



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOMALIA

Monthly Analysis

February 2007

This report was written in cooperation with the UN Agencies in Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS

During February 2007, Mogadishu experienced escalating violence and insecurity with a stark increase in mortar attacks on strategic locations as well as indiscriminate shelling that resulted in dozens of civilian casualties. As a result of the unrest, according to UNHCR, over 40,000 people fled the capital in the course of the month, moving to the regions of Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, Gedo, and as far as Hiran and Somaliland. The information is based on field reports, which are hard to confirm. The vast majority of those who left moved to areas where they benefit from clan support; others have settled in with host communities. Those who left mostly also had the means to do so. On the other hand, with fewer resources to pay their way, IDPs in the capital primarily moved to safer districts in the north of the city, to escape the violence. These movements too are hard to quantify. Insecurity in the capital has also resulted in reduced mobility and access, which is negatively impacting on the ability of humanitarian organizations to comprehensively respond to emerging needs. To reach the displaced, given the limitations imposed by insecurity, partners are looking at ways of reaching the displaced from, and in other locations. In early March, the first AMISOM troops arrived in Mogadishu. It is hoped that the deployment will improve the security environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Restricted access continues to characterize areas of southern Somalia, particularly the Juba regions. Lack of access to main airstrips in other key locations such as Merka (Lower Shabelle), Jowhar (Middle Shabelle) and K50 (Mogadishu) also undermines efforts to re-engage on a level that would facilitate a commensurate response to humanitarian needs. In this respect, discussions are ongoing with the TFG to address the situation. On a more positive note, since the cessation of major hostilities, a greater number of missions and movements of aid workers have been possible and efforts to re-engage continue. Continued improved access in Galkayo (Mudug) is enabling aid organizations to respond to underserved IDPs in the area. Along the Kenyan-Somali border, progress was finally made in terms of cross-border movement of humanitarian supplies; at the time of drafting supplies were crossing without problems. Cross-border movement of asylum seekers, on the other hand, remains impossible and an outstanding concern.

Between 30 December 2006 and 2 March 2007, 3,633 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) have been recorded throughout southern Somalia, including 143 deaths. The upsurge is linked to post-flooding conditions coupled with a lack of access to safe drinking water and poor sanitation practices. The largest caseload was registered in Hiran region but thanks to increased water and sanitation interventions, cases are now decreasing. Concern is now focused in and around Mogadishu, where cases of AWD are on the rise. Growing numbers of people fleeing the city amplify the risk of spreading to other locations, while limited mobility within the city also poses logistical and security challenges for aid workers to reach beneficiaries. Partners are ensuring pre-positioning of supplies and are stepping up activities, particularly in view of the coming *Gu* season.

According to the nineteenth Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa, projections for the next rainy season in Somalia indicate a 45% likelihood of normal rains, a 35% chance of below-normal, and a 20% chance of above-normal rains. Additionally, there is a high probability of near to above-normal rains in the upper catchments of the Juba and Shabelle rivers in Ethiopia. Southern Somalia thus faces the possibility of more flooding during the *Gu* season (mid-April – mid-June), particularly in riverine areas. On the other hand, more rains could assist in the post-drought recovery process.

Given the current context, it is essential that the creation of an enabling environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance is supported and that partners remain committed to the process of stabilisation and reconciliation, building on positive developments and new opportunities for access. If Somalia slips back into anarchy, humanitarian space will inevitably be constricted. International support must be forthcoming, including to the 2007 Somalia CAP, presently being revised and which to date is only 14% funded. To support humanitarian re-engagement during this delicate period, a recent allocation of US\$1 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund will help enhance security support measures of operational agencies in Somalia, with the ultimate aim of increasing activities and access to vulnerable populations.

ACCESS and SECURITY

In Mogadishu, violence escalated during February with a stark increase in mortar attacks on strategic locations (airport, seaport, Villa Somalia, Ethiopian military bases, TFG posts), as well as indiscriminate shelling that resulted in dozens of civilian casualties. Violence has been on the increase since the start of the year. On 24 February, ICRC reported that “more than 430 war-wounded have been admitted to two of the city’s three hospitals. In February alone, Keysaney and Medina hospital admitted more than 200 wounded, including at least 30 women and 24 children.” The exact death toll remains unconfirmed. Toward the end of the month, assassinations were also on the increase. On 6 March, more mortars were fired on the Mogadishu airport soon after the arrival of the first AMISOM Ugandan troops, and the following day an AMISOM convoy suffered an ambush. Insurgent groups have vowed to attack any troops that arrive in Mogadishu, raising concerns over the possibility of even more bouts of violence in the city.

In the absence of any one body able to provide security, local communities have armed and organized themselves to protect their neighbourhoods. As a result of the unrest, however, thousands of people have left Mogadishu, including IDPs living in settlements who have either moved north of the city to avoid attacks or moved out toward Afgoye (see protection section). Mobility within the capital has also shrunk, and while humanitarian activities continue, reduced mobility is negatively impacting on the ability of humanitarian organizations to comprehensively respond to emerging needs (for example, the increase in cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea). Insecurity has also required continuous review of transport routes to move supplies from the port.

In spite of such developments in the capital, since the cessation of major hostilities, a greater number of missions and movements of aid workers has been possible in other locations of South/Central, as airstrips have become accessible. Flights continued to fly to Galkayo (Mudug), Wajid (Bakool), Baidoa (Bay), Luuq (Gedo), Afmadow (Lower Juba), and Marerey (Middle Juba) during the reporting period, while cargo shipments reached Beletweyne (Hiran), Wajid, Buale (Middle Juba), and Jamame (Lower Juba), enabling continued pre-positioning of supplies. In Galkayo, improved access to the area is enabling the continuation of the response to IDPs. Additionally, following a UN joint mission on 12-14 February, UNICEF and local authorities from South and North Galkayo have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a “Peace School” along the ‘green-line’ to foster reconciliation. Land, easily accessible by children of both north and south, has already been allocated by the authorities. Additionally, to bolster the poor health facilities in the area, an agreement was reached with the authorities for UNICEF and UNFPA to provide Mother and Child Health (MCH) facilities in both sides of Galkayo town, while UNICEF also committed to resume a city water supply project that was interrupted in 2003 due to strong tensions between the town’s two communities.



WFP food trucks. Source: WFP

After initial difficulties and delays, progress was also made on cross-border movement of humanitarian supplies. Following the 7 February directive by the Kenyan government, which instructed border officials to allow cross-border transport, supplies moved at Mandera (jetfuel) and El Wak (WFP food) border points. Shortly after, however, decisions to let supplies pass were again being made on an ad-hoc basis. The matter appears to have been resolved thanks to persistent demarches with the Kenyan authorities. On 1 March, WFP crossed 25 trucks of food at El Wak destined for Garbaharey and Burdubo (Gedo), and UNICEF relief trucks were able to cross and reach Baidoa (Bay). On 2 March, CARE (with the largest consignment stuck at the border since its closure in early January) started crossing food at Mandera. As of 8 March, around 1,718 metric tons (MT) of CARE mixed commodities had been transported and distributed in El Wak (Gedo). At the time of drafting, trucks were still crossing and it is hoped that no more delays will occur to affect distribution and pre-positioning,

particularly as the next rainy season approaches.

In other areas, challenges persist. In the Juba regions, despite TFG efforts to stabilise the situation, an inter-agency mission to Buale and Jamame to look into humanitarian needs since the flooding has been indefinitely postponed. Heightened local tensions also prompted the relocation of staff members of an international NGO from Buale to Nairobi. All missions to Buale remain temporarily suspended. In Kismayo, meanwhile, access remained obstructed by the ongoing military presence in the area.

Notwithstanding continued efforts to secure flights into Merka (Lower Shabelle) and Jowhar (Middle Shabelle), a lack of local security arrangements and assurances on the ground - coupled with a continued lack of local counterparts - prevent

the scaling up of humanitarian activities. Discussions with the TFG are ongoing to see to it that the situation is reversed to enable access to these under-served yet highly vulnerable areas. The discussions will also include access to K50 airstrip (close to Mogadishu), which humanitarian organisations have lately not been allowed to use.

With respect to movement of supplies into Somalia, the hijacking of the just unloaded WFP-contracted vessel off the Puntland coast on 25 February raises concerns of a resumption of insecurity at sea as a result. This is the first act of piracy in nine months and WFP has announced that it is already facing difficulties in contracting ships. Since late February, the Agency has around 2,400 MT of food aid at port in Tanzania waiting to be shipped.

PROTECTION

Almost all the population movements recorded during February were from Mogadishu to flee the increasing violence in the city. Insecurity, fear of attacks, removal from public buildings and outright violence were the reasons cited for the movements. As of 8 March, UNHCR received reports of over 40,000 people leaving Mogadishu in the past month. The figures are based on field reports that remain hard to confirm. Nearly 20,000 have reportedly gone to Lower Shabelle, mainly to the areas of Ceelasha, Xaawo Cabdi, and Lafole (all located on the road between Mogadishu and Afgoye) as well as Qoryoley town. Another 8,500 have moved to Bay region, primarily to Baidoa and the surrounding villages. Many of those moving to Baidoa, are said to be originally from the area and became IDPs in Mogadishu over the past years. Another 900 have moved to Gedo under similar circumstances. Approximately 4,500 have moved to Middle Shabelle, primarily to Jowhar town and Balad district. An estimated 3,000 have moved to Hiran region, mainly Beletweyne. The rest are scattered throughout other regions of Somalia, some as far as Hargeisa (Somaliland).

Many of the IDPs who traveled long distances to Hiran and Puntland reported harassment at illegal road blocks and attempted robberies as they traveled to their destination. The vast majority of those who left Mogadishu moved to areas where they benefit from clan support, or moved in with host communities. Those who left Mogadishu mostly also had the resources to do so. With fewer assets and nothing to pay their way, IDPs in Mogadishu primarily moved to safer areas in the northern districts of the city. Due to restricted mobility stemming from insecurity, these movements are hard to quantify and ascertain.

Despite the violence in Mogadishu, the IDP profiling exercise in the capital was completed in all sixteen districts in February. In a joint initiative involving various partners, including local actors, over 4,000 household surveys were collected from IDP sites in Mogadishu, representing a 10% sample of the estimated IDP population in the city (250,000). The data is now being processed and analysed to provide much needed information on some of the IDPs living in the capital.

An IDP profiling exercise in North Galkayo town was also finalized in early March by UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). The profiling involved participatory assessments covering a 10-15% sample in eight sites. IDP Profiling in South Galkayo will start in the course of March 2007. Meanwhile, following the completion of the Bossaso profiling in January 2007, data is being analysed. IDP profiling throughout areas of Somalia aims to improve the knowledge of the extent and pattern of displacement, as well as the understanding of the different levels and situations of displacement. This will ultimately enable the identification of short- and long-term interventions to meet the basic needs of IDPs and address underlying protection related problems.

Meanwhile, also in Galkayo, assistance was distributed (non-food items - NFIs - supplied by UNICEF/UNHCR and food from WFP) to around 3,180 families in thirteen IDP sites in North Galkayo in January following a verification exercise that confirmed number of people in need of assistance. A similar exercise was conducted in sites in South Galkayo in February. As of the end of the month, 2,000 families had been verified and received NFIs. The verification remains to be finalised to provide a clearer idea of IDP numbers. However, the fluidity of the situation, including reports of new arrivals make this a delicate exercise, particularly if it is to be followed by distribution of assistance. On 7 March, a fire in a site in North Galkayo destroyed shelters and leaving hundreds of people homeless. The fire is believed to have been set intentionally by people who felt left out of the NFI distributions conducted in January. The local police are conducting an investigation, and a meeting between UNHCR, the City Council and the IDP committee has agreed on the way forward. On the basis of the verification list compiled in January, UNHCR has confirmed 225 affected households. At the time of drafting discussions were taking place on how best to assist without triggering or provoking more harm.

During February, a total of 1,186 Somalis were reported to have crossed the Gulf of Aden into Yemen, many claiming they were fleeing the fighting in Mogadishu. An additional 622 Ethiopians also arrived and around 131 people are known to have died attempting the crossing. These figures mark a sharp increase from January 2007, when only 96 Somalis and 33 Ethiopians arrived in Yemen. UNHCR reports that in 2006, some 27,000 people made the perilous voyage, with 330 known deaths and a further 300 people missing.

Bossaso Shelter Project

Since late 2005, a pilot project has been implemented in Bossaso (Puntland) to improve living conditions of IDPs and urban poor in the town. The project was elaborated in close consultation with local authorities and communities along a two-pronged approach: improving living conditions of IDPs/returnees/urban poor in their place of displacement, and finding more durable shelter solutions. In the last year, eleven IDP settlement areas in Bossaso have been re-planned and upgraded, benefiting more than 3,500 IDP families. Improvement work on the sites is now almost complete. The re-organisation of the settlement areas includes the opening of fire breaks and roads, the provision of latrines, and opening of space for the development of additional public services in the future.



Permanent shelters for IDPs/urban poor under construction in Bossaso. Source: DRC

Meanwhile, in terms of providing permanent resettlement solutions, partners are aiming to resettle 140 vulnerable families through a two-phased construction project involving self-help and on the job training components. The households will be relocated over three different plots of land allocated by landlords. In the first phase, the basic core of the houses (foundation and boundary walls) is constructed by DRC; now 70% completed. In the second phase, implemented by UN-HABITAT, the beneficiaries will be actively involved in self-help construction combined with training, to build a basic living room for each house. The resettlement sites are located in the eastern side of Bossaso and are part of a larger urban development plan under discussions with the Municipality. Indeed, the local water network is being upgraded in cooperation with the local water agency to service the resettlement areas, while the road infrastructure is being extended to ensure access.

As construction goes on, the selection of beneficiaries will soon be completed. In the last months, a steering committee consisting of IDP representatives, the municipality and religious leaders has chosen four IDP sites out of sixteen that have provided shelter to highly vulnerable IDPs for the longest time. In each of the four sites a selection committee was created, which compiled a list of the most vulnerable families (with more than three children, who own no land in Puntland and who have been living in Bossaso for more than five years). The lists were verified by an Observer team led by UNHCR. In a final stage, UNHCR will facilitate a lottery to select 112 families from the four site lists; 28 families from each site. The lottery is planned to take place over four consecutive days – a different site on each day - beginning on 1 April. About 20 families of urban poor from Bossaso will also benefit from the project.

LIVELIHOODS and FOOD SECURITY

According to the nineteenth Climate Outlook Forum for the Greater Horn of Africa (organized by IGAD's Climate Prediction and Application Centre), there is an increased likelihood of near-normal rainfall over much of the Horn in the upcoming rainy season. In most of Somalia, projections indicate a 45% likelihood of normal rains, a 35% chance of below-normal, and a 20% chance of above-normal rains. (The only exceptions are some coastal areas of the Juba regions where an increased likelihood of near-normal to above-normal rainfall is forecast.) There is also a high probability of near to above-normal *Gu* rains in the upper catchments of the Juba and Shebelle rivers in Ethiopia. Southern Somalia thus faces the possibility of more flooding during the *Gu* season (mid-April – mid-June), particularly in riverine areas.

Heavy *Deyr* rains in late 2006 resulted in severe flooding in southern Somalia, which damaged and broke river banks. Many riverine communities are still suffering from the effects of the floods, and according to FEWS/NET, if the forecast holds true, more flooding would exacerbate current humanitarian conditions, especially in the Juba Valley. On the other hand, more rains, which during the recent *Deyr* season contributed to improved food security and successful crop production, could further assist in the post-drought recovery process.

Meanwhile, according to FAO/FSAU, cereal availability is improving in most markets in southern and central Somalia as a result of exceptionally good *Deyr* '06/'07 season sorghum and rainfed maize production. Cereal prices have generally reduced, with the exception of the Shabelle Valley where the price of maize has increased following the failure of riverine maize production. Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists generally continue to benefit from improved terms of trade as

livestock prices remain high and productivity (such as milk availability) is improving. In general, riverine communities are benefiting from agricultural employment opportunities associated with off-season recession crop production; Hiran and Middle Shabelle are the exceptions, with insect damage at the seeding stage having reduced potential harvest. FAO/FSAU will conduct an off-season assessment in late March 2007.

In January 2007, FAO/FSAU noted an improvement in livelihoods and food security in spite of the flooding and conflict experienced at the end of last year. Around 1 million Somalis are in need of assistance and protection in the next six months (including 400,000 IDPs), as compared to the 1.8 million identified in August 2006. Yet, despite the overall improvement, Somalia remains Chronically Food Insecure, with Gedo and most of the Juba regions, as well as IDPs, extremely vulnerable. There also continue to be various risk factors that could negatively impact on food security, including continued localised conflict, concern over Rift Valley Fever (still unconfirmed in Somalia), and as noted above, the performance of the next *Gu* season and associated potential flooding.

On the basis of the FAO/FSAU post-*Deyr* findings, WFP is revising its food distribution plan to target some 850,000 Somalis country wide suffering from critical food shortages, including IDPs and the food insecure in the north. Of these, 300,000 will be assisted through general food distribution in highly vulnerable riverine areas, including Gedo, Middle and Lower Juba, and parts of Bakool. The rest will be targeted through different activities, including Supplementary Feeding Programmes (to target the nutritionally vulnerable), Food for Work, Food for Assets, Food for Training and some School Feeding.

CARE presently serves 500,688 people throughout southern Somalia through its Rural Food Security Programme. Of these, 330,000 people are in Gedo, South Mudug and Galgadud regions. Given the recent FSAU findings, 216,114 people in Gedo will continue to benefit from general food distributions until the *Gu* season. General food distributions in South Mudug and Galgadud are also being reassessed to ensure that the most vulnerable members of the community continue to receive appropriate levels of support. CARE additionally supports 28,419 households (around 170,600 people) in Hiran and Middle Shabelle through Food for Work projects. Recognising that parts of Middle and Lower Shabelle (specifically riverine areas) are in need of early recovery and disaster mitigation oriented interventions, CARE is exploring how continued Food for Work can play a vital role to this end.

HEALTH

Between 30 December and 2 March 2007, a total of 3,633 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) cases have been reported throughout southern Somalia, including 143 deaths. The upsurge of cases is linked to post-flooding conditions coupled with a lack of access to safe drinking water and poor hygiene and sanitation practices.

The situation is most critical in Hiran region, with the heaviest case load of AWD in Somalia: a total of 1,229 cases and 30 deaths between 30 December 2006 and 23 February 2007 in Beletweyne, Jalalaqsi and Buloburti districts. That said, adequate supplies have been dispatched to Beletweyne and the number of new reported cases has decreased with increasing water and sanitation interventions. Partners are conducting hygiene promotion and chlorination activities, and UNICEF and the Hiran Water Supply authority are rehabilitating thirteen shallow wells and repairing nine existing water sources. In total, nine hygiene promotion sessions were organized for 270 participants.

Similar decreasing trends were also noted among IDPs in Galkayo (Mudug) owing to humanitarian interventions such as water chlorination, hygiene promotion, rehydration and treatment of the affected people.

In Middle Shabelle, between 15 January and 2 March, 974 cases were reported with 18 deaths. Similar activities are ongoing and adequate supplies have also been dispatched to Jowhar, including a full diarrhoeal disease kit (for 100 severe and 400 moderate patients) by WHO. In total, 360 hygiene promoters have been trained by the Somalia Red Crescent Society (SRCS) and UNICEF from Balad, Mahadey and Jowhar. According to a recent report, communities around Jowhar are using river water for drinking and cooking purposes because water from the functional wells is too saline. The water from the wells is instead used for bathing and washing. A total of 43 shallow wells are in the process of being constructed/rehabilitated through local NGOs WOCA and Farjano.

In Lower Shabelle, the number of cases of AWD is increasing with the influx of IDPs from Mogadishu, especially in rural areas. A total of 687 cases and 56 deaths were reported from this region between 2 February and 2 March. WHO is sending a full diarrhoeal disease kit, while UNICEF is sourcing required supplies. Water and sanitation activities (such as chlorination) and hygiene promotion require special attention although security and access remain a challenge. UNICEF and CEFA hosted hygiene promotion training sessions in five different villages targeting 320 people.

In Lower and Middle Juba regions, Kismayo and Jamame registered a total of 352 cases and 30 deaths between 30 January and 26 February. The two localities have received adequate supplies, including two full diarrhoeal disease kits in Kismayo by WHO, and health partners continue to monitor developments carefully.

October”, and “Polytechnic’ IDP sites. The teams consist of midwives, community health workers, Traditional Birth Attendants, and community mobilizers who can provide on the spot services or referrals to the SOS hospital in Mogadishu. UNFPA coordinates closely with WHO, UNICEF, and ICRC on all activities.

WATER and SANITATION

Partners active in the water and sanitation response have identified Mogadishu and Galkayo as priority areas to address water and environmental sanitation issues of IDPs in these locations. A Water Sanitation and Hygiene technical assessment team traveled to both locations during the reporting period to assess the situation.

In Mogadishu, where most of the IDP sites are on public land or in public buildings, a serious sanitation problem was observed as most latrines are full and cannot be easily emptied. Increasing reports of AWD add to the concern. Defecation in the open and near the dwellings was observed, including close to hospitals, creating potential health hazards. Few shallow wells are present near the sites, and even these are not protected and face contamination by sea water. Cleaning and maintenance of wells – for example around Bondere and Shabelle sites – is required. Boreholes in other locations – such as Geedo Qorooow and Demanio - are not functioning. Moreover, before disposing of waste in the sea, the municipality trucks use septic tanks as transit tanks. As they do not function properly, waste overflows into the sites, causing further deterioration of sanitation conditions and creating potential health hazards. Recommendations from the technical assessment include the need to start increasing access to safe drinking water, as well as improved environmental sanitation and hygiene promotion services. Garbage collection started in February by the Municipality, supported by ILO through the provision of sanitation tools. The project is planned to cover the sixteen districts of Mogadishu and sixty IDP sites. In parallel, hygiene promotion activities are being organized in Mogadishu by a local NGO supported by UNICEF. Activities will tie in very closely with the response to the AWD.

In Galkayo, six out of the eight sites in North Galkayo have water kiosks located near or within the IDP sites, although these are privately owned and managed. The cost of twenty litres of water normally ranges between 500-2,000 Somali shillings (roughly US\$ 0.37 -1.48); an amount most IDPs cannot afford. Very few IDP settlements have latrine facilities and where these are privately owned, fees are charged. Environmental sanitation and hygiene in the sites is far below standard. For a meager allowance, most IDPs collect solid waste in town but then dispose of it in and around the IDP settlements. Increasing access to safe drinking water and installing sanitation facilities in the sites is immediately required, as is working with landowners to ensure the rights of the IDPs to such sanitation facilities. A technical assessment is being planned for South Galkayo, and meanwhile discussions are ongoing with the local water authority to extend the water system to South Galkayo.

NUTRITION

The nutrition situation in most of the South/Central Somalia remains of concern (ref: FAO/FSAU Nutrition Analysis-January 2007) thus requiring continued humanitarian support. In late February 2007, FAO/FSAU conducted a rapid nutrition assessment of IDPs in Hawalbarbare and Qansahdere town (Bay), assessing 135 children. Findings indicated total acute malnutrition of 20% and 24.7% in Hawalbarbare and Qansah Dhere Town respectively. Additionally, 100 children were assessed in each of two villages (Shiimo and Madaa) in Tieglow district (Bay) and 5% and 11% in the respective sites were found to be malnourished. These findings indicate a highly worrying situation in Qansahdere and the need for closer monitoring in Tieglow. The February round of sentinel sites surveillance has been completed in Bay, Bakool (including Qansahdere and Tieglow districts), Gedo, Middle and Juba regions and analysis is ongoing. Detailed nutrition surveys are scheduled for March/April in Qansahdere and for May in Tieglow.

In response to the ongoing nutrition crisis in parts of South/Central, the emergency nutrition response continues. Rigorous nutrition surveillance activities monitor the situation as well as the prevailing risk factors, which latterly include increased displacement and outbreaks of AWD. Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) have commenced in Dinsor and Qansahdere (Bay) by International Medical Corps as well as in El Wak (Gedo) by COSV, providing enhanced coverage and access to highly vulnerable communities. (Bay region is one of the most densely populated regions in Somalia.) COSV managed to assist about 16,000 children in El Wak district in February 2007 through the UNICEF supported blanket SFP. Severe malnutrition management has also commenced in Tieglow by World Vision. Further active case finding of malnourished children has started in Tieglow district through the supplementary feeding sites of Biyoole, Tieglow and Dhanawe. Latest programme reports indicate that about 1,000 children are in three SFPs and community based therapeutic care programmes in Tieglow. In Afmadow (Lower Juba), four SFPs managed by Somali Aid Foundation have about 1,050 children moderately malnourished children under rehabilitation. An additional 900 children were admitted in January 2007 to the Mercy US managed SFPs in Jilib (Middle Juba).

A self-evaluation of the Somalia nutrition cluster implementation was finalised in February 2007, thus providing an analysis of the challenges and achievements for 2006. Some of the successes include establishment of selective feeding programmes even in insecure areas by national and international NGOs, admission of about 40% of the malnourished children in the emergency affected areas, decentralisation of coordination activities, capacity improvement of agencies

undertaking nutrition activities, and establishing integrated programmes addressing malnutrition. Strategies on improving quality and coverage of the emergency nutrition activities amidst access and resource limitations are being explored. (A full report is available).

HIV/AIDS

Partners just completed the annual review of the first phase of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria grant. The review showed that the implementation of the grant is on track and has created opportunities for the endorsement of a second phase proposal. The first phase started in June 2005 and lasts until the end of March 2007. The second phase, if approved by the Global Fund, will start in June 2007 and run for a three year period.

Meanwhile, the HIV-Syphilis sero-prevalence survey funded by the Global Fund began with the collection of samples in January 2007 in Hargeisa (Somaliland) and is expected to cover Puntland and South/Central. Samples from pregnant women attending antenatal clinics and patients presenting with Sexually Transmitted Diseases symptoms are collected from selected MCHs and Sexually Transmitted Infections units throughout Somalia. The survey findings will confirm the status of the HIV epidemic in Somalia, which is currently 0.9% based on the 2004 survey results.

Capacity building activities overseen by WHO and funded by the Global Fund continued throughout January and February 2007 to equip health providers with the necessary skills to care for HIV/AIDS patients. Training workshops were organized in the country's three zones on Syndromic Case Management (SCM) and Antiretroviral treatment, benefiting 603 students from nursing and medical schools.

CONSOLIDATED APPEALS PROCESS (CAP) and COORDINATION

A donor trip composed of various UN Agency representatives traveled to Sweden, the United States and Switzerland between 26 February and 7 March 2007 to raise awareness on developments in Somalia. The fragile situation calls for urgent support if any significant and durable change is to be achieved; support that must be forthcoming now rather than later. To date, the 2007 CAP, presently being revised, is 14% funded, with most of the contributions toward the food sector as has been the trend in past Appeals. The international community must not wait for the revised CAP to pledge its support. Further, donors are called upon to provide balanced funds that will enable integrated and timely responses to tackle chronic vulnerabilities, now particularly manifest in the health, water and sanitation and nutrition sectors.

A CERF grant of US\$ 1 million has been approved to enhance security of operations in Somalia. To be implemented by UNDP, UNDSS, and WFP between March and December 2007 and to also benefit international NGOs, the project will focus on improving inter-agency communication systems, common premises and accommodation (including rehabilitating UN compounds to make them EMOSS-compliant). Such improvements will allow for greater international staff presence (including that of international NGOs) in South/Central, as well as more effective programme implementation and enhanced access to populations in need.

Additionally, another CERF grant of around US\$ 2.6 million has been approved to support the continuation of WFP/UNHAS pre-paid humanitarian cargo flights into flood and conflict affected areas to the end of March 2007. Indeed, a first such CERF allocation made available in December of last year enabled the provision of much needed air cargo support for the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance into Somalia. Those funds were exhausted within half of the project time and this new allocation provides critical support while WFP seeks alternative funding to subsidize such services.

During the reporting period over US\$1 million was committed to fund eight projects through the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) for Somalia. Two of the interventions aim to improve access to drinking water in Beletweyne, Bulo Burti, Jalalaqsi (Hiran) and North Dinsor and will be implemented by ADRA and Bay Women respectively. COSV is in the process of implementing a sanitation project in Buale, Salagle and Sakow (Middle Juba). On livelihoods support, two local NGOs - Murdo and Arao - have received funds for seeds distribution and land preparation to assist vulnerable people in Merka and Belet Amin (Lower Shabelle) and Tieglow (Bakool). UNDP will receive funds to strengthen river banks near Jowhar (Middle Shabelle), while VetAid will assist restocking with small ruminants in Berdera, Belet Hawa and Luuq (Gedo). A project in the 2007 Somalia CAP, the HRF appeals for US\$8 million to support humanitarian activities throughout Somalia. The first contribution of US\$1.6 million was recently received from the Netherlands. In 2006, the HRF received around US\$6.3 million through the CAP.

**Throughout 2006/2007, OCHA Somalia has received funding from:
Australia, ECHO, Italy, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and United Kingdom**