In numbers

664,495 people supported

Highlights

- The Military offensive is on a standstill. Newly liberated areas have not translated into newly accessible areas. Most towns are isolated with humanitarian assistance and commercial trucks unable to travel by roads that remain largely under militant control.

- There was very little rainfall in April, which is the start of the Gu rainy season (April-June). This resulted in severe water shortages for human and animal consumption, especially in the northeastern parts of the country. A reduced and a delayed harvest is likely to occur at the height of the lean season, which risks pushing vulnerable people into a deeper crisis.

- Political tension in the south-western city of Baidoa where clan representatives recently elected two different regional presidents each claiming to be the legitimate president for the either a six regions states vis-à-vis three region states might lead to increased insecurity.

Security Update

The joint Somali National Government Forces (SNGF)/ AMISOM offensive appears to have paused, possibly as part of a re-grouping exercise. Humanitarian concerns associated with the offensive have been compounded by a delayed start of the Gu season rains which has raised new food security concerns, particularly in the southern regions of Lower and Middle Shabelle Regions and in the mainly pastoral northeastern part of Somalia.

The reporting period witnessed the killing of two UN staff members at Galkayo Airport and the assassination of two leading political figures in Mogadishu. Although additional mitigating security measures were immediately introduced following the incident related to the UN staff, security concerns among humanitarian staff based in Somalia remain high. Inter-clan fighting in Belethawa had an impact on WFP operations in Gedo as planned missions to the area were cancelled. In Mogadishu, WFP operations continued to be restricted by insecurity with armed escorts required for all missions outside the airport.

Food Security Update

The start of Gu season was patchy and erratic in most regions and livelihood zones of Somalia with the exception of pockets in the southern and northwest regions. In the north eastern regions (Puntland) no rainfall was received as at the last week of April, 2014. Southern Somalia, the grain basket of the country, received erratic rainfall in terms of intensity, duration and distribution. This has affected planting in the rain-fed dependent areas of the region. Reports of water shortage problems in sections of central and northeast regions are also emerging. This might increase the incidences of hygiene related gastrointestinal diseases among vulnerable families resulting in an increase in malnutrition.

A poor Gu season (the most important) will negatively impact livestock production, animal reproduction and crop yields. The delay in the start of the rainy season would also impact this year’s Gu harvest of rain-fed crops across the country. Even so, late but good Gu rainfall in May would be beneficial for the pasture and water conditions of livestock-dependent livelihoods.

Market Price Update

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) Somalia Quarterly Brief (24 April, 2014), the prices of cereals in the areas affected by 2013 Deyr seasonal floods in Middle Shabelle and Lower and Middle Juba regions have been increasing since January 2014 mainly due to low maize production in the Juba regions. This increase in the price of local cereals is expected to continue until August 2014 when the Gu season harvest is due.

In the central regions, prices of cereals remained high but stable over the last 3 months. Similarly, in the northwest, cereal prices including those of local sorghum, remained stable due to the continued importation of alternative cereals such as the rice and the entry of the Karan harvest crops from December 2013/January 2014 into the market. However, considering the poor crop harvest of the last year’s Karan, the price of local sorghum is expected to increase in the coming months until after the Gu harvest season in late 2014. In the Northeast regions, cereal prices were also high but stable across the zone.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Office</th>
<th>Nutrition</th>
<th>Relief</th>
<th>Livelihoods</th>
<th>Social Safety Nets</th>
<th>TOTAL beneficiaries*</th>
<th>Actual MT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Puntland</td>
<td>9,414</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>58,218</td>
<td>70,178</td>
<td>117,999</td>
<td>1,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somaliland</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>11,922</td>
<td>81,210</td>
<td>165,438</td>
<td>1,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>11,005</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>84,600</td>
<td>21,405</td>
<td>112,945</td>
<td>1,574</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mogadishu</td>
<td>3,634</td>
<td>81,284</td>
<td>95,124</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>180,042</td>
<td>2,182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Border areas</td>
<td>19,773</td>
<td>55,788</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>14,867</td>
<td>88,071</td>
<td>717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>134,615</td>
<td>137,072</td>
<td>251,964</td>
<td>187,660</td>
<td>664,495</td>
<td>6,855</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* figures in this column exclude double counting of beneficiaries across activities

Country: Somalia  www.wfp.org/countries/somalia
WFP Response

In April, WFP Somalia reached a total of 664,495 beneficiaries through a combination of livelihoods, nutrition, social safety net and relief programmes. Livelihoods activities accounted for 35 percent of WFP’s total beneficiaries during the month while relief activities constituted 19 percent of the total beneficiaries reached. Nutrition activities reached 19 percent of the beneficiaries while school feeding and other safety net programmes constituted the final 27 percent.

In response to needs resulting from the military offensive, WFP and partners conducted initial assessments in Luuq (10 April), Qoryley (11-15 April) and Baidoa (21-22 April) during the reporting period. As part of the assessments, the WFP team also met with local authorities in Kismayo who indicated that the food security situation was stable in the area. So far, findings from the assessments indicate a clear distinction between “old” (long term) IDPs who had been displaced prior to March 2014 and “new” IDPs who have been displaced as direct result of the ongoing military campaign.

In south central Somalia, access for delivery of necessary assistance in the ‘newly liberated’ areas remains difficult as most of these towns are subject to road blockage by insurgents. Even so, WFP has been able to dispatch 47mt of food for about 5,786 newly displaced people in Beledweyne.

WFP is closely monitoring rainfall data across Somalia; rainfall levels in May will have a significant impact on the success of the Gu season and associated livestock production, availability of pasture and crop yields. WFP has made contingency plans for reaching an emergency caseload of 250,000 beneficiaries across Somalia between June and August 2014 should the rains fail or lead to flooding during the month of May.

Monitoring & Evaluation

In February 2014, 25 percent (337) of the 1,362 active food distribution points (FPDs) in Somalia were monitored through site visits. M&E reports are released one month after collection of data in order for WFP to conduct proper analysis.

Food Security Cluster

During the calendar month of April, the Food Security Cluster (FSC) members implemented interventions reaching over 1,459,682 people throughout Somalia with responses aimed at improving household access to food (54,552); investing in livelihood assets (374,568); safety nets interventions (224,768); livelihood inputs (804,744 since February); and livelihood investment capacity building (1,050). Support was provided through cash, vouchers, food and non-food inputs depending on the households and communities needs and their IPC status.

Logistics

In April, UNHAS transported 2,934 passengers and 24.6mt of cargo to 18 locations, serving 107 humanitarian agencies. 12 of the routes were within Somalia. During the same period UNHAS conducted 3 medical evacuation flights on schedule service. Two of the evacuations were from Kakuma and one from Dadaab to Wilson in Kenya.

Resourcing Update

PRRO 200443 “Strengthening Food and Nutrition Security and Enhancing Resilience in Somalia” (Jan 2013 - Dec 2015) targets up to 2.9 million beneficiaries over three years and seeks to save lives, provide social safety nets and enhance the resilience of vulnerable individuals and households to cope more effectively during shocks. The project has an operational budget of budget of US$ 864.3 million over three years and as at the end of March, had released US$ 259.5 million, with a shortfall of US$ 604.8 million (70 percent).

Special Operation (SO) 200507 “Humanitarian Air Service in Support of Relief Operations in Somalia and Kenya” (Jan 2013 - Dec 2014) facilitates the delivery of life-saving humanitarian and movement of humanitarian workers in Somalia and Kenya. The project has an operational requirement of USD 70.9 million and as of the end of April had received US$ 37.5 million, with a shortfall of US$ 33.5 million (47.2 percent).

Special Operation (SO) 200440 “Food Security Cluster Augmentation in Response to the Continued Humanitarian Situation in Somalia” (Sept 2012 - Dec 2014) enables Cluster members to move beyond seasonal-based response plans to address acute needs, as well as invest in resilience to reduce vulnerability of poor Somali households. The project has an operational requirement of USD 5.75 million and as of the end of March had released US$ 2.5 million with a shortfall of USD 3.25 million (57 percent).

Special Operation (SO) 200475 “Development of Logistical Infrastructure for Somalia and the Horn of Africa Corridor” (Apr 2013 - Mar 2015) was initiated in 2013 to continue to improve logistics efficiency to provide timely supply of relief cargo to populations in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. The project had an operational requirement of US$ 16.6 million but as of the end of March this SO had released only US$ 14 thousand with a shortfall of USD 16 million (99 percent).

Pipeline Update

Over the next six months (May-October 2014), WFP Somalia is facing a total shortfall of US$16.2 million, including 2, 538mt of food valued at US$3.7million, Cash and Voucher (C&V) requirements of US$1.2million, Capacity Development and Augmentation (CD&A) requirements of US$0.5million and outstanding advance of US$9.3million. The WFP Somalia is in the process of finalising the programming of US$0.5million confirmed recently.

The limited resources beyond September will require the CO to focus on lifesaving and safety nets programmes that protect vulnerable individuals and households. However this is at the expense of preventative programmes that reduce chronic vulnerability to shocks and places at risk the food security gains made since the famine. The priority for new funds will be to purchase Cereals, Pulses, Oil and Plumpy Sup.

As a result of the limited financial availability, the country office has started downsizing the workforce across the Somalia operation, with special focus on the workforce in Nairobi.

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