

Alert

SOMALIA – No. 29 / 2010

Geneva, Monday 30 August 2010

1. Brief description of the emergency

The humanitarian situation in Somalia is one of the worst in the world, characterised by heavy fighting in Mogadishu, resultant population displacement and civilian deaths. The fighting in Somalia has killed over 21,000 Somalis since 2007ⁱ and 1.5 million people are displaced inside the country while another 560,000 civilians have registered as refugees in neighbouring countries.ⁱⁱ

There has been an increase in population movement out of Mogadishu since February 2010. More than 51,000 people are reported to have fled Mogadishu to date, due to the increased confrontation between government forces and Al-Shabaab militia.ⁱⁱⁱ Non-combatants have continued to bear the brunt of fighting in Somalia.

2. Impact

The UN estimates that in a worst-case scenario some 218,000 people could be displaced from and within Mogadishu in case of further offensive.^{iv} 200,000 people are also expected to the refugee camps in Kenya, mainly Dadaab camp where ACT member LWF operates. In Ethiopia some 2,000 Somalis had arrived to the Sheder camp by March 2010 resulting to a 25% population growth in the camp.

Many IDPs are fleeing to already congested areas inside Somalia, where they do not have the right to own land and cannot, therefore, engage in any productive activities.^v

The refugee camp of Dadaab is equally congested and the needs are critical, especially, in the areas of security, shelter, sanitation, education, and livelihood.

The acute needs in Sheder camp are water, food and shelter.

The humanitarian needs in Somalia are enormous, and some displaced populations have not received assistance for prolonged periods due to low funding of the humanitarian activities.

3. National and international response

With tensions building up in Mogadishu, the humanitarian community has prepared a cluster contingency plan in case of increased displacement –a worst case scenario.

UN agencies, International NGOs (INGOS) as well as local NGOs have continued to respond to this protracted crisis focusing on care and survival of the affected population both inside Somalia and in refugee camps.

The biggest constraint has been low funding for humanitarian action in Somalia.

4. ACT Alliance response

ACT forum members in Somalia are Norwegian Church Aid, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, FinnChurchAid, Christian Aid and Lutheran World Federation.

Christian Aid, DKH and NCA have just concluded the implementation of appeal, AFSO91 and wish to seek funding to continue responding to the deteriorating humanitarian situation. This situation has escalated in 2010 with increased population movement to IDP camps and to refugee camps where ACT members have activities. The five members are making a special appeal to the ACT Alliance for more support this year.

5. Planned activities

Planned activities per agency:

Christian Aid in partnership with Islamic Relief will

- Increase access to and ensure quality of water for domestic use through provision of safe potable water to over 7,000 people.
- Improve health and hygiene practices relating to use of water through health promotion carried out by WASH facilitators targeting women who are tasked with water fetching chores.
- Increase access to supplementary food rations to 1,000 households prioritizing women headed households and sick people.

Lutheran World Federation, Kenya will

- Distribute Non Food Items (tents & tarpaulins) in Dadaab Refugee Camp. 100 newly arrived families will be supported with tents and 5,000 families will get tarpaulins to build their own shelters.
- Water supply in Sheder camp: 2000 new arrivals will get emergency supply of water awaiting the extension of the water scheme.

Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe in partnership with DBG will

- Provide IDPs with Food and Non Food items (NFI)(Plastic sheets and Mosquito nets) in Banadir, Middle and Lower Shebelle regions to 6000 newly and most vulnerable displaced Households in the Camps.

Norwegian Church Aid and Finn Church Aid will

- Distribute Non Food Items to 2000 new (IDPs) arrivals at Kah Shiqaal. The survival kit includes plastic sheets for shelter.
- Water supply and sanitation: Construct 25 new shallow wells in Mogadishu area to provide sustainable source of water to 1000 IDPs.

Members are in the process of preparing an international appeal to the ACT Alliance in the next few weeks.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Roshan Rajaratne, ACT Finance Officer (Roshan.Rajaratne@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

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ⁱ Al-Shabaab leader killed in Somalia, Al-Jazeera, 20 March 2010

ⁱⁱ News Stories www.unhcr.org 19 Jan 2010

ⁱⁱⁱ Population Movement Tracking Mogadishu Dashboard 16 March 2010

^{iv} Somalia Humanitarian Overview, United Nations, February 2010

^v Country Operation Profile Somalia 2010 www.unhcr.org