



- Border Kenya/Somalia re-opened
- Mine awareness low
- Continuing high rates of acute malnutrition in South Central indicate chronic nature
- AWD epidemic contained in South Central

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOMALIA

### Monthly Analysis

### June 2007

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

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Despite measures by the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to improve security in Mogadishu, the situation continued to deteriorate. Violence persisted with increased random bomb attacks and grenades explosions harming many innocent civilians, Ethiopian /TFG troops as well as Ugandan peace keepers. Assassinations and failed attempted murders of government officials or those deemed to side with the TFG were also reported. House-to-house weapon searches continued limiting the movement of people due to day imposed curfews in targeted districts. This greatly hampered livelihood activities for residents especially during the disruption of activities at the largest market (Bakara) for the first time in 17 years in the first week of July.

The unpredictable insecurity in Mogadishu created uncertainty among residents with about 8,000 moving during June, while according to UNHCR's Population Movement Tracking (PMT) 126,000 others moved to other regions between February and May 2007. Those that returned are among 406,000 people that have been displaced since the start of the conflict in February. An additional 2,800 people evicted from public buildings are leaving in appalling conditions, some homeless and resorting to begging on the streets.

Humanitarian agencies were not spared by the insecurity and a number of arrests and harassments were reported. Local NGO staff members were arrested followed by a search of their office in Mogadishu, while an international NGO also had their compound searched. In South/Central Somalia two international NGOs suspended operations due to continuing insecurity. Working in an atmosphere of fear and harassments, poses serious concerns to the humanitarian community's ability to operate.

The insecurity that gripped Mogadishu paralyzed operations for humanitarian workers as some planned response activities came to a complete halt. WFP's third round of distribution to Internationally Displaced People (IDPs) was stopped following a shooting incident at one of the distribution points. That notwithstanding, distribution of the much needed assistance of food and Non-Food Items (NFIs) to Mogadishu orphanages, IDPs in Middle and Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle to a total of 131,494 people was completed. The distribution was carried out by various local and international NGOs and UN agencies working in Somalia.

Meanwhile, there was a ray of hope for about 200,000 people in Gedo region when the Kenya government opened its border with Somalia to allow humanitarian assistance to cross on 5 July. About 8,500 metric tons of food was stuck for over a month due to boarder problems that have been ongoing in recent months, sometimes impeding transport of humanitarian cargo and staff into Somalia. Generally, access in South/Central regions remained a challenge with a number of roadblocks and passage fees for transporters of aid emerging each new day. The night curfews introduced in major towns of Mogadishu and Kismayo obstructed access and slowed activities at the sea ports.

Among riverine and agro-pastoral households in Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, the May 2007 nutrition assessments (FSAU) indicate acute malnutrition rates above the emergency thresholds of 15 per cent Global Acute Malnutrition and extremely high rates of Severe Acute Malnutrition. Several indicators point out that the livelihoods of an already over-burdened population might further deteriorate. In a preliminary indication by FSAU, the Gu season (April – June) has shown rainfall deficits in most parts of Somalia. The insecurity that is causing movement in and around Mogadishu and other regions is also already impacting on food prices of the most essential commodities such as oil, sugar, rice and fuel.

As the TFG with the support of the Ethiopians continued in their attempts to secure Mogadishu in June, violence persisted with roadside bombs, mortar/grenade attacks and targeted assassinations. Following the announcement on 13 June to postpone the National Reconciliation Conference the violence further escalated. The increase in insurgencies especially towards the end of the month, restricted livelihood and business activities as entire sections of the city were blocked off. Many were unable to reach schools and jobs. National NGOs reported a decrease in school attendance.

In a bid to calm the city the government announced on 19 June amnesty to former members of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), except for those deemed linked to international terrorist groups. Furthermore, on 22 June the TFG introduced a 19:00 – 06:00 curfew. The security crackdown that started at the beginning of the month continued with random searches of weapons, alleged arrests and harassments of civilians suspected to align against the TFG. Reports suggested that many hundreds of people had been arrested since the imposition of the curfew, with no access to family, or independent monitoring of their situation. Humanitarian workers were not spared either. On 18 June four staff members of a local NGO were arrested followed by a search of their office in Mogadishu and released two days later, while an International NGO also had their compound searched. This atmosphere of fear and harassments poses serious concerns about the humanitarian community's ability to scale up response activities. On 7 and 8 July, business came to a standstill disrupting livelihoods in Bakara, the largest market in South/Central Somalia, for the first time in 17 years as TFG forces searched for weapons.

During June, around 126,000 people returned to Mogadishu out of the 406,000 who fled Mogadishu since February 2007. However, due to the abovementioned insecurity and harassments, UNHCR reported through its Protection Monitoring Tracking system (PMT) that 8,000 people fled Mogadishu in June and July (as of 13 July).

There has been rising incidents of unexploded mine ordnances causing death and injuries of vulnerable women and children in Mogadishu. On 26 June, five women were killed as they cleaned the streets near Bakara market when a grenade during garbage collection went off. On 6 July five children died after they started playing with a package that exploded. Unknown to them, the package contained an explosive. Ugandan peace keepers have been engaged in defusing unexploded ordinances left behind from the ongoing conflict. Rapid assessment of mine risks and proliferations took place on 29 June by UNICEF in Mogadishu and Baidoa. Mine risk education activities complicated by the proliferation are making the identification of devices difficult. Mine risk assessments have been concluded by UNMAS in Mogadishu and the Danish De-mining Group is preparing assessment activities.

Mine awareness education programmes are ongoing in Somalia. However, as long as incidents like these still occur whereby innocent children and women are killed, mine awareness activities need to intensify.

On 14 June, a UN Inter-Agency Mission headed by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) traveled to Mogadishu. The aim of the mission was to discuss ways to increase delivery of humanitarian assistance through improved coordination and communication between all constituents working in Mogadishu. Meetings were held with TFG Minister of Planning, the Mayor of Mogadishu and NGOs. All stakeholders voiced a desire and need for improved cooperation to scale up humanitarian response and supported a proposed workshop to better define roles and responsibilities of each constituent. This followed another mission that was held on 29-30 May to discuss steps in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Unrest spread from Mogadishu to other areas in the southern regions further hampering humanitarian activities. In Kismayo district (Lower Juba) a dispute on 22 June over grazing land caused 52 deaths and many other injuries as well as displacement into Kismayo city. Following the clashes, a curfew was introduced in Kismayo to reduce tensions. In addition, due to insecurity spreading to neighbouring Jamame town, an international humanitarian organisation discontinued activities for four days. On 27 June, a parliamentarian and former Defence Minister of the TFG with clan ties in Kismayo survived a road side bomb attack as he was travelling in Bardere (Gedo). In Baidoa, three incidents of hand grenade throwing into crowded areas were reported killing six people and injuring several others in the separate attacks. As a direct consequence, a curfew was also introduced in Baidoa on 17 June. In other incidents international NGOs were under attack: in Bay a grenade was thrown into an NGO compound and in Bakol and INGO discontinued operations due to rising tensions following the killing of a doctor working for the organization.

Following incident-free food distributions in May by WFP, the third round WFP distribution in June was abruptly interrupted by the TFG following an incident on 27 June where a shootout by police took place at a distribution point. By the time of going to press, WFP was engaged in dialogue with relevant TFG authorities for quick resumption of the distributions to the remaining 47,000 IDPs.

The much needed food aid for Somalia crossed the Kenya/Somali border on 5 July after a 6 weeks period of non-border crossings. This followed several high level advocacy and international pressure on the Kenyan government by among others Amnesty International to re-open the border. An initial 60 trucks carrying 1811 metric tons of food

crossed the border at Mandera which will be distributed to 200,000 people in Gedo. The combination of the closed Kenya/Somali border together with the hampered transport by sea due to piracy, limited the access to Somalia in June. In addition, access and movement in general by road has also experienced challenges with checkpoints and high passage fees resulting in delivery delays and additional transport costs. Elsewhere in Bardere (Gedo), following the attack of parliamentarian (as mentioned above), tensions reported in the area led to the closure of Bardera airstrip to international staff till the situation improves. Meanwhile, UN air services to Galkayo resumed on 28 June, following a temporary suspension due to security concerns.

## PROTECTION

During the months of June and July, the population movements have become increasingly complex in Mogadishu. While some people were returning to the capital, others were fleeing because of the renewed violence, the inability to re-start livelihoods and possible evictions. As of the end of June, out of the 406,000 who had fled the city during the heavy fighting that raged between February and May, the number of estimated returnees totals 126,000. Reasons obstructing return include not being able to afford the cost of transportation back to the capital, insecurity of the city or not having a house to go back to. The last few days of June the Population Movement Tracking (PMT) recorded an increasing number of people fleeing the city. Up till 13 July, over 8,000 civilians fled the daily explosions and attacks that have engulfed Mogadishu.

With explosions, roadside bombs and fire exchanges happening daily despite the night curfew, some people are also moving within the capital. They are departing their home when it is located close to TFG or Ethiopian bases and moving to another part of the city for fear of being wounded or killed in the skirmishes. Some people living close to such bases have reportedly been ordered to vacate their houses by the Ethiopian or TFG forces, while the authorities have expelled at least 2,800 people who used to live on state property. The TFG has asked people living in former public buildings such as ministry buildings, police stations or even electric power plants to vacate them, without compensation or alternatives being provided.

UNHCR and other UN agencies are currently asking the TFG to halt these evictions. In June an interagency mission to Mogadishu took place stressing that any long-term resettlement of IDPs must be based on the outcomes of the National Reconciliation Conference. Furthermore, that any activity aimed at repossessing public buildings in which IDPs have been living, should be in line with international standards and in conjunction with alternative solutions

provided for the affected IDPs. With other civilians having come back to Mogadishu only to discover that their house had been destroyed in the conflict, many people are now homeless and vulnerable, in dire need of shelter, water, food and livelihood. Current identified priorities are the provision of basic social services.



**A woman returnee to Mogadishu finds what used to be her house destroyed forced to beg for shelter and livelihood.  
Source: OCHA**

In June, UNHCR and partners completed the rapid survey among IDPs in Mogadishu. Work is ongoing in analysing the outcomes of the rapid survey that intends to generate findings on the dynamics and underlying causes of displacement during the recent fighting as well as the intentions of the IDPs.

A public execution of two men was carried out on 5 July. The two have been accused of killing two TFG intelligence agents. A Mogadishu court convicted the two men and ordered their executions. This is the first reported public execution since the seven month TFG rule. The men were blindfolded and shot in front of a 30 people crowd.

Population movements have also been registered in the district of Kismayo. In June more than 13,000 people (13 July) fled the villages in the district of Kismayo to Kismayo city due to inter-clan conflict between two rival clans of nomadic pastoralists who were supposedly fighting over grazing land. The violence reportedly claimed the lives of 52 people. At the end of the month, another 2,000 fled a second clan-related fighting in and around Kismayo town. Another 4,000 people living along the Shabelle river fled a flooding which destroyed shelters and crops. Non-food items were distributed in the Juba's by the ICRC to 2,500 IDP households in Jilib and Jamame. Items distributed included tarpaulin, blankets, kitchen sets, clothes, mats and jerry cans.

Concerning the human tragedy of people crossing the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, only one boat arrived on the Yemen shores in June carrying a total of 55 people including 46 Somalis. The low numbers can be explained by the season with rough weather. So far at the end of June, 77 boats have crossed to Yemen with 8466 people arriving (4502 Somalis, 3960 Ethiopians and 4 from other nationalities). Reportedly, 385 people have died during the crossing (308 Ethiopians and 77 Somalis) and 118 are missing.

To improve the living conditions of IDPs in Bosaso the Japanese Government announced its support of \$4 million to an inter-agency programme, through the Human Security Trust Fund (HSTF). The programme is implemented by UNHCR, FAO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT, UNDP and DRC. It aims to help 11,000 protracted displaced living in Bosaso (Puntland). All agencies will work closely with the Puntland and local authorities as well as the benefiting communities. The town of Bosaso has been a pilot for the UN Strategy for assistance to IDPs, linking upgrading of living conditions in temporary settlements with more durable solutions. The two-year project will include assistance to the prevention from physical violence and fire outbreaks in IDP settlements, the investment in basic social services and infrastructures in existing settlements, as well as longer term resettlement and reintegration solutions for IDPs currently in Bosaso. The project will offer concrete benefits and strengthen the political, social and economic rights of a vulnerable group which has been neglected.

#### **IPDs fleeing conflict tortured on their way to safety**

Three months ago, 32 year old \*Farahia Ali's mind raced miles ahead to her destination, wondering how her new life would be, as she traveled 250 km between Mogadishu and Baidoa accompanied by her seven children. Her husband had been killed a few weeks earlier in the conflict.

Her thoughts were suddenly disrupted by the commotion caused by two vans that pulled alongside their truck forcing their driver to a stop. In a split of a second, she and the other passengers were whisked out of the vehicle, and their only worldly possessions taken away by freelance militia at Jirikulow 160km from Mogadishu on the road to Baidoa.

"We were beaten up and in the milee, my three year son was hit with the butt of a gun which has caused him serious chest pains to date," Farahia narrated as tears streamed freely down her cheeks. Soon, she and five other women who the attackers described as "beautiful" were pushed to nearby bushes. The rest, as Farahia describes is an ordeal she wants to forget for the rest of her life. "I was lucky to be raped by one man, but the other four young women I was with were raped repeatedly. All this time, she prayed for the militia not to hurt her young daughters.

Farahia is also bitter with the militias for taking away 3,000Shs (worth only a loaf of bread) – the only money she had for buying food for her children. "I thank God I am alive today to take care of them because these gangs have been known to torture people to death," she says. Now living with other families in a miserable and crowded settlement in Baidoa, Farahia only remembers that day with disgust.

Rape is a very sensitive issue in Somalia that is hardly ever discussed openly. A woman who confesses to have been raped tends to be blamed for the ordeal. Thousands of Somali women and girls are suffering in silence as they deal all alone with the traumatic experience of rape and other sexual violence without social support or professional help.

Another woman, \*Deeqa Mohamed, a mother of five girls mourns the loss of her 14 year old daughter. Just like Farahia, Degan's daughter was chosen among other women by militia at Leego, a town located between Mogadishu and Baidoa, and raped at a roadside bush. Unlike Farahia, she was then taken away by the militia. Deagan has not heard of her daughter since and wonders if she will ever see her again. Deega can only hope that one day she will find her daughter.

Thousands of people have been displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict in Mogadishu to various parts of the country. Majority of the displaced are women and children who have to weather extreme conditions as they travel either in trucks or on foot to safety. Reports indicate that people have been robbed of their possessions, harassed and raped by local militias on the roads all over South/Central Somalia.

**\* Names have been concealed to protect the women's identities.**

One of the biggest challenges to work with prevention and response to Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) in South/Central according to UNFPA, is to ensure access to health facilities and skilled health personnel for the most vulnerable women, as well as to increase their communities' awareness about existing services.

According to a rapid reproductive health assessment carried out by UNFPA in February 2007 among 23 Mother and Child Health (MCH) clinics and three hospitals in South/Central, only a limited number of the facilities are providing the Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP Kit) and emergency contraception. PEP prevents Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) including HIV. UNFPA is providing health facilities with PEP for management of immediate consequences of sexual violence, with appropriate drugs and supplies.

In response to the concern, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will conduct five-day training (22 – 26 July) in Baidoa for health personnel who are working in the South/Central regions. The training will involve standards of



medical case management - and treatment of sexually abused persons, as well as on how to provide trauma counseling.

## LIVELIHOODS and FOOD SECURITY

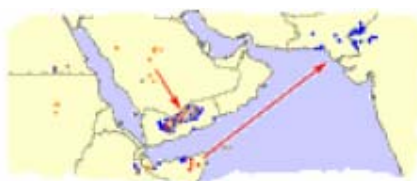
The performance of the 2007 Gu season rains (April to June), the most critical rains of the year, have been well below normal in terms of intensity, distribution throughout the season, amount and coverage for most of the country. In most of the southern regions the cumulative seasonal rainfall is similar to 2004. The exception is the northwest and localised areas in the northeast, central region and Juba Valley. The Gu season crop establishment conditions vary from region to region, but generally are well below normal in most agricultural areas in the south, both for rainfed and irrigated cereal crops. Rangelands, however, are near normal in most regions due to last season's above normal rains and a mild dry season. Several indicators point out that the livelihoods of an already over-burdened population might further deteriorate. With preliminary indication by FSAU, the Gu season (April – June) has shown rainfall deficits in most parts of Somalia. The insecurity that is causing movement in and around Mogadisu and other regions is also already impacting on food prices of the most essential commodities such as oil, sugar, rice and fuel.

Many of the displaced people have lost property and livelihoods, and are now facing sharp inflationary price increases in essential food and non-food commodities. Prices for both imported commodities (such as oil, sugar, fuel and rice) and local produced cereals have increased markedly over the last few weeks.

Among riverine and agro-pastoral households in Middle and Lower Shabelle regions, the May 2007 nutrition assessments (FSAU) indicate acute malnutrition rates above the emergency threshold of 15 percent (GAM) and extremely high rates of severe acute malnutrition of 4.7 percent Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). As a result, WFP is revising its projection to accommodate regions with poor harvest and high malnutrition rates which are not yet part of the planning. WFP will also start using high energy biscuits for children under 5 in the affected areas.

During the month of June, the following reported food distributions were undertaken: to Lower Juba food was distributed by the ICRC in Afmadow (4,800 IDPs) and Dhobley (13,200 IDPs) and by WFP and partners in Kismayo (5,040 IDPs). Middle Juba received food from WFP and World Vision International in Sakow and Buale for 67,980 people and in Jilib 39,414 people received WFP food aid. Furthermore, WFP and partners distributed food in Lower Shabelle, Qoryoley to 5,500 people and the ICRC assisted four orphanages in Mogadishu with food aid benefiting around 600 orphans. A total of 131,494 persons received food assistance. In Gedo 108,000 people did not receive their food assistance from WFP, as a result from constrained overland transport of food and humanitarian supplies because of the closure of Kenya/Somalia border.

After the shooting incident on June 25 at Abdulaziz food distribution point (FDP) the food distribution to IDPs in Mogadishu was halted. Out of the 100,000 IDPs planned for relief assistance, only 53,000 were assisted before the incident. WFP is now requesting authorization from the relevant authority to resume distributions to the remaining 47,000 IDPs.



*Winds could carry swarms of locusts from NE Somalia to India and Pakistan Source: FAO*

According to FAO the swarms of locusts which invaded areas of northern Somalia have most likely left the area. In recent days flying locusts have been carried by monsoon winds moving in a north-east direction out of north-east Somalia and across the Indian Ocean towards India and Pakistan. Farmers in the north-eastern part of Puntland may be facing production problems during the June/July harvest season. However, although reports indicate that the locusts' swarms damaged the crops, the majority being fruit farms, impact assessments on the ground will have to be conducted.

## HEALTH, WATER HYGIENE and SANITATION

A total of 37,301 cases of clinically diagnosed Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) including 1133 related deaths were reported from South/Central Somalia between 1 January and 29 June 2007. Although the outbreak continued to be contained in many regions, the need to maintain the same level of response remains. Priority is water treatment/purification at the source and at the point of use. The drastic reduction in AWD cases resulted in the closure of four Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs): two in Mogadishu and two in Puntland.

The overall trend shows that the total number of reported cases is decreasing with the exception in Bay region, resulting in an overall increase of the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> June. A significant number of AWD cases with a high CFR were reported from Dharqo health center, a village 45 km from Baidoa. WHO provided AWD supplies for 5 days and conducted health education about prevention and treatment of AWD.

## Distribution of AWD Cases for Somaliland

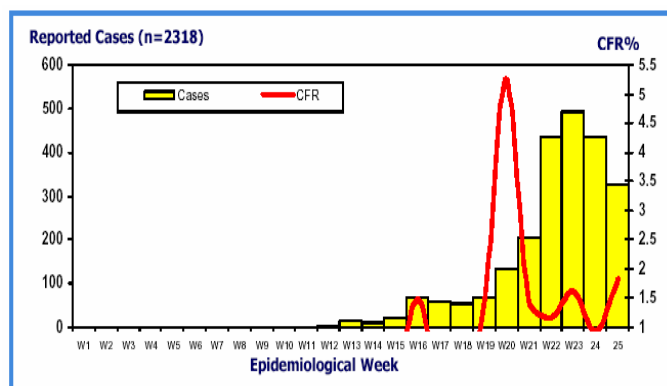


Figure 1: Distribution of AWD cases, Somaliland, 01 January - 22 June 2007

increase access to water and sanitation services of the conflict affected population. Although chlorination will be stopped in South/Central Somalia, water purification activities will recommence in October as part of the normal routine 7-months chlorination schedule. WHO emphasizes the importance of continued chlorination to avoid the risk of AWD and other water-borne diseases.

Local and international NGOs are carrying out AWD control interventions focusing on:

- providing safe drinking water to the displaced population in Mogadishu,
- rehabilitating water wells, and constructing boreholes and latrines (twin pit),
- providing basic health care through 5 mobile medical teams between Mogadishu and Afgoye.

Interventions in Middle Juba by several organisations consisted of the improvement of water pans, construction of shallow wells to be fitted with hand pumps, household latrines and twin pit latrines. In Beletweyne and Bullo Burto (Hiran), shallow wells were rehabilitated and household latrines constructed. In Bualle, Sakow and Salagle (Middle Juba) water catchments, shallow wells and latrines were constructed and roof catchments tanks will be installed. Training of hygiene promoters continue. In Kismayo the activities had been put on hold due to the insecurity.



Women are saved walking many miles in search of water through construction of water wells by humanitarian Organisations. Source: OCHA

UNICEF continued to support all water and sanitation (WASH) partners in South/Central Somalia including the Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources up to the end of July in chlorination and hygiene promotion activities. WASH cluster partners are increasing their area of coverage to the neediest areas in South/Central Somalia.

Subsequent to the reports of measles outbreaks in South /Central Somalia, a district based measles campaigns will take place in the three districts of Mahas, Afgoye, and Wanleweyn in July.

There have been no additional polio cases reported in June. To date, Somalia has 8 reported cases of polio compared with 27 cases for the same period of time in 2006. The Sub-National Immunization Day campaign conducted in May targeted more than 350,000 children under the age of five in Togdher, Hiran, 4 districts in Middle Shabelle, and both Middle and Lower Juba

regions. Coverage differed by region, with 82% in Burao (Somaliland) and over 90% in other regions.

In addition, WHO is providing on-going support to improve the capacity of health care workers providing Integrated Prevention Treatment and Care (IPTC). Health workers were also trained to support Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) in Hargeisa and Garowe. Sero-surveillance training will be initiated in July 2007.

## NUTRITION

The widespread chronic nutrition crisis in South/Central Somalia continues to be documented with 16 out of 17 nutrition assessments conducted in 2007 (by FSAU), recording global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 15 – 20%. (WHO emergency threshold of >15% GAM). In most of the assessments, the younger children 6-24 months have been shown to be significantly more at risk of acute malnutrition than the older children 25-59 months. This highlights the importance of health and care practices as contributing factors to the current nutrition crisis and the need to focus both on emergency and longer term interventions on supporting improved access and availability of health, water and sanitation services.

Of most concern are the recent results from two nutrition assessments on the Shabelle Regions, conducted in May among the Riverine and Agro-pastoral populations. For the Riverine population a GAM rate of 17.0% and a Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate of 4.8% were recorded while the Agro-Pastoral livelihood recorded a GAM rate of 17.3% and a SAM rate of 4.5%. Although the global rates of acute malnutrition are similar to the results from other areas, the very high rates of severe acute malnutrition and elevated mortality rates do signify a crisis situation. The situation in Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions is mainly a result of cumulative effects of conflict, insecurity, concentrated displacement and limited interventions (linked to insecurity) within the Shabelle region. Consequently, this has led to increased stress on host communities over the last three months. These shocks are further compounded by the on-going acute watery diarrhoea epidemics, losses from the last Deyr floods and three seasons of below normal cereal production. Immediate efforts to address this situation are needed.

In Burhakaba district, Bay Region, the nutrition assessment in the Agro-Pastoral livelihood also in May recorded a GAM rate of 15.6% and a SAM rate of 3.3% while the pastoral livelihood recorded a GAM rate of 16.2% and a SAM rate of 3.9%. Mortality rates in both assessments were also above alert thresholds. (FSAU, June 2007). While again these results are consistent with findings in previous years, therefore not indicating a new emergency, the lack of emergency nutrition programmes on the ground to address the situation in the area is of great concern.

Finally along the Coastal Dheer of North East Somalia, a nutrition assessment, also conducted in May, recorded GAM rate of 14.9% and SAM rate of 1.1%. The Coastal Dheer results indicate a serious nutrition situation but with lower SAM rates and mortality rates at acceptable levels. The situation does signify a more stable situation compared to South/Central Somalia. In addition, this is recognized as the 'peak hungry season' for the population along the Coastal Dheer as access to the sea for fishing is limited due to safety concerns. A further challenge in this area is access to health services which is limited (FSAU June 2007).

Nutrition Assessment Results May 2007	GAM (Global Acute Malnutrition)	GAM CI ranges	SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition)	SAM CI ranges
Shabelle regions				
Riverine	17.0%	13.4 - 20.5	4.8%	3.0 - 6.7
Agro-pastoral	17.3%	13.3 – 21.3	4.5%	2.5 – 6.6
Bay region, Burhakaba				
Agro-pastoral	15.6%	12.2 – 19.0	3.3%	2.4 – 5.3
Pastoral	16.2%	12.1 – 20.2	3.9%	2.4 – 5.3
Coastal Dheer	14.9%	12.1 – 17.7	1.1%	0.2 – 1.9
<i>GAM includes the total proportion of moderately and severely malnourished children.</i>				

In July FSAU and partners plan to conduct three livelihood based nutrition assessments in the Riverine, Agro Pastoral and Pastoral Populations of Lower and Middle Juba.

Review of the ongoing nutrition intervention targeting IDPs in Baidoa was made while plans to start emergency nutrition activities in the recently established Galkayo IDP camps are underway. In addition to following up of emergency nutrition programme implementation, efforts were made to revamp and integrate non emergency nutrition activities like micronutrient supplementation promotion, nutrition education, childcare promotion in the ongoing nutrition activities.

Sending supplies into Somalia is a challenging task which has been further hindered with the closure of the Kenya-Somali border five weeks ago. The nutrition programme in particular has been affected with 150 out of the 228 metric ton monthly requirement unable to reach its distribution points. However, despite the closure of the Kenya-Somali border, efforts to deliver adequate emergency nutrition supplies to the operating selective feeding programmes in South/Central Somalia are being made by the various nutrition stakeholders.

The chronic nature of the nutrition crisis in Somalia is a result of many factors.

The long term effects of the conflict in the 1990's affected: access to basic services such as health, clean water, sanitation facilities as well as basic education.

On top of this, parts of the population have been faced with: frequent displacement, drought, flooding and disease epidemics resulting in high levels of poverty and limited opportunities to recover to an acceptable nutritional status.

## HIV/AIDS

The 2nd generation surveillance in place in Somalia has so far been able to complete the sero surveillance survey in Somaliland and is in progress in Puntland and South/Central Somalia. New data from WHO indicated no significant increase in the prevalence (given the confidence interval of the data). Many sites in Somaliland indicate that the prevalence had not changed compared to the 2004 sero surveillance survey. There is however an increased rate of syphilis and HIV amongst patients presenting with Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). Other components such as blood safety, HIV severe and advanced cases on treatment and care and clients attending VCT are all recorded or captured at the health facility level. The data collections are uploaded onto the Country Response Information System for dissemination to partners and other stake holders.

**The results of the WHO 2004 sentinel sero-surveillance survey** among the Somali women attending antenatal care showed an overall mean prevalence rate of 0.9% (1.4% in Somaliland, 1.0% in Puntland and 0.6% in South-Central). HIV prevalence among patients presenting with Tuberculosis was 4.5% and 4.3% for those patients presenting with sexually transmitted infections. The results of WHO 2007 sero-surveillance data among ANC attendees completed in Somaliland reflect a prevalence that has not changed. According to the WHO AIDS surveillance fact sheet of 2005 and UNDP report of 2004, the epidemic is largely driven by unprotected sex and some of the vulnerability factors that include low education, high mobility, and transfusion of unsafe blood, commercial sex, long distance truckers and other mobile populations

This year UNAIDS has begun to map the vulnerable and cross-border populations which are quite probably the major drivers of the epidemic. Also alarming are the high TB co infection rate and the young age of the infected people.

Significant resources are needed for the Somali AIDS response if Somalis, bordering on countries with 2 – 7% prevalence are to avert the devastating costs of an escalation of the epidemic. Given the porous borders and high mobility in the Horn, there is no reason to believe that Somalis are protected from a scenario which has faced most sub Saharan countries. Somalis face a level of the epidemic with a prevalence rate (of 0.9%) prevalence that is high for an Islamic country. This level of epidemic was seen in most sub Saharan countries 10 years ago. The opportunity cost of not addressing the epidemic now will be immense. Already there are gaps in the response with respect to reaching what we believe are the drivers of the epidemic – most vulnerable mobile populations, sex workers and truck drivers. As a result, the current resources are being spread too thinly and geared towards a generalised epidemic.

## CONSOLIDATED APPEALS PROCESS (CAP) and COORDINATION

Preparations for the 2008 CAP consultations are underway with plans for several in-country mini-workshops in South/Central (12 August), Somaliland (14 August) and Puntland (16 August). A final CAP workshop in Nairobi will be held on 3-4 September. Meanwhile, so far 42.7% of the 2007 CAP is funded with around US\$114 million received out of the appealed US\$ 269 million. The Food sector remains the best funded at 101% followed by Nutrition at 46%, Water and Sanitation at 26%. Other critical sectors remain under-funded such as – protection 9%; health 8% (although the percentage leaps to 46% if funds for the Polio campaign are removed); shelter 22%; education 0% (these percentages do not include about \$15 million of un-earmarked funds contributed towards the CAP).

The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) has proven to be a useful instrument in the first six months of June 2007 in ensuring a timely response to the three major emergencies in Somalia. These emergencies include the treatment and management of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD), humanitarian responses to floods, and assisting newly internally displaced people in South/Central Somalia. For instance, with funding from HRF a local NGO commenced implementation in Dhobley in mid June lasting three months. They have carried out a water assessment and community mobilization activities and they will start chlorination of wells. However, the current situation of IDPs still requires major assistance; either in their current places of displacement or for the returnees at their places of origin.

The HRF is accelerating assistance to IDPs by prioritizing project proposals for IDPs funding. Currently, 29 projects have been under implementation with varying start and end periods between January and July 2007, while 28 others are under review. Out of the US\$ 8.6 million the HRF has received since January 2007, US\$ 6 million.

More information on CAP funding received for Somalia go to:  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/fts.nsf/doc105?OpenForm&rc=1&cc=som>

Throughout 2006/2007, OCHA Somalia has received funding from:  
Australia, ECHO, Ireland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, UK and USA