



HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOMALIA
Monthly Analysis
November 2005

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Continued sea piracy along the Somali coastline is impacting on humanitarian supply pipelines into southern Somalia. Because of hijackings, WFP's food aid stocks in the country are at an all-time low and for the first time in almost five years, the Agency has had to transport food aid into Somalia overland through Kenya. Given the already challenging operational environment in southern Somalia where insecurity dictates the restricted nature of access, the implications of piracy pose an added obstacle to meeting the needs of highly vulnerable populations. Furthermore, these developments are coming at a time when the humanitarian situation in south central is getting worse and the number of those in need is increasing.

With the 2005 *Deyr* season almost over, its poor performance is now a major cause of concern. In areas of Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Middle and Lower Juba severe water shortage has affected rangeland, livestock condition and crop production. The *Deyr* crop harvest is expected to be poor (the lowest in a decade), which will severely impact on food security in southern Somalia. Cattle prices have drastically reduced (while staple food prices have risen), which will impact on terms of trade and purchasing power of the communities. Given the severity of the situation, FAO/FSAU has decided to move forward its usual seasonal 2005/2006 survey by a month – December 2005, rather than January 2006 - to undertake a thorough crop and pastoralist assessment in southern Somalia. Operational agencies too are planning ahead to be able to respond to a possible worsening of the humanitarian situation in the coming months and increasing numbers of people in need of critical assistance.

Thirty-six detainees captured during the fighting over contested areas of Sool and Sanag in late 2004 were exchanged on 5 December in a momentous reconciliatory step between the Puntland and Somaliland local authorities. The release of twenty-four detainees from Somaliland and twelve from Puntland was negotiated between the highest levels of both administrations and conducted on humanitarian grounds. Aid agencies are providing assistance to facilitate reintegration.

With support from UNDP, the Puntland State of Somalia has commenced its first DDR programme targeting 500 security force personnel. The exercise will target a total of 1,000 forces by mid-2006 to reduce security personnel employed by the authorities dramatically. It is expected the exercise will free up an annual US\$ 1 million from the state budget.

The number of confirmed polio cases has now risen to 73 – 72 of which in the Benadir region and one in Lower Shabbelle. Efforts to curtail the disease continued by WHO, UNICEF and partners and will proceed into December.

Meanwhile in Mogadishu, a fire broke out in an IDP camp on 21 November. Immediate assistance was provided by the local community and humanitarian agencies were quick to mobilise further aid. The incident continues to highlight the immense suffering and vulnerability this group of the Somali population continues to be subjected to.

An Inception Retreat between 23 and 26 November 2005 officially launched the Joint Needs Assessment process in Somalia. Members from the Somali community, UN, World Bank, NGOs and donors met to discuss the development of a Reconstruction and Development Programme to be presented at a donor conference in 2006. The TFG and UN urged donors to continue funding humanitarian efforts as these will provide the foundation upon which recovery and reconstruction efforts will be undertaken. At the start of December, the Somalia 2005 CAP is roughly 50% covered.

ACCESS and SECURITY

Incidences of sea piracy continued this month off the Somali coast. Three Taiwanese fishing vessels (and the 47 crew members) hijacked in June 2005 are still held hostage on the island of Koyaama, southwest of Kismayo. Various other ships were hijacked and held until unspecified ransoms were paid to the pirates. On 5 November, the luxury cruise liner "Seaborne Spirit", managed to outrun pirates some 100 nautical miles off the coast of Puntland. Several sources claim a "mother ship" is directing the attacks by the smaller speedboats, including the Kenyan Seafarers' Association which appealed for more information to track the ship down.

The UN remains highly concerned about the humanitarian implications of continued piracy as they affect supply pipelines into Somalia, particularly food and fuel. As an alternative option for relief food delivery, for the first time in almost five years, WFP has started to transport food overland through Kenya to target beneficiaries in southern Somalia. A convoy of 18 trucks carrying 500 metric tons (MT) of food arrived successfully in Wajid, Bakool region on 4 December. Still, the 1,200 kilometer journey through Kenya is not an easy one and trucks had to pass through 25 militia checkpoints once in Somalia. It is also 25-30% cheaper to bring food aid in by sea than it is overland and boats can carry more. So far, supplies to northern Somalia are not affected but the UN is seeking ways of addressing the issue, particularly at a time when the humanitarian situation in southern Somalia appears to be worsening. The TFG has meanwhile reportedly signed a two year deal with "Topcat Marine Security" to safeguard the Somali coastline.

The security situation in central and southern zones continued to be tense and volatile despite some localized improvements. In Mogadishu, UN activities proceeded through national staff despite continued criminal acts and individually targeted assassinations, as evidenced by the assassination attempt on the Prime Minister at the beginning of the month and the murder of a staff member of an international NGO. Reports suggest that the Sharia Court militias also continue to expand their influence in the city. Kismayo remains closed to UN staff following the assassination of the UNDSS national security officer in early October 2005 and the UN has urged for there to be a due process in the murder investigation. Concern is still high as to the existence of extremist groups and their ability to operate freely throughout Somalia.

In Gedo, Garbaharey is the only district in the region to have reopened to UN air and ground operations on the basis of improved security. On account of the same reason, in November, district elders and local authorities urged the UN to renew its presence in the area, following which UNOCHA undertook a preliminary mission to assess the operational environment. Besides Garbaharey, however, access to Gedo by UN aid agencies is considered on a case by case basis only. Having said this, in El Wak, in mid-November after receiving commitment by Gare and Marehan elders that security and safety of staff and aid would be guaranteed, CARE International was able to resume its regular monthly food distribution activities in the district to reach around 7,400 beneficiaries, including those affected by the clan fighting back in April 2005. Indeed since April, aid agencies have attempted to access the district to provide assistance and protection but insecurity has been a constant impeding factor. As the peace agreement between the Marehan and Gare seems to hold, it is hoped more assistance will reach affected and vulnerable communities.

The ceasefire reached between two sub-clans in mid-2005 in Idale town (Baidoa district, Bay region) could be jeopardized due to a security incident. Amid concerns of fresh clan fighting are also concerns that access to highly vulnerable populations throughout the area would once again be disrupted. According to field reports, some families have already started moving to safer areas in Qansahdere and Dinsor districts. Following the ceasefire, a joint assessment in late August 2005 - which found that those displaced from Idale were in dire need of assistance shelter, food, clean water, and health care - enabled aid agencies to mobilize some assistance.

In the northwest, the death sentences delivered to suspects found guilty of killing international aid workers in 2003 and 2004 had no impact on access or security in Hargeisa and the region. UN humanitarian activities continued as normal although access to parts of Sanaag and Sool remained hindered as per previous months. A deadly accident involving a landmine occurred in Burao which resulted in three deaths, including that of a UN staff member. It is estimated that about 1-1.2 million mines remain throughout Somaliland. The Somaliland Mine Action Center, supported by UNDP, has coordinated mine action activities since 1999, and around 115 million square meters of territory has been cleared. Presently, mine clearance is going on in Togdheer region.

PROTECTION

On 5 December, 36 detainees captured during the fighting over contested areas of Sool and Sanag in late 2004 were exchanged in a momentous step of reconciliation between the local authorities of Puntland and Somaliland. The exchange was negotiated between the highest levels of both administrations and conducted on humanitarian grounds. Throughout his term, the UN Independent Expert on the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia, Dr. Alnajjar has consistently advocated for a speedy release of the prisoners, particularly during his last trip in August 2005 when he met with senior officials to mediate the exchange. In support of the process and to facilitate reintegration, under the auspices of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, aid agencies have provided assistance to the released detainees: UNICEF distributed a relief kit to each individual, while DRC is providing livelihood support. In the longer-term, these individuals will likely be incorporated into other assistance programmes.

Economic Migrants in Bossaso

Following last month's inter-agency assessment, throughout November medical and food assistance has been reaching Ethiopian economic migrants in Bossaso, Puntland. The influx of new Ethiopians, however, is continuing in large numbers with more expected to arrive. According to the new arrivals, the situation in Ethiopia has worsened which is causing many to flee the country. While life-saving assistance is reaching the beneficiaries – WFP recently supplied 2500 migrants (including 500 women) with two weeks of food ration (11.6 MT) - aid agencies met with the local authorities to ensure they continue to honour their responsibility of cracking down on the smugglers and providing security to the Ethiopians, particularly to women in the settlement sites through intensified night patrols.

During the assessment in October, many migrants had voiced a wish to return to Ethiopia as they found themselves stranded in Bossaso without a means to sustain themselves. Following Ramadam, and as smuggling resumed due to the authorities relaxing their crack-down operations, this wish appears to have reversed in some of the migrants. Indeed, according to reports, at least one boat is reported to leave twice or three times a week from two boarding points 30 kms and 90 kms west of Bossaso with organized trucks carrying passengers to the latter. During the first week of the feeding programme, aid partners observed that while old faces were disappearing, new ones were appearing. Aid partners also observed that migrants are receiving money from banks in Bossaso – presumably from friends and relatives back home – which is thought is going toward paying for the US\$ 100 charge smugglers are now asking for (up from US\$ 30) to sail across to Yemen or other Gulf countries.

As part of long term plan to address illegal smuggling, IOM is currently undertaking a mission to Bossaso to assess the feasibility of a 'one-off' assistance to facilitate the return of stranded migrants from back to Ethiopia. All partners agreed that there needs to be careful profiling of the migrants to ensure no one is repatriated to a situation that may place them in danger. Agencies also reiterated that a strategy needs to be developed by the authorities in order to address this recurring seasonal movement.

On 21 November, a fire broke out in an IDP camp on the outskirts of Mogadishu which burnt down huts belonging to 48 households. Immediate assistance was provided by the local community and agencies such as WFP and UNICEF were quick to mobilise further aid in coordination with local organizations. Agencies also underscored the importance of providing security to the camp during the distribution in cooperation with the local community to prevent looting. The incident continues to highlight the immense suffering and vulnerability of this group of the Somali population. As a result of overcrowding and the flimsy nature of shelter, the risk of fires has intensified in IDP settlements over the years. Earlier in 2005, thousands of people were left homeless when major fires occurred in settlements in Bossaso. Most IDPs pay rent for a small piece of land barely large enough to build their rudimentary shelters. Latrines are virtually non-existent and access to clean water remains a major challenge.

According to reports, the eviction of IDPs from public buildings in Kismayo town still goes on without any alternative solutions or assistance provided by the local authorities. Since September 2005, an estimated 460 households have reportedly been evicted, with another 150 ordered to leave within the next month. The absence of aid partners in Kismayo makes it very hard for the aid community to monitor developments or lobby with the local authorities on the unacceptability of such a policy without the provision of some alternative solution.

HEALTH

Findings of a nutrition assessment conducted in October 2005 among Burao IDP/returnee settlements in Somaliland, namely *Kossar*, *Aden Sulieman* and *Ali Hussein*, showed there has been no improvement since 2003. Conducted by FAO/FSAU, the Ministry of Health and Labour, the Somali Red Crescent Society, Save the Children UK, Candlelight and Havoyoco, the assessment reported 15.1% global acute malnutrition and 3.2% severe acute malnutrition. Unlike the settlements of Hargeisa that recently displayed an appreciable improvement (7.6% in 2005 compared to 15.3 % in 2003), sources of income among Burao settlements are more irregular and unreliable. Social support mechanisms in Burao are also either lacking or extremely strained. Main coping mechanisms include borrowing from shops and neighbours, reduction of food intake and consumption of less preferred foods. The assessment recommended implementation of targeted supplementary feeding, support of school feeding, income generation activities, sanitation interventions and intensification of immunization programmes. WFP has recently constructed a school canteen in *Kossar* with the intention of initiating a school feeding programme.

Despite targeted assistance since early 2005, nutritional surveys undertaken by UNICEF, FSAU and other partners also report continuing high malnutrition rates among IDPs in Bossaso, Puntland. Attributed to inadequate dietary intake due to low income and access to food and health services, in October efforts were made to improve IDP access to health services.

The number of polio cases continues to rise. To date, 73 cases have been confirmed, 72 in the Benadir region and one in Lower Shabelle. Most cases come from families known to have refused the vaccine in past campaigns. During the Polio National Immunization Day (NID) in November children under the age of five were vaccinated throughout Somalia. Figures are still being compiled but the post campaign evaluation suggests a 90% coverage was achieved. The next NID started on 13 December until 15 December 2005.

During the month, 1,049 cases of measles and one death were reported. As an WHO/UNICEF led effort, an emergency measles vaccination campaign was launched in all three of the Somali zones to target around 3.2 million children between the ages of nine months and fifteen years. The campaign started in Puntland and Bakool region on 15 November to end on 10 December, with a target of 1 million children. The campaign will be carried out in Somaliland throughout December while the rest of Somalia will be covered by February 2006. This campaign is part of a large Measles Mortality Reduction Plan whose objectives are to decrease measles mortality by 50% by the end of 2005; to increase the level of immunity against measles; and to improve outbreak response through institutionalized measles surveillance.

Cholera prevention activities continue by WHO and UNICEF in coordination with a number of local and international NGOs and community based organizations in all susceptible areas. Despite a couple of confirmed cases of cholera in October, there continues to be no widespread outbreak of cholera in Somalia: the first time since 1994. Still, diarrheal cases have been on the increase in Mogadishu – a trend that will require continued close monitoring – reason why WHO, UNICEF and partners added emphasis on chlorination of wells and health education activities during the month. As a cholera endemic area, emphasis is the strongest in Benadir region, but supplies are also pre-positioned throughout Somalia.

The possible arrival of avian flu on the African continent is of great concern – particularly for animal health (presently avian flu is affecting only birds and, very very rarely, humans). Agencies such as the Center for Disease Control and FAO are nevertheless monitoring the movement of migratory birds from Europe and Asia to enhance preparedness. At present, Somalia is at very low risk of receiving the flu as the country is not in the migratory path of the birds (very little marshlands or freshwater) and the poultry industry is non-existent in Somalia (chicken is not the most common source of meat or protein). Population density in Somalia is also very low.

LIVELIHOOD and FOOD SECURITY

With the 2005 *Deyr* season almost over, the prospects of good rainfall in southern and central Somalia are now slim. According to FEWS/NET, much of southern and central Somalia received less than 20% of the normal rainfall between October and November 2005. FAO/FSAU's assessment that agro-pastoralist and pastoralists in Juba Valley and Gedo are at a high risk to Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis still stands.

While in northern Somalia normal 2005 *Deyr* rains are enabling improvement of rangeland and livestock conditions, for most of southern and central Somalia, *Deyr* rains to date have been poorly geographically distributed and significantly below normal. In the Juba Valley and Gedo, pasture and water is severely depleted due to the compounding impact of poor 2005 *Gu* season. Livestock body conditions are weak, milk availability is limited, and cattle prices have declined significantly (50% decline since April 2005). In the last few months, livestock from the Jubas, Gedo and Kenya have continued to migrate and concentrate in the coastal areas and tsetse fly infested riverine areas. Reports from the field say that some pastoralists have crossed the Juba river to the eastern bank, crossing clan boundaries which may spark conflict over resources. With limited out migration options as cross border areas face similar or worse rangeland conditions, food insecurity is likely to intensify as cereal prices increase, terms of trade deteriorate and income options are restricted.

Given the *Deyr* performance, crop harvest is expected to be very poor. The 2005 *Gu* crop production was the lowest in a decade (44% of Pre War Average or 73,000 metric tons (MT)), and now with the poor *Deyr* cereal crop prospects, total annual cereal production (June 2005 – May 2006) is likely to be the lowest in a decade. In such a scenario, Annual Cereal Supply and Demand Balance, indicates a significant cereal shortfall, with severe implications for food security and nutrition in southern Somalia. Some pockets of the Juba Valley are already beset with malnutrition rates as high as 20%, way above internationally accepted levels. In a worse case scenario, should the rapidly deteriorating food security situation be combined with widespread civil insecurity, the situation could rapidly evolve into a major Humanitarian Emergency for much of the area.

Given the severity of the situation, FAO/FSAU has decided to move forward its usual seasonal 2005/2006 survey by a month (from late January 2006 to early December 2005) to undertake a thorough crop and pastoralist assessment in southern Somalia, and to intensify nutritional surveillance in Gedo, the Jubas, as well as Bay and Bakool where the poor *Deyr* season is having equally negative impacts on the communities. In Dinsor district (Bay region), in late November WFP was unable to distribute food to IDPs identified during a joint assessment in August 2005, due to a complaint by the local communities that given the *Deyr* performance, assistance should be provided to all those in need and not IDPs alone. According to the Dinsor District Commissioner, selective food aid now could contribute to tensions between IDPs and the host communities and fuel further displacement.

FAO/FSAU urges that efforts at comprehensive contingency planning for worse case scenario be increased. Provision of animal health services and rehabilitation of strategic boreholes and other livestock intervention programmes for agro-pastoral and pastoral areas along the Juba are urgently required. At an inter-agency meeting to discuss developments, despite the limited presence of aid agencies in the area (due to insecurity), aid partners agreed that assistance should be focused away from the river in order to avoid a pull factor to already stressed riverine areas. UNOCHA is also liaising with agencies operating in Kenya to see what assistance can be provided to pastoralists.

Given the implications of piracy on humanitarian supply pipelines as well as the persistent security and access restrictions in southern Somalia, the aid community is faced with a real challenge in terms of reaching these highly vulnerable communities. Particular difficulties of access are coming at a time when the situation in south central is getting worse and the number of those in need is increasing. WFP's food aid stocks in Somalia are at an all-time low because of the spate of ship hijackings, yet worse case scenario food aid projections for the first six months of 2006 have dramatically increased from 18,000 MT to some 64,000 MT. WFP has developed a contingency plan to maintain its activities to assist the most vulnerable populations in Somalia, which includes strengthening its partnerships with international and local aid organizations to undertake food distribution. Other aid agencies too are preparing to face a worsening of the humanitarian situation in southern Somalia and an increase in number of people in critical need of assistance.

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION and REINTEGRATION

With support from UNDP, in November the Puntland State of Somalia embarked on its first ever Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme, which targets 500 security force personnel with a view to enhancing peace, security and development in the state. The exercise will target a total of 1,000 forces by mid-2006 to reduce security personnel employed by the authorities dramatically.

All security force personnel have been registered with the Government, and a new DDR policy will guide the selection of those eligible to participate in the programme. After handing over their weapons to their commanders, the participants will be provided with on the job training and placement, formal education, rural resettlement or support to start their own micro-enterprise.

It is expected the exercise will free up an annual US\$ 1 million from the state budget which the authorities will be able to divert toward productive sectors to help boost the economy and local livelihoods by bringing new trained individuals from the armed forces into other sectors. The authorities stressed that the programme is essential to alleviating the financial pressures now faced by them. The programme will also feed into a broader security sector reform that will support proper training of police and military in manageable numbers.

TSUNAMI

On 16 November, the World Bank hosted a signing ceremony for two post-tsunami support projects to start in 2006 for a total of around US\$ 2 million. Building on the emergency assistance provided after the tsunami hit the Somali coastline in December 2004, and in order to strengthen long term recovery efforts, through two grants from the Japanese Social Development Fund, the World Bank will support two projects implemented through CARE Somalia and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), respectively.

The project to be implemented by CARE foresees support toward the recovery and strengthening of the fishing based livelihoods of around 800 families in Kulub and Gara'ad, Jeriban district, adversely affected by the tsunami. The IFRC project, on the other hand, will provide continued outreach health response activities to tsunami-affected areas in northeastern Somalia to reduce morbidity and mortality rates and provide an early response to epidemics in tsunami affected areas.

JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Inception Retreat that took place between 23 and 26 November 2005 officially launched the Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) process in Somalia. The Retreat drew together more than 100 participants, including Ministers and representatives of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), the UN, World Bank (WB), resource persons from the Somali Diaspora, civil society and key development partners. The event was organized along the lines of the six priority clusters and three cross-cutting issues¹ and the discussions allowed a number of concrete outcomes as outlined below. In many cases this was the first time such dialogue had occurred among such a broad range of stakeholders.

Throughout the Retreat, it was emphasized that the JNA is a unique platform for the Somali Authorities and international partners to agree on joint priorities and a shared strategy for recovery and development. Emphasis was also placed on the non-political and participatory nature of the exercise, lead by the JNA's guiding principles, in its goal of improving stability, reducing poverty and deepening peace for all Somalis. Once concluded, the JNA will form the essence of a national development plan. As such, it should be based on a common and inclusive vision for poverty reduction, reconstruction, development and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. The JNA will address immediate sectoral programme priorities, necessary policy and structural reforms, capacity and institutional needs, aimed at promoting reconciliation and conflict prevention. In particular, the following agreements and conclusions were reached:

- Inclusiveness, national and local ownership and commitment by all stakeholders are crucial for the success of the process. The TFG will appoint one focal point for each cluster, responsible for ensuring coordination and information flow within the TFG and between the TFG and the JNA teams.
- The clusters agreed to deliver the final sector reports by end of February 2006. The importance of cross-cutting issues was also emphasized, and incorporated in the cluster work plans.

¹ Clusters: i) governance, safety and rule of law; ii) macro-economic policy and data development; iii) infrastructure; iv) social services and protection of vulnerable groups; v) productive sectors and environment; and vi) livelihoods and solutions for the displaced. Cross cutting issues: i) peace building, reconciliation and conflict prevention; ii) capacity building and institutional development (public and private) plus anti corruption initiatives; and iii) gender parity and human rights.

- The clusters will need to prioritize between competing needs, and give thought to how to maximize available resources for the five-year interim period. Priorities will be linked to realistic and detailed cost estimates for the first two years, and broader estimates for the next three years.
- The assessments should aim to build on existing structures, networks and information of Somali and international organizations. Zonal coordinators in the field will serve as focal points between Somali stakeholders, and be responsible for ensuring substantive involvement from zonal stakeholders.
- Development partners reiterated their commitment and support to enable the completion of the JNA process, a successful donor's conference and realization of the Reconstruction and Development Programme once the JNA is finalized.

During November, time was spent assembling the JNA as well as relevant documentation that will be used during the assessment. The JNA Secretariat also began the preparations for the field workshops of which there will be twelve (six at the beginning of the assessment and six at the end) in the following areas: Somaliland, Puntland East, Central, South, South-West and Benadir. The first zonal workshop will be in Hargeisa on 15-17 December, with the next five following back to back in January 2006.

Needs assessments are normally funded by a contribution of resources from the UN, WB and donors. During the last three months, the EC, Sweden, Norway and Italy, through UNICEF and FAO, and the UK have committed to financially support the JNA.

CONSOLIDATED APPEALS PROCESS

The 2006 Somalia Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) will be launched in Nairobi on 14 December 2005. The UN and its partners are requesting US\$ 174,116,815 to support 77 projects to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations in the country, namely almost 1 million people, including 345,000 people in a state of Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis, 200,000 experiencing a Humanitarian Emergency and 370,000-400,000 internally displaced people.

With one month left to the end of the year, the 2005 Somalia CAP is 50% covered (approximately US\$ 80.8 million) and still showing a sectoral funding bias against sectors which enable the provision of basic social services. The security sector is also still unfunded as are seven out of twelve NGOs within the Appeal.

Last year, the 2004 CAP reached 62% coverage (approximately US\$ 74.4 million). While in relative terms this may look like in 2005 funding to the Somalia CAP decreased, in absolute terms (actual money received) funding has in fact been higher this year. There is, however, no case for complacency as the needs in Somalia are critical and require concerted and sustained support by the international community. During the JNA Inception Retreat, the TFG urged donors to continue funding humanitarian efforts, while the UN emphasized the importance of humanitarian work as the foundation upon which recovery and reconstruction efforts will be undertaken.