



UNITED NATIONS

NATIONS UNIES

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – SOMALIA

Situation Report # 15 – 18 April, 2008

Main Developments

The security situation continues to deteriorate in south central Somalia. In Beletweyne, Hiraan region, anti-government forces captured the town and brutally killed four expatriates (two Kenyans, one British woman and one Somali with British nationality). The four were working for an English language school run by a private organization. The security situation in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle, remained volatile and tense. New roadblocks have been erected within the town as well as an increase of roadblocks at the Southern and Northern entry points of the town where self controlled sub-clan militias are continuing to confiscate money, including shops and residential areas. The situation in Mogadishu has been relatively calm but remains tense and unpredictable.

According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of displaced by the ongoing fighting in Mogadishu during the past week reached more than 4,000 people, bringing the total number of displaced this year to 78,000. This figure is only referring to displacement from Mogadishu. Other parts of the country are also experience an unrecorded number of displaced people. On 15 and 16 April, unknown number of families flee Cadaado town, Galgaduud region, due to confrontations between Ethiopian forces and anti-government groups.

In response to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in central regions, World Food Programme (WFP) and CARE International are increasing food aid coverage. An additional 32,000 metric tons is now required to respond adequately to the crisis in these regions. In addition to the one million people already being fed by WFP in March, a total of close to 1.9 million people will be receiving food assistance from WFP and CARE as per Food Security Analysis Unit projection.

World Food Programme started operating from its new field office in Buaale, Middle Juba; staff is deployed and the strategic operation hub is up and running. During the week, the organization dispatched 7,495 metric tons of assorted food commodities to an estimated 432,330 beneficiaries (10,300 persons in Somaliland, 23,724 in Puntland and 422,030 in south central).

More than 13 people were killed and another ten wounded in inter-clan fighting in Eel Ahmed Village, Middle Shabelle region. Confirmed field reports received from the area indicate that the fighting was over a dispute on the ownership of a water well in the village. It is said that the two main rival sub clans in the area have had a long standing unresolved animosity and hostilities over the sharing and ownership of water well and grassing land for their livestock animals.

Media and journalists continue to be targeted. On 17 April the Voice of Peace radio in Mogadishu was shut down by the government and five of its journalists and technicians detained. Eight journalists were killed in 2007; one was killed and 12 others arrested so far in 2008.

In response to the outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) reported in Dhahar district, Sanaag, WHO and UNICEF in collaboration with local authorities are responding with essential drugs and cholera emergency kit. Even so the outbreak is still not under control. Since 10 March more than 750 cases have been recorded and 11 have died in Dhahar hospital. As of 17 April there were 400 patients in the hospital.

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