor. However, UNHCR strongly emphasizes that these figures are estimates and are based largely upon data from the Population Movement Tracking, a system designed to determine movement and not cumulative population data.

On 28 August, a Mother and Child Health centre was raided in Jamaame, Middle Juba region, by armed militia who looted cold chain equipment used to preserve vaccines.

Response

WFP and partners distributed 554 metric tons of food to 53,500 beneficiaries under various programmes in Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer and Awdal regions in Somaliland. In Iskushuban, Puntland, 1,400 beneficiaries received 18 metric tons of food under the food for training programme, while in the South/Central regions of Bakool, Bay and Gedo, some 13,500 people also received food. At least 42,600 children below 5 years of age benefited from a blanket supplementary feeding programme in the Mudug and Galgaduud regions. In Hagar and Afmadow districts, Lower Juba, 4,200 received food commodities under a supplementary feeding programme.

Some 15,000 people are benefiting from cash for food/work and micro-credit activities in Somaliland supported by UNDP, Danish Refugee Council and Action Aid. This will help inject the much needed cash and food, to families affected by the hash drought and economic times.

On 30 August, Mercy Corps started the construction of 60 latrines in three drought affected villages in Bossaso, Puntland to benefit up to 2,000 people.

During the week, UNICEF and local partners reached 7,500 IDP children under five years of age in Baidoa, Bay region, with high energy biscuits as a one-time distribution to supplement their regular diet.

The distribution of the third round of Plumpy’doz, food rich in micronutrients, was completed during the week in all targeted areas in Somaliland, reaching 14,500. In Puntland, nearly 10,000 children were screened for malnutrition and provided with UNIMIX – a food supplement.

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