

Key Overall Developments

In light of the precarious pipeline, and as part of an ongoing strategic review, WFP Somalia has started to phase out support to Maternal and Child Health Nutrition programmes in 12 centers in Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions. WFP is prioritizing life-saving interventions such as targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP). In Central Somalia, WFP is completing distributions for Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP), as initially planned before switching to Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes (TSFP). The final BSFP food distribution of 1,172 metric tones (CSB, vegetable oil and sugar) targeting 135,134 children under five years in the central regions of Somalia (over 90 percent of the population under five years 6-59 months) is ongoing. The transition to TSFP is likely to be delayed due to the current security situation and possible pipeline break.

Somalia's commodity prices, including rice and sorghum have declined by an average 44 percent since March 2008, which can be attributed to decreased global food prices, food aid deliveries, and a good 2009 crop harvest in parts of southern Somalia. According to a 'Price Watch' report issued on 9 September by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), Somalia is the only country in East Africa where all commodity prices have dipped below last year's level. However, even though prices in Somalia are declining, the cost of living in the country remains very high. The FEWSNET's report states that between August and December, food insecurity will worsen especially among the urban poor in the drought affected regions of Hiraan, Galgaduud, Mudug, Nugaal, Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer. Income and food sources for poor urban households in these regions are strongly linked to livestock markets and trade, which are seriously affected by the drought.

There were numerous attacks on TFG bases in Mogadishu during the week, with more than 50 people killed and at least 80 others wounded. According to Elman Human Rights Group based in Mogadishu both Islamist insurgent groups and government forces are launching attacks in residential areas.

On 6 September, authorities in Puntland issued a decree ordering roughly 1,100 households (6,600 people) to vacate two settlements occupied by IDPs and the host community in Gaalkacyo town, Mudug region. The IDPs were given until 13 September to relocate, though it is not clear whether the authorities will enforce the decree. Protection cluster partners in Gaalkacyo and in Nairobi are consulting with the authorities on this issue.

Response

WFP and partners distributed 368 metric tones of assorted food commodities to 28,074 (17,088 females and 10,986 males) beneficiaries under the Supplementary Feeding Programme in various districts of Bakool, Bay and Gedo regions of South/Central Somalia. In Puntland North East Somalia, WFP and its cooperating partner, SERDO, distributed roughly 50 metric tones of assorted food commodities to 2,052 beneficiaries under a 'Food for Work' programme in Qawlo location of Taleex District, Sool region.

World Vision International in Bu'aale, Middle Juba, is rehabilitating two water dams in Hargant village and also conducting water chlorination activities in eight drought affected villages.

WAWA, a women's umbrella group in Bossaso, Puntland, registered 10,600 IDP women in 23 settlements for the distribution of the first phase of sanitary supplies. These supplies will be instrumental in achieving better sanitation and hygiene among the poor and vulnerable females in IDP settlements.

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