

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Nearly 18,000 people displaced from the Afgooye corridor since 22 May.
- WHO warns that further displacement could accelerate the spread of suspected cholera in Banadir region.
- Food stock shortages experienced, but not to 2011 levels.

## DISPLACEMENT

# of IDPs in Mogadishu (as of Jan. 2012)	184,000
# of refugees in the Horn region	986,756
# of new IDPs (1-30 May)	36,000

Source: UNHCR

## FUNDING

2012 Consolidated Appeal – funding to date

**\$381 million**  
funded (US\$)



Moving from the Afgooye corridor. Photo: OCHA

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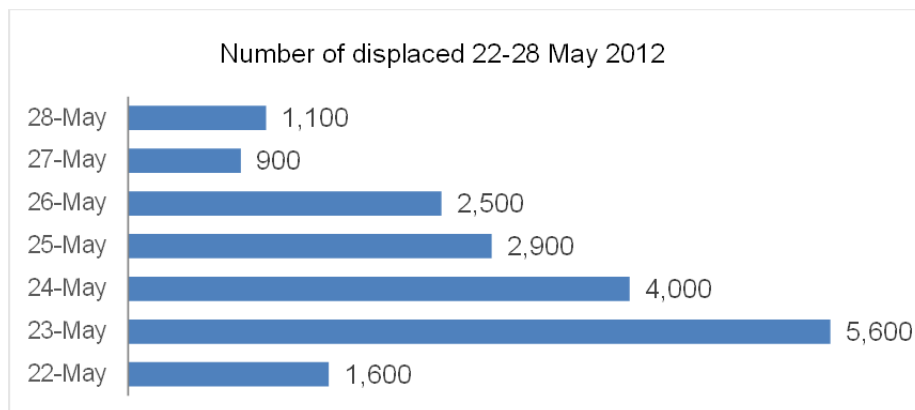
## Conflict in Afgooye displaces thousands

Following the start of the military operation in the Afgooye corridor by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Transitional Federal Government (TFG) on 22 May, at least 18,000 people are reported to have fled. After a spike in displacement on 23 and 24 May, the influx has decreased. The corridor and Afgooye town are now reported to be under the control of AMISOM/TFG.

Civilian casualties from the operation appear to be light. The Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mark Bowden, called on parties to the conflict to make every effort to minimize the impact of conflict on civilians and allow full humanitarian access to all people in need.

The increase in people on the move caused public transport prices to increase dramatically, with the price to transport one person to Mogadishu rising from US\$2 at the beginning of the year to US\$7. The cost is beyond what the majority of people can afford. As a result, many families were forced to seek shelter in areas with no basic services and out of reach for the humanitarian organisations.

### Afgooye displacements into Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle 22-28 May 2012



Displaced families in the Afgooye corridor had adapted to available livelihoods, which have once again been disrupted. They had also continued to receive basic services provided by national and international NGOs, which had been able to continue to operate in the corridor even after the Al Shabaab expulsions of October 2011. People moved into all 16 districts of Mogadishu but mainly to the Zona K area in Hodan, Radaarka and Odweyne in Dayniile, Jiiroo Maskin and the ex-US embassy in Wadajir. Others moved to Afgooye town and surrounding villages in Lower Shabelle region. Generally, the IDPs sought refuge in existing IDP settlements or with host communities.

In the framework of an inter-cluster contingency plan, humanitarian organisations are making every effort to scale-up their response to address the needs of the new IDPs. For

example, the Food Security and Nutrition Clusters are working to ensure food and essential non-food requirements are met through emergency food vouchers and cash responses to populations in crisis. The strategy will also complement blanket and targeted nutrition interventions. However, a further influx of people into the capital will strain already overstretched services in the city, especially in the IDP settlements.

### **Displacement raises fear of a rise in cholera**

The displacement of thousands of people from the Afgooye corridor is leading to even greater pressure on limited sanitation facilities and access to clean water. WHO warned that further population displacement could accelerate the spread of suspected cholera in Banadir.

Rising cholera cases in Mogadishu is indeed a key challenge for the WASH and Health Clusters in the capital. Twice as many cases were reported in 2012 compared to 2011 over the same reporting period. In 2012, during week 20 (19-25 May), there were 333 cases compared to 140 cases in 2011. The number of deaths is also higher this year, raising concern over the disease's severity and effective case management. Of the 333 confirmed cases, 220 were children under 5 years of age while 130 were women and girls.

### **IDPs in Banadir provided with emergency assistance kits**

Distribution of emergency assistance kits for the protection of IDPs from extreme weather and diseases benefited 70,800 people during the reporting period. The majority of the recipients were in the Banadir region and received plastic sheeting, sleeping mats and blankets as part of an emergency distribution.

In an effort to address the needs of IDPs in Mogadishu, the Shelter Cluster plans to distribute various shelter materials, including emergency tents, shelter kits and hybrid materials. The hybrid materials are a mixture of corrugated iron sheets and plastic sheets, supported by a wooden frame. The shelters can be erected quickly and materials added to the walls so that the shelter can 'transition' into a semi-permanent structure should the displacement be protracted. If the IDPs return to their home, the materials can be reused or sold. The strategy will be used as part of the upcoming tri-cluster strategy in Mogadishu targeting IDPs living in the worst conditions in the city and in particularly those in the settlements in the Zona K area.

## **Efforts to reduce violence against girls and women**

The large displacement of people from the Afgooye corridor to Mogadishu raises fears of an increase in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The Protection Cluster received unconfirmed reports of SGBV cases involving TFG/AMISOM forces. Obtaining data on SGBV remains a challenge for cluster partners as it carries a huge stigma, which is one of the reasons for low reporting among communities. The cluster rolled out a GBV information management system targeting service providers such as hospitals in order to improve data. A gender standby capacity project (GenCAP) advisor will soon be deployed to support the GBV working group. The first allocation of the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) 2012 approved two proposals on activities to prevent SGBV in Mogadishu. One project will provide lighting in IDPs settlements using solar technology, while the second will provide households with fuel efficient stoves to minimize trips to the bush in search of firewood, increasing risk of attacks on women.

*Protection projects to improve lighting in IDPs settlements and minimize firewood fetching trips for women reducing risk of SGBV attacks.*

## **School reopens to residents and IDPs**

Last year, approximately 95 of nearly 161 schools in Banadir region were forced to close down as a result of conflict and insecurity. Attending school is vital to the recovery of

children who are traumatised by conflict and education cluster partners are working hard to ensure the reopening of these schools. One of the affected schools, Aqoon-Bile primary school in Mogadishu's Hawlwadag district reopened in January and despite the unfavorable learning environment, it is now accommodating 617 students, 271 of whom are girls. Ten of the 15 classrooms that previously existed are currently functioning. At the same time, as enrollment rates go up, the school will need more classrooms, water and sanitation facilities.

## Alternatives for tackling malnutrition

A training of trainers on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) for government health workers and NGOs in Somaliland was held from 9 to 23 May. Malnutrition in children frequently results from poor health practices by mothers. Targeting the training of frontline health workers with infant and young child feeding (IYCF) techniques is a strategy deployed by the Nutrition Cluster to improve nutrition rates among the most vulnerable in Somalia. Additional 31 health staff were trained from some of the more remote areas including Awdal, Sool and Sanaag region. This will ensure that the inaccessible areas will have knowledge of best practices for feeding children.

The training and counseling is already leading to positive results. Many women believe that goat's milk is preferable to breast milk so when Fosia Barre gave birth to her daughter, her own mother wanted the baby to be fed with goat's milk. With the intervention of Fathia, a trained IYCH health worker, Fosia began breast feeding the baby within 30 minutes of birth, ensuring that the baby will have the best possible chance of survival. Further IYCF training is scheduled to take place at the end of May and is expected to enhance the capacity of 17 trainers and 20 frontline workers/counselors from various regions.



Fosia Barre and her new born daughter Source: SOLNARDO

## Temporary food shortages experienced

Households that rely on crop production are experiencing seasonal food stock shortages, as the period between April and June is the peak lean season. However, improvements are expected in July/August following the *Gu* harvest and conditions are not expected to deteriorate to 2011 levels, according to the latest Food Security Outlook report of the Famine Early Warning Systems Network for May.

Moderate rainfall in Lower and Middle Shabelle, Bay, and Bakool regions supported crop germination. If the adequate rainfall continues in June, near average *Gu*-season production is expected. However, an infestation of crickets in the southern and central regions is causing concern and has already led to population movements. Adding to this, flooding and reduced areas planted in Lower Shabelle could negatively affect the overall national harvests.

Despite the overall nutrition situation improvement since July/August 2011, levels of acute malnutrition and mortality remain above emergency thresholds in southern Somalia. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in rural areas of the south ranges between 20 and 30 per cent. However, GAM prevalence remains above 30 per cent in the Bay region and for people living along the Juba River. Levels of acute malnutrition improved more significantly in Mogadishu.

The Price of food continued to decline since October 2011 due to the above average *Deyr* harvest, the substantial cereal imports for humanitarian assistance, the off-season

*Cricket infestation in southern and central regions is causing concern and has already led to population movements.*

*Deyr* harvest in riverine areas of Juba and commercial imports. However, prices show an upward trend in May and will continue to increase until the next harvest.

### **Needs of female-headed households addressed through livelihoods**

The Food Security Cluster is supporting people in emergency and crisis to strengthen their livelihoods. More than 3,000 female-headed households living along riverine areas in southern Somalia benefited from vegetable and fruits seeds distributed in April and early May. The seed package comprises tomatoes, onion, water melons, capsicum, and carrots. The vegetables have a high market value while the fruits have a ready market in northern regions. The initiative not only diversifies family diet but also increases household income.

### **Coordination and cluster events**

During the reporting period, two interagency rapid assessments took place in Gosal, Mudug and Gardo, Bari in Puntland following floods that affected approximately 150 and 152 households respectively. The floods destroyed homes, schools and sanitation facilities, and killed animals. The road connecting Gardo to Bossaso was destroyed affecting movement of people and commercial commodities to and from the Bossaso Port. Following the assessment, agencies have pledged assistance including food, non-food items and reconstruction of facilities for the affected families in the coming weeks.

On 24 May, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) endorsed the revised Consolidated Appeal 2012 strategy and strategic priorities. Priorities were revised to further emphasize the multi-cluster approach, an integrated package of basic services to IDPs and returnees, and resilience solutions for IDPs in Puntland and Somaliland. About 2.5 million people are in need of life-saving assistance with the majority living in the South. People living under stressful conditions will also be targeted for livelihoods sustaining assistance. OCHA provided guidance to clusters on revising the 350 projects in the appeal. The initial draft of the CAP 2012 MYR is due on 14 June. Funding for the 2012 CAP currently stands at \$381 million – 25 per cent funded.

Out of the first CHF allocation, funding for 24 projects has now been disbursed.

The monthly Logistics Cluster-coordinated vessel in May transported approximately 120 metric tons of humanitarian cargo to Mogadishu. The shipment included shelter materials, agricultural equipment, medicine on behalf of six organisations. The next voyage scheduled for the end June is the final one under the cluster's free common shipping service. Overall, the initiative has enabled the transportation of more than 2,220 metric tons of humanitarian cargo to Somalia.

### **Looking forward:**

The draft CAP MYR is due on 14 June

### **New products on OCHA website:**

Video on fleeing the Afgooye corridor -

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=hWh9i7hR7YU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=hWh9i7hR7YU)

Humanitarian Coordinator Statement on Military Operation in the Afgooye corridor -

<http://ochaonline.un.org/OchaLinkClick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1337898>

Humanitarian Access Map - April 2012-

<http://ochaonline.un.org/OchaLinkClick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1336771>

UNHCR Total IDPs by Region -

<http://ochaonline.un.org/OchaLinkClick.aspx?link=ocha&docId=1337858>

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org/somalia> | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

*Floods in Gosal and Gardo, Puntland destroy homes for nearly 2,000 people.*