

MAIN ISSUES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

The security situation throughout South/Central Somalia remains unchanged with heavy fighting during the reporting period particularly in Mogadishu, resulting in significant displacement and civilian deaths.

- Approximately 25,000 people were displaced in September 2009 throughout Somalia, out of which roughly 13,000 people were displaced due to insecurity in Mogadishu¹.
- The month of September saw a high number of war-wounded with 407 admitted to the main surgical hospitals in Mogadishu in September 2009², bringing the total number of war-wounded admitted to these two facilities this year to 3,901. The true scale of civilian loss is not known due to the lack of official records and the lack of access to key areas of conflict.

KEY CONSTRAINTS ON ACCESS

OCHA - Somalia and its partners monitor the following categories of access issues³:

1. Military operations and ongoing activities impeding humanitarian interventions

The security situation in and around Mogadishu further deteriorated due to clashes between TFG/AMISOM forces and insurgents during the reporting period. For example:

- 01 September, insurgents launched attacks against TFG/AMISOM forces based in Sayidka, Debka, Siigale, Eel-garweyne, in Hawl Wadaag and Hodan districts. Both sides exchanged heavy weapon's fire, resulting in the death of ten people and more than 30 wounded.
- 05 September, insurgents launched attacks on the TFG/AMISOM bases along Makka Al Mukarama road, Bakara-market, Sta-geed, Florence hotel road junction, Taleh, Sigale, in Hodan, Hawl Wadaag and Wardhiigleey districts. Fourteen people were killed while more than 35 were wounded.
- 17 September, a suicide bomb attack occurred at the former Halane training Camp, AMISOM's main base, in Medina district adjacent to Mogadishu airport. In the incident 17 AMISOM forces were killed, and more than 35 were wounded. Following the attack, both sides exchanged heavy weapon's fire, with artillery rounds detonating in the residential areas of Hodan, Hawl Wadaag and Daynile districts killing more than 15 people and wounding over 22 people.
- 22 September, fighting between TFG/AMISOM forces and insurgents occurred along Makka al Mukarama road, Hodan and Hawl Wadaag districts, Mogadishu, with several mortars landing in residential areas, including Bakara market. Eight people were killed and more than 15 injured.

Although it is difficult to provide a comprehensive picture on the impact of the ongoing hostilities on humanitarian response, the continued violence in Mogadishu hinders the implementation of humanitarian activities. Nevertheless, 15 out of 16 sites, where wet feeding is provided, continue to be operational in Mogadishu. Only one site in Cabdalcasiis district remains closed since 29 June 2009, resulting approximately in 5,000 beneficiaries not having access to a daily meal.

¹ UNHCR sources.

² Medina and Keysane Hospitals in Mogadishu, 04 – 30 September 2009.

³ The figures quoted are collected from various sources and represent OCHA's most reliable estimates. However, under-reporting and validation of events are chronic challenges; therefore, these figures should be considered indicative.

2. Impediments and restrictions to agencies

- 24 September, the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Puntland announced the appointment of an Aid Coordinator to strengthen the interface between coordination mechanisms for assistance programs in Puntland. The working modalities of this new structure are yet to be elaborated. As a result the consequences on the humanitarian organizations working in this area remain unclear.
- On several occasions in March and June 2009, the Office of the President of Puntland issued a letter, which stated that tax exemptions would not be granted to UN and NGOs operating in Puntland on imported items that are available, or could be procured by local contractors in Puntland. In September, the Puntland authorities acted, and refused to provide tax exemptions for goods imported by the humanitarian agencies. This practice is expected to have a negative impact on the ability of many agencies to deliver assistance in this area.

3. Restrictions or delays in movement of goods

Limited restrictions on the transport of humanitarian goods occurred in September 2009, as most check points are restricted to the entrance/exit of main towns, with the exception of Mogadishu where there are check points within the city.

4. Incidents involving humanitarian workers and assets

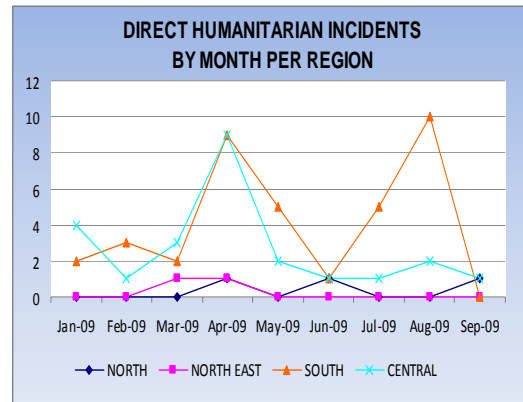
No aid worker was killed, and no abductions of humanitarian staff occurred during the reporting period. However, eight aid workers have been killed since the beginning of the year, and 13 are still being held in Somalia. Most of these aid workers have been in captivity since 2008⁴.

Approximately 75 security incidents occurred in September 2009. Out of these, only two incidents directly targeted humanitarian workers and assets. A reason for such a marked reduction could be the decreased UN and NGO international presence throughout Somalia during the reporting period.

Since 19 May, the UNICEF compound in Jowhar town, Middle Shabelle region remains occupied by Al Shabaab forces and is inaccessible to UNICEF staff.



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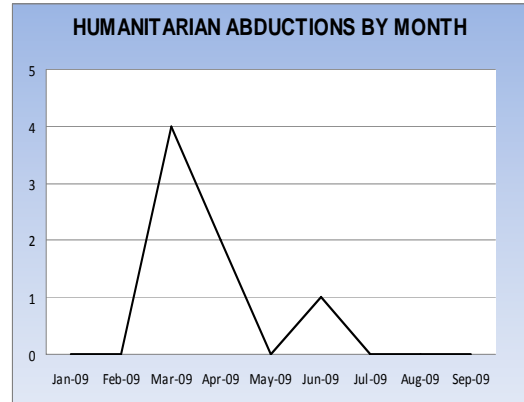
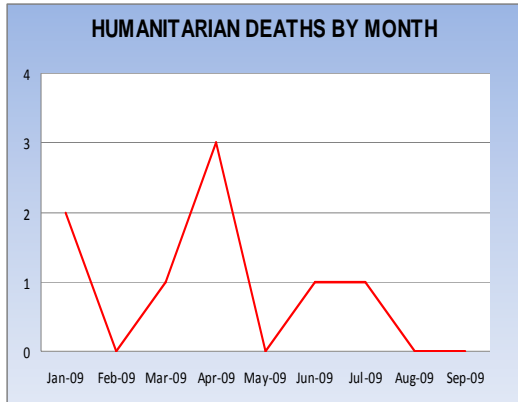


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⁴ Three INGO international staff members abducted in Mandera, Kenya and then taken to Somalia on 17 July were released on 3 October 2009.

⁵ NSP, July 2009. Examples of incidents included in the graphic are: improvised explosive device attacks, kidnapping, assassination and piracy.

⁶ NSP, July 2009. Examples of incidents included in the graphic are: robbery, intimidation, assassination and abductions.



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5. Attitude toward the humanitarian community

Statements towards the international community or aid workers were recorded. For example:

- 20 September, the Al Shabaab spokesman warned schools against using "un-Islamic" text books provided by the UN and aid agencies. On 22 September, TFG education officials in Somalia condemned and dismissed the statement made by the Al Shabaab spokesman.

6. Targeting civil society and media

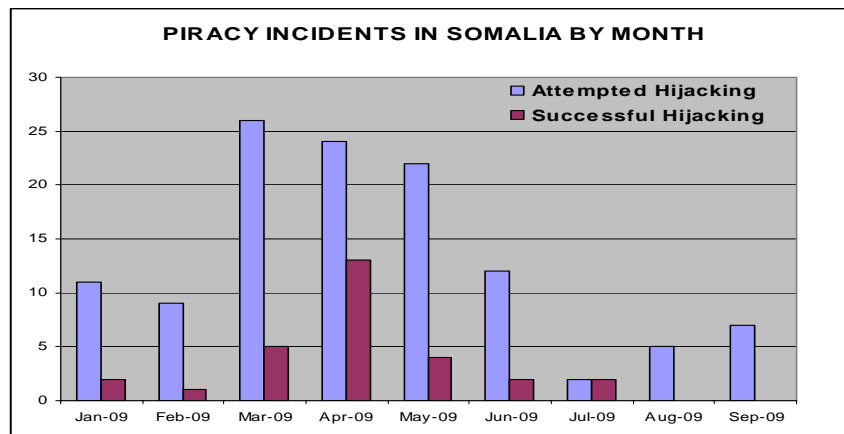
Since the beginning of the year several incidents involving civil society and the media have occurred, such as deliberate attacks, assassinations, and the arbitrary arrest of journalists. For example:

- 30 September, Al Shabaab forces closed the FM radio station in Baidoa, Bay region, and arrested several staff.

Six Somali journalists have been killed this year alone. Two foreign journalists are still being held in Somalia since 2008⁸.

7. Piracy

Piracy attacks continued during the reporting period. However, out of the total of 7 reported pirate attacks none resulted in a vessel being hijacked in September 2009⁹.



⁷ Three INGO international staff members were abducted in Mandera, Kenya in July 2009 and then taken to Somalia.

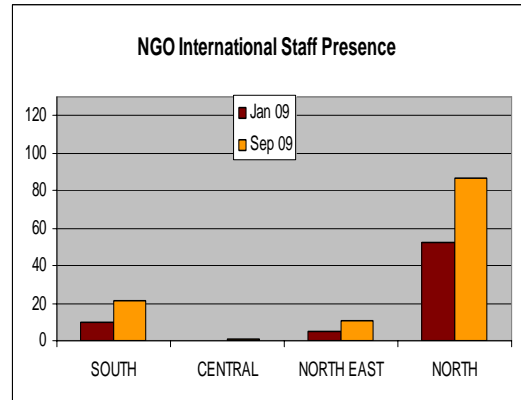
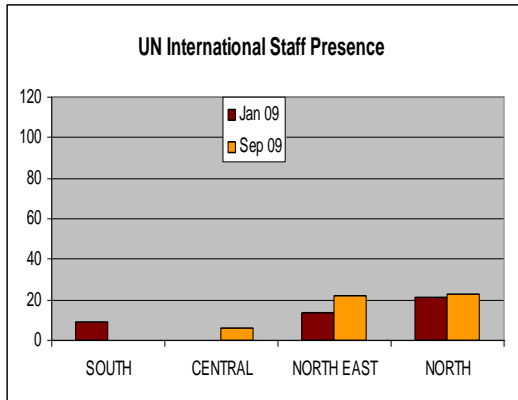
⁸ SPAS NGO, 23 August 2008.

⁹ www.unosat.org.

Again, the primary reason of the low level of activities by pirates, or failure to capture a single vessel, are the high surface winds from the South West Monsoon present in the Indian Ocean and much of the Gulf of Aden during the month of September.

HUMANITARIAN STAFF PRESENCE IN SOMALIA

The following is a geographic breakdown of UN and NGO international staff presence in Somalia in September.



International staff presence increased since January 2009 throughout Somalia, with the exception of South Somalia, where the UN international presence decreasing from nine to none in September 2009.

A general reduction of UN and NGO international presence was however also noted since the beginning of the second half of 2009 throughout Somalia, decreasing respectively from 66 to 51 and from 168 to 120 from July to September 2009. The bulk of international staff are still located in the North and North East.

ACCESS MAP

To generate the Access Map, eight coefficients are analyzed to determine the degree of difficulty faced by humanitarian agencies working in Somalia. The analysis provided is to the district level, and reflects the barriers, if any, imposed on humanitarian agencies. It is not a reflection of the physical presence of humanitarian partners, or the volume of humanitarian assistance provided in each district.

Mogadishu: Despite the suicide bomb attack on the AMISOM base on 20 September, several UN missions have been conducted in the capital and humanitarian flights (ECHO and UNHAS) are now authorized to land in the capital. No significant changes were however observed in September 2009 as compared to previous months.

South: The access conditions in the South continued to deteriorate in September 2009 in almost all regions. This negative trend is mainly due to increased risks of targeting and kidnapping of humanitarian workers particularly international staff, increased hostility vis-à-vis foreign organizations and new threats over humanitarian aircrafts in Al-Shabaab controlled areas. The most dramatic changes were recorded in the Juba regions where the local authorities maintained their pressure on NGOs and UN agencies, leading to the closure of several offices, the suspension of several humanitarian projects and the relocation of all international staff.

Central: No significant changes have been observed in Hiraaan region. The situation remains relatively stable in terms of access in Galgaduud region. Some security incidents occurred in Galkayo town, Mudug Region.

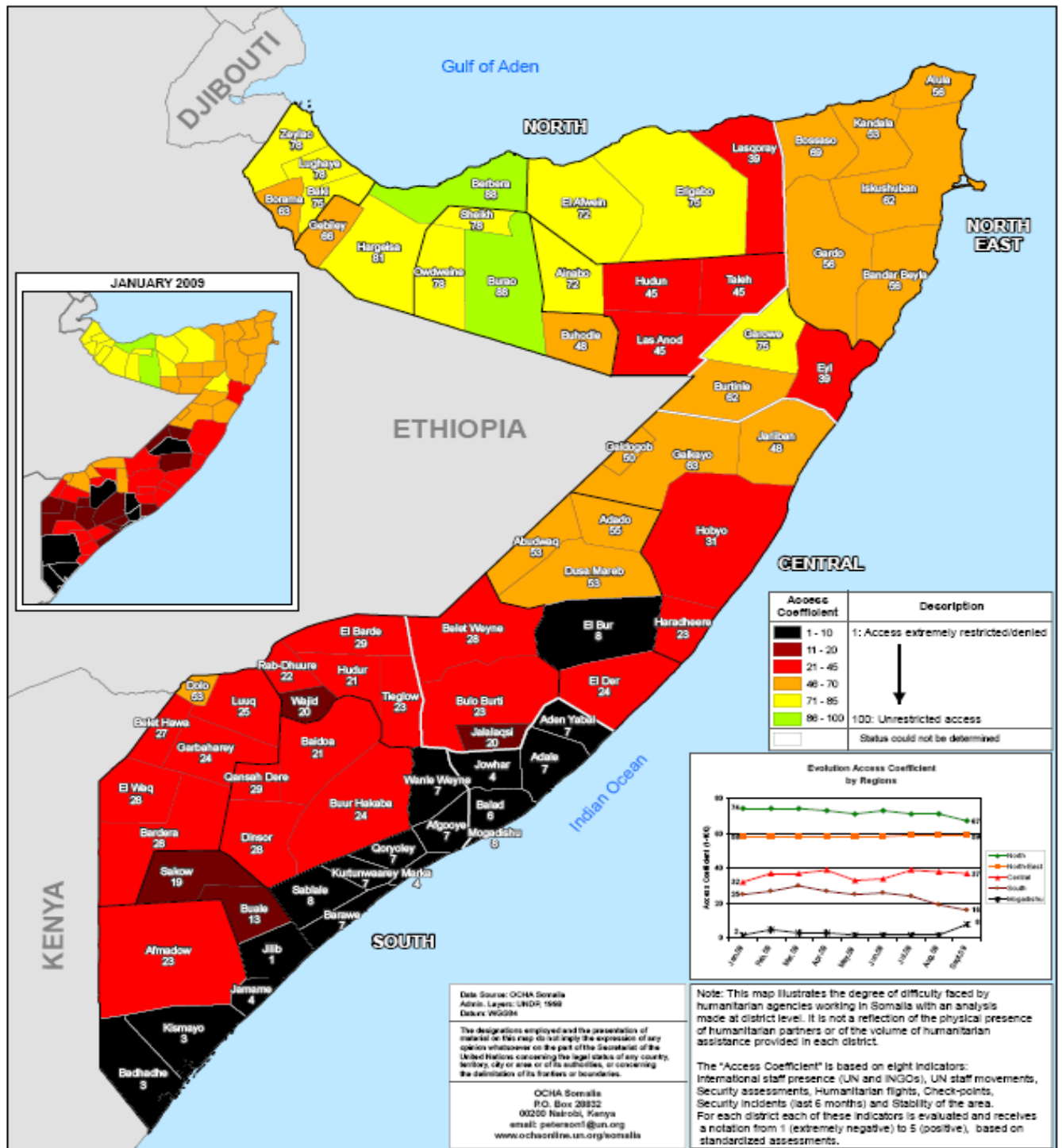
North-East: Overall no significant changes in terms of humanitarian access were noted.

North: The situation remains tense because of the preparation of the presidential election. A demonstration conducted by the two main Somaliland political opposition parties degenerated in a series of incidents in Hargeysa town, Wogooyi Galbeed region. Clan tensions are also still high in Gebiley and Borama districts, respectively Awdal and Wogooyi Galbeed regions. No major impact on humanitarian operations was noted.



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

SOMALIA HUMANITARIAN ACCESS MAP SEPTEMBER 2009



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