

In the third quarter of 2009, the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) continued to compliment efforts by the humanitarian community to respond to the continuing crisis in Somalia. This included support for populations affected by ongoing insecurity, persistent drought and the deteriorating food security in the South Central and North Regions.

The escalation of fighting in Mogadishu led to further displacement into already overcrowded camps along the Afgooye corridor. In order to ease the consequent pressure on scarce facilities, HRF supported the WASH cluster's efforts to ensure adequate access to safe water and sanitation. In a bid to reduce the ratio of latrines:people, HRF funded Intersos' and GSA's construction of 1298 latrines to benefit 64,900 people. In addition, it supported Oxfam GB's efforts to improve access to safe drinking water through the extension of the water distribution network in the Xawa Cabdi settlements for 45,000 displaced people.

The ongoing drought continued to exert a heavy toll on communities in the country, necessitating support for emergency WASH and livelihood interventions. In the northern regions of Bari and Sanaag, HRF's provision of US\$0.55million enabled over 150,000 people to benefit from water trucking. Other WASH activities supported included the drilling of a well and construction of a water distribution system by YME and GSA to benefit drought affected communities and their livestock in Jilable and Matabaan in Galgaduud Region.

In cognisance of the effects of the deteriorating food security situation compounded by the drought on poor vulnerable households, HRF supported two projects designed to restore livelihoods. This included a KISIMA run restocking and agricultural input distribution project targeting 2,450 destitute and mostly female headed households in Lower Juba and SSWC cash for work project in Galgaduud. The latter project had the added value of ensuring environmental hygiene through garbage collection and disposal in four villages. In response to worsening malnutrition in Galgaduud and Bardaale, Bay Regions, HRF funded nutrition activities by CISP and World Vision in the two areas targeting over 6,000 children.

The extremely high temperatures during the dry season normally lead to frequent fire outbreaks in internally displaced settlements in Bossaso, Puntland largely because of the highly inflammable shelter building material. In order to reduce losses from such fires, and improve preparedness, HRF funded an intervention by NRC to stockpile emergency kits and provide fire retardant tents to 485 families in Bossaso. A concomitant intervention by the same NGO to improve the living conditions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Somaliland through the construction of 300 temporary shelters was also funded.

While an earlier cholera outbreak had been successfully contained, it underscored the importance of the Health Cluster having adequate preventative and response capacity to deal with outbreaks. To this end, HRF stepped in to fill a critical funding gap faced by WHO in support of its emergency preparedness and response to outbreaks. It further funded the agency's efforts to ensure the continuity of life saving health services for over 200,000 pregnant women and children in Bay and Lower Shabelle.

By the end of September, 2009 HRF had received new funding totalling approximately \$3.3million in addition to the carryover from last year of \$7.8million. However, the level of

identified needs has outstripped the flow of funding with the result that HRF's funding balance is currently at a low of \$2.1 million. Unless pledges are honoured soon, HRF will be hard pressed to fulfil its funding obligations in the last quarter of 2009.

This notwithstanding, over two million people have benefitted from \$7.9m disbursed to 40 projects by the end of September. The disbursements reflected cluster prioritisation with WASH receiving \$4.1m or 52% of funding, followed by Agriculture and Livelihoods with \$1.3m at 16%. Other sectoral allocations included Health \$1.2m (15.8%), Shelter \$0.52m (6.6%), Food \$0.5m (6.3%), and Nutrition \$0.24m (3%). In general, South and Central received 70% of HRF allocations underscoring the deepening crisis in the region. In terms of regional allocations, Puntland topped in funding receipts followed by Lower Shabelle, Galgaduud, Mogadishu, the Jubas, Hiraa, Gedo, Somaliland and Bakool. International NGOs received 48% of the funding, local NGOs received 43%, and UN agencies ten percent. In terms of numbers of projects funded, international NGOs had 19, local NGOs 17, and UN agencies four.