



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Somalia, Somali Republic (SO)

Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Somalia and Kenya

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200507
Project Category	Single Country Special Operation
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	N/A
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	N/A

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	December 27, 2012
Planned Start Date	January 01, 2013
Actual Start Date	January 01, 2013
Project End Date	December 31, 2015
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	N/A
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	84,205,413
Direct Support Costs	9,681,890
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	N/A
Indirect Support Costs	6,572,111
Total	100,459,414

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	0
Actual Commodities 2015	0
Total Approved Commodities	N/A

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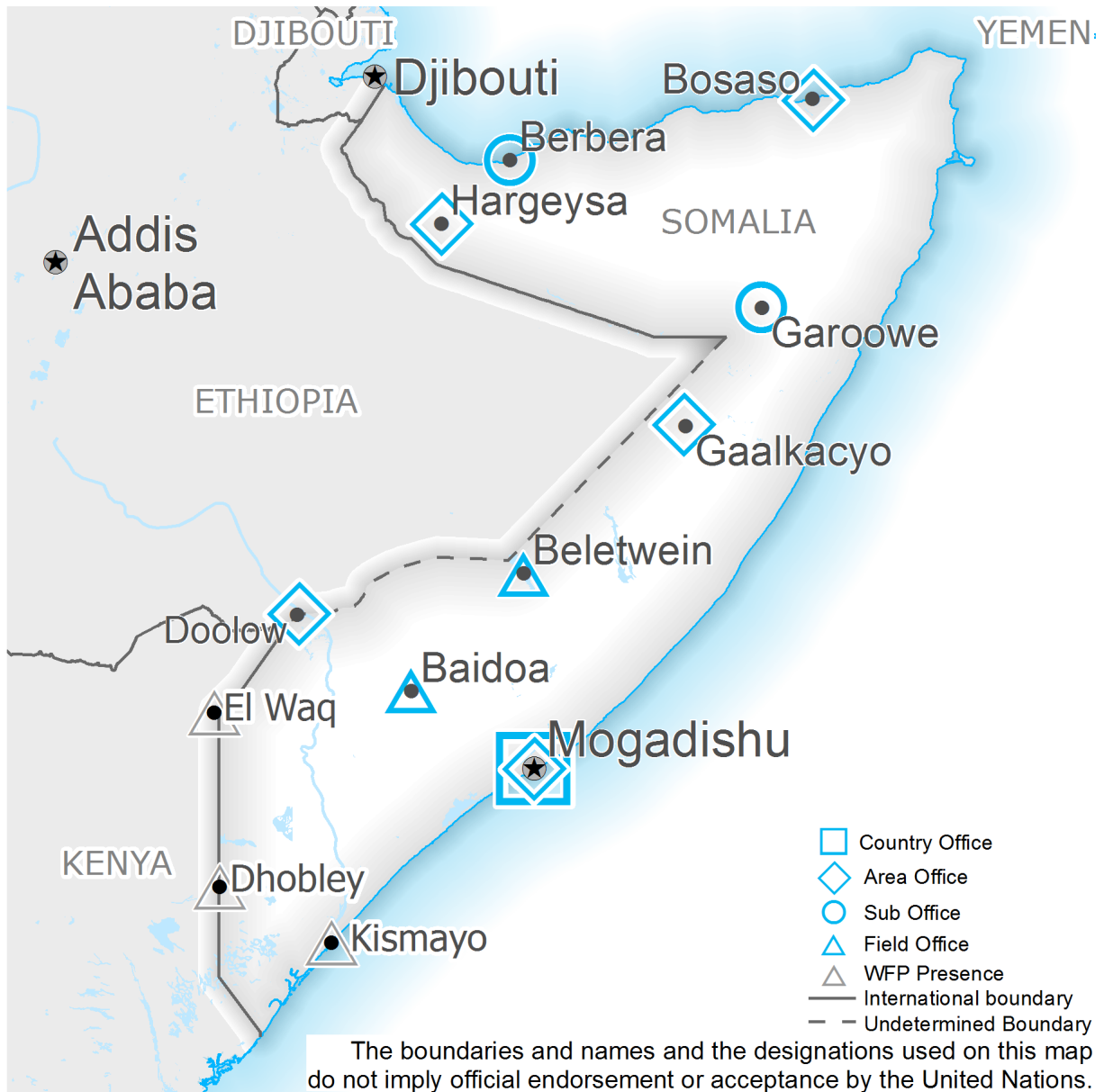
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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Somalia, with a population of 12.3 million (UNFPA, 2014) is among the poorest and most food insecure countries in the world. Over 60 percent of the households in urban areas and 95 percent of rural households suffer from multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2014). An estimated 1.1 million Somalis are internally displaced, and constitute 62 percent of food-insecure people in the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) "crisis" and "emergency" phases.

Over the past two and a half decades, Somalia has faced insecurity, conflict and recurrent food and nutrition crises. Fragile governance systems, profound gender and social inequities and scarce resources have compounded the impact of the long-running crisis in the country. As a result, the country has been unable to consistently invest in agriculture, social safety nets and basic services such as health and education. Mortality rates of 137/1,000 live births among children under the age of 5, and maternal mortality rates of 732/100,000 live births, are among the highest rates in the world (UNICEF, 2012). School enrolment and literacy rates are among the lowest globally, especially for girls. Only 42 percent of children aged 6 -12 years attend primary school. Of these, only 36 percent

are girls (Somalia Federal Government & UNICEF, 2013). Against this background, the country was unable to meet all of its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets and was ranked 51 out of 52 countries in Africa in the World Bank's MDG database. Lack of accurate and reliable data also undermined the assessment of Somalia's progress against the MDGs.

The results of the 2008 - 2014 WFP Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) estimated that over 3 million Somalis were either acutely food insecure or highly vulnerable. An additional 1.9 million people were at risk of becoming moderately or acutely food insecure in the event of a shock. In the first half of 2015, there was a slight improvement in the overall food security situation in Somalia, following relatively good *Deyr* (short) 2014 rains. However, the food security situation deteriorated halfway through the year due to a combination of factors, including the early end of the 2015 *Gu* (long) rains that led to below average cereal production, and poor rainfall in some northern pastoral and agropastoral areas. Insecurity, trade disruptions and continued population displacement due to insurgent activities in parts of south-central Somalia; the country's grain basket - also had a negative impact on the overall food and nutrition situation in the country.

Somalia remains one of the most challenging operating environments in the world for humanitarian agencies. The conflict and insecurity often limits access to beneficiaries in many areas and puts the safety of field staff at risk. Other contextual risks include clan dynamism, fluid and changing geographic and political boundaries, and the limited capacity and presence of cooperating partners, all of which could result in diversion and misappropriation of food. In 2013, the government and the international community endorsed the New Deal for Somalia to rebuild the country, stabilize its institutions and develop the public sector. Achievements to date have been mixed, and many political, social and economic challenges remain.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP's assistance in Somalia focused on protecting the food security of vulnerable households and saving lives and protecting livelihoods in emergencies and during lean seasons. WFP recognizes that gender inequality directly affects the ability of nations to become free from hunger and food insecurity, and therefore integrated gender-sensitive programming throughout its activities. In 2015, WFP targeted 1.73 million vulnerable Somalis in food insecure areas through nutrition, livelihood, relief and social safety net programmes under the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200443. December 2015 marked the end of the PRRO whose primary objectives included enhancing the resilience of communities through food assistance-for-assets (FFA) interventions and strengthened partnerships; rebuilding household food and nutrition security with preventive and therapeutic nutrition interventions and school meals; and protecting livelihoods during shocks and seasonal vulnerability through blanket supplementary feeding and targeted relief assistance. The PRRO also sought to build and enhance operational capacities of counterpart ministries in planning, oversight and implementation of health, nutrition and education activities, in order to facilitate eventual handover.

In 2015, WFP implemented two special operations in support of the PRRO and the provision of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. Special operation 200507, "Humanitarian Air Service in Support of Relief Operations in Somalia and Kenya", facilitated the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and the movement of humanitarian workers in Somalia, including medical and security evacuations. Special operation 200440, "Food Security Cluster Augmentation in Response to the continued Humanitarian Situation in Somalia" supported coordination and strategic response guidance for food security cluster (FSC) members and key strategic stakeholders in Somalia.

Throughout the duration of the PRRO, WFP progressively expanded the use of innovative approaches including biometric registration of beneficiaries, electronic management of all transfers (in-kind, cash and vouchers), and the use of mobile phone technology for data collection and communication with beneficiaries. Following the arrival of Yemeni refugees and Somali returnees in April 2015, WFP provided relief assistance through cooked meals, e-transfers and nutrition support. In response to other emergencies throughout the year (floods and tropical cyclones), WFP deployed logistical assets including boats and helicopters to reach people in locations where road access was compromised.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	298,100	304,582	602,682
Children (5-18 years)	186,556	228,044	414,600
Adults (18 years plus)	360,171	417,532	777,703
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	844,827	950,158	1,794,985

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	47,202	5,465	8,293	15,910	53	76,924
Total Food Distributed in 2015	47,202	5,465	8,293	15,910	53	76,924

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Despite some political progress in recent years, internal localized conflicts in Somalia have continued to result in a high level of insecurity in the country. Poor infrastructure, long distances and the lack of reliable air transport providers have made the continued presence of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) under special operation (SO) 200507 crucial in supporting and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

The insecurity and loss of livelihoods arising from the protracted conflict in the country has also led to large-scale displacement, forcing many Somalis to flee to neighbouring Kenya and other countries in search of refuge. This has resulted in the continued presence of Somali refugees in the various refugee camps in northern Kenya. Despite the first small-scale returns of Somali refugees to their home country over the course of 2015, most continue to live in the neighbouring countries and require assistance from humanitarian organizations. In addition to key locations in Somalia, UNHAS is therefore crucial in facilitating access to the Dadaab and Kakuma camps and other locations in northern Kenya supporting life-saving relief programmes.

SO 200507 was launched in January 2013 to ensure the continued provision of safe and reliable air transport services to the humanitarian community in Somalia and Kenya for the period 2013-2014, and was extended to 31 December 2015 through a budget revision. The SO played a critical role in support of WFP's PRRO 200443 in Somalia and PRROs 200737 (refugee operation) and 200736 (relief and recovery) in Kenya. The SO was managed through the WFP Somalia office, with the Kenya office responsible for financing its own component of the operation and chairing its own user group meetings.

Aligned to WFP Strategic Objective 1, this special operation had the following objectives:

- i) to provide safe, efficient and cost-effective inter-agency transport service for United Nations Agencies, NGOs and donor organizations operating in the two countries;
- ii) to transport light cargo such as medical supplies, specialized emergency foodstuffs and high-value information and communication technology (ICT) equipment; and
- iii) to provide timely medical and security evacuations for the humanitarian community in the region using WFP's expertise and experience in managing air operations.

Results

Outputs

In 2015, UNHAS provided air transport services to staff from 150 humanitarian agencies working in Kenya and Somalia, flying an average of 500 flight hours per month and delivering 288 mt of cargo to 34 locations. The continuing levels of insecurity in the country and limited accommodation available to United Nations and NGO staff restricted staff presence in and travel to Somalia. As such, the number of passengers transported between Nairobi and Somalia remained the same as in 2014. In Kenya, there was a 6 percent increase in passengers transported and an 8 percent increase in cargo transported on the Kakuma route, as the conflict in South Sudan saw more asylum seekers arriving in the northern Kenyan town. This increase in activity in Kakuma led to more humanitarian agency personnel being based and travelling there. In addition, UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme for refugees from Dadaab to Somalia in 2015 resulted in increased travel between Nairobi and Dadaab for UNHCR staff managing the programme. No serious air safety-related incidents occurred in 2015.

The UNHAS fleet was composed of six contracted aircraft of varying capacities from a 14-seat Cessna Caravan to a 76-seat high speed turbo prop aircraft capable of accessing the dirt runways of Garowe, Galkayo and Bossaso in central and northern Somalia. This fleet operated on a regular fixed schedule and provided 62,280 passenger movements during the year, including 27 medical evacuations, which enabled WFP and other agencies to access critical implementation locations and continue with their programmes in the country.

In order to maintain and improve access to south and central Somalia and ensure service to newly accessible locations such as Hudur, Wajid and Garbahare, the Mogadishu-based Dornier short take-off and landing (STOL) performance aircraft was increasingly used to capacity on regular flights to Dolow and Baidoa, and facilitated

humanitarian assessment missions in the area. A cargo plane, introduced in August 2014 to support the logistics cluster in delivering urgent inter-agency emergency food and non-food items (NFIs) to the newly accessible towns, continued its operation throughout the year. In 2015, the cargo plane transported nutrition commodities and NFIs (for WFP and other agencies) to Hudur and Wajid, and delivered additional WFP food commodities to other locations that became periodically inaccessible by road. In addition, UNHAS operated an MI-8 helicopter for food delivery to Buloburte.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Air Ops)				
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	agency/organization	100	150	150.0
Number of aircrafts made available	aircraft	6	6	100.0
Number of assessments/surveys conducted	assessment	4	4	100.0
Number of flights conducted for medical/security evacuations	flight	0	27	-
Number of locations served	site	30	34	113.3
Number of passengers transported monthly against planned (passenger segments)	individual	5,000	5,190	103.8
Number of passengers transported monthly against planned (passengers transported)	individual	3,000	3,250	108.3
Percentage response to medical and security evacuation	%	100	100	100.0
Quantity (mt) of cargo transported	Mt	240	288	120.0
Utilization of the contracted hours of aircraft	%	100	150	150.0

Outcomes

Following the military campaigns by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somali Government Forces against insurgents, more and more areas in southern and central Somalia became accessible to humanitarian actors in 2015. UNHAS ensured regular scheduled flights to insecure areas in Somalia that were often not accessible by road, and provided a weekly scheduled service in Kenya to 64 different United Nations entities and NGOs engaged in humanitarian activities in the refugee camps in Dadaab, Kakuma and other locations in northern Kenya. The regular air services provided by UNHAS under SO 200507 contributed to the success of life-saving humanitarian operations in Somalia and Kenya.

Ad-hoc flights to locations such as Beletweyne, Hudur and Wajid also increased during the year, as did those to Kismayo, Elwak and Dhobley, allowing WFP and other agencies to assess needs and continue their programmes in these areas. By providing regular and dependable flights all year through, UNHAS enabled humanitarian personnel to implement and closely monitor life-saving projects both in Kenya and Somalia. The flexibility employed by UNHAS in flying to dangerous and remote locations to carry out medical evacuations prevented and helped mitigate the risk humanitarian staff are exposed to in both Somalia and Kenya.

A customer survey carried out in November 2015 received responses from 60 percent of UNHAS user agencies who indicated an improved level of overall satisfaction in the services provided in comparison to 2014.

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

A new phase of the military operations in central and south Somalia is underway and is expected to open up access to additional towns in the south in 2016. However, the Federal Government's control and administration in the newly accessible areas so far extends only to main towns, creating 'urban islands' that are only accessible by air. Large

surrounding areas are still not secure, making travel by road unsafe for humanitarian aid and relief workers. Poor and insecure road conditions continue to make transportation by road a high risk or impossible due to potential attacks on convoys and the presence of improvised explosive devices (IED) and landmines. Furthermore, safe commercial flight alternatives are not readily available. The services provided by UNHAS therefore remain crucial in supporting and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations in the country. In 2016, UNHAS operations are expected to continue under a new special operation (SO 200924). The operation's partial cost recovery approach for flights will enhance its economic sustainability.

During the year, selected national staff were trained and received International Air Transport Association (IATA) certification on the regulations governing carriage of dangerous goods. Onsite training on passenger handling and ramp operations was carried out with UNHAS staff in Puntland and Somaliland.

At the moment, the capacity of local commercial companies is low, and only two are cleared by the United Nations system to support the movement of humanitarian staff and commodities in Somalia and Kenya to the required locations. Therefore, no handover is envisaged in the short term. In the event that security improves and more commercial airlines are cleared for use by the United Nations entities in Somalia, UNHAS may reduce existing operations.

Management

Partnerships

UNHAS in Somalia and Kenya was managed by WFP Somalia on behalf of the humanitarian community. The interests of the humanitarian community are represented by the User Group Committee (UGC) and Board of Directors.

The UNHAS UGC was composed of United Nations agencies and NGOs, including UNDSS, UNDP, UNICEF, OCHA, FAO, UNHCR, CARE, Horn Relief, and World Vision International, and was chaired by the WFP Somalia Country Director. A similar set up with the relevant composition of United Nations agencies and NGOs was established for the Kenya air operation.

The purpose of the user groups was to define requirements and priorities in terms of air transport and to monitor the quality of service, while the Board of Directors provided overall administrative advice and policy guidance on funding modalities and mobilization, and reviewed air transport utilization and host government policies.

The user group members met on a quarterly basis to assess agency operational needs and the quality of services provided. Information related to changes in flight schedules, locations and aircraft maintenance was regularly shared with the users of UNHAS services at these meetings.

Lessons Learned

With the strong support of the international community, the elected Federal Government of Somalia has made significant strides over the last few years. However, this progress continues to be undermined by an unstable political situation coupled with high levels of insecurity. As such, humanitarian air services continue to be crucial to support the humanitarian relief and recovery programmes in the country and facilitate the delivery of assistance to vulnerable Somalis.

UNHAS will closely monitor the changing operational environment in Somalia, in particular the continuing military offensives against insurgency which provide increased access to locations in south and central Somalia, as well as the possible increase in United Nations and WFP staff able to remain in Mogadishu in the event of improved security conditions. If sustained in the next year, the current increase in the number of United Nations staff travelling between Nairobi and Mogadishu is likely to improve seat utilization and necessitate the operation of larger capacity aircraft on the sector to meet demand.

Aviation security missions were carried out to all stations to enhance passenger safety in handling and passenger processing through the terminals. In 2015, meetings with aircrew and all aviation operators were held in Nairobi, where clear aircraft approach and departure procedures in all locations in Somalia were deliberated upon, documented and adopted by all aviation actors present. Greater compliance by operators following the meetings ensured greater separation between aircraft, resulting in a much safer airspace.

In a similar trend to the year before, in 2015, 60 percent of the total operational cost was covered through the cost recovery mechanism, while 40 percent was received from donors. While WFP projects a similar trend for 2016, continued donor support is invaluable and imperative to make humanitarian air transport affordable, by covering the critical difference between actual ticket costs and revenue generated from subsidized ticket sales.