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HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

Update on Floods in Somalia

Relief operations for the flood-ridden parts of Southern and Central Somalia entered into a new phase with the establishment of Garissa (Northeast Kenya) as a Joint Logistics Center and base for the emergency operations. The air-fleet presently available in Garissa consists of one Twin Otter, two Buffalo planes, two MI-8 helicopters, and two Caravan. Kismayo and Bardera, both in Somalia, are also operating as bases for the operation. On the ground, 21 boats are operational, distributing relief supplies to distant and cut off villages in need. Boats are operating in Bardera, Bualle, Jamame, Sakow, Marere, Belet Weyne and Jowhar. 3 additional boats in Kismayo are not yet operational. The airdrop operation has now been backed up by two C-130 planes based in Mombassa: On 10 December, a C-130 cargo plane delivered 49 mt of relief supplies by airdrop in three rotations to Garbaharre. In the past week, people had been advised through the BBC Somali Service to keep a safe distance when relief supplies were being dropped. More airdrops benefitting over 110,000 flood victims are planned for Jamame, Afmadow, Hagar, Buale, Kamsuma, and Garbaharey areas along the Juba river. As at 11 December, at least 1,695 people are reported to have died (confirmed deaths) from drowning, accidents, reptile attacks, disease and malnutrition. An estimated 230,000 persons have been displaced while the lives of at least one million Somalis remain at risk as they have lost their livestock, harvest and other supplies. The Inter-Agency Flood Response Team said the immediate rescue and relief operations will have to continue at least until the end of January 1998. On 9 December, UNHCR reported that torrential rains and flooding of the Tana river in northeastern Kenya, adversely affected the refugee camps of Ifo, Dhagaxley, and Hagadera, sheltering 123,000 Somali refugees.

For further daily up-dated information on the flood situation and the response undertaken, contact on the Internet website:
www.unicef.unon.org/SOMALIA/flood.html

relief and Development by operational Areas

SOUTHERN ZONE: Apart from the flood relief operations, UNICEF is supporting the Regional Health Board and Muslim Aid (UK) in an effort to ensure that measles vaccination and vitamin A supplementation are provided for the children displaced by the flooding. In Kismayo town, the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) teams provided vitamin A supplementation to 7,572 children in 134 primary and Koranic schools. In the water and environmental sanitation front, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of seven hand dug wells and installed seven new hand pumps in Kismayo and constructed eight rain water collectors in primary schools and health facilities. MSF-Belgium has opened a small dispensary in the main IDP camp at Kismayo.

CENTRAL ZONE: In Beled Weyn, the flood response team including UNICEF, UNDP, SCF, IMC, in collaboration with the ICRC and local relief groups assisted 500 families displaced by the floods with 400 tarpaulins, 275

blankets, 200 collapsible jerricans, 400 bags of supermix and 200 cartons of high-protein biscuits. In Jowhar, the Inter-Agency Flood response team provided 10,000 empty sand-bags to more than 20 communities in three districts of the Middle Shabelle region to assist them in protecting the river embankment. Assistance has also been provided to some 400 families living in 14 villages of the Middle Shabelle. In Mogadishu, UNICEF is continuing its cholera prevention campaign through social mobilization and awareness in drama and music performed by local artistes.

NORTHEAST: Normal programme activities continued. Preparations are under way for the second round of the immunization campaign that is due from 14 - 18 December 1997.

NORTHWEST: In an effort to build the capacity of the health staff, training of trainers workshops were held in Hargeisa and Gebiley to train a core of national staff for the facilitation of community health service delivery improvement. The five week training sponsored by UNICEF will end on 20 December. In the water sector, the Italian supported water projects in the Sool region, including rehabilitation of water systems in Ainabo, Yagoori, Tukaraq, Godalo and Hudun were completed. In an effort to combat water-borne diseases, social mobilization, chlorination of water sources and clean-up campaigns continued in most parts of Northwest zone. A consultant joined the water and sanitation teams in fixing four high capacity booster pumps for the Hargeisa water system as part of multi-agency cooperation involving UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, OXFAM, HABITAT and Hargeisa water authority.

Missions in Somalia

A UNDP Team Travels to Northwest zone

A UNDP Programme team comprising Senior Deputy Resident Representative, Ms Kristi Ragan, and a Programme Management Officer, travelled to the Northwest region from 7 - 9 December to officially introduce the Somalia Civil Protection and Rehabilitation Project into the region and assess other UNDP-funded projects in the area. The Civil Protection Programme will focus on demobilization of militia, demining operations, and law enforcement. After meeting with the local administration and counterparts, the team visited other UNDP projects, including the rural rehabilitation project (SRP) and urban planning project executed by UNOPS and Habitat respectively.

UPDATE

The meeting of Somali faction leaders in Cairo continued during the week. Deliberations focused on the modalities of sharing the 446 delegates among the various factions participating in the National Reconciliation Conference planned for Baidoa on 20 December and related agenda items. General Morgan of SPM/SSA and USP joined calls for further re-scheduling of the venue of the planned national reconciliation conference. In Bossaso, the SSDF announced the holding of a northeast constitutional conference on 1 February to discuss the establishment of a "Northeast Somalia Provincial State".

SECURITY UPDATE

KISMAYO: The situation in Kismayo and its environs remain tense. On 6 December, the airport was blocked twice by disgruntled militia demanding payment for services provided to the humanitarian agencies, including the clearing of trees from the edge of the runway, and painting a centerline. On 8 December, elders of the flood-stricken Jamame district offered the Inter-Agency Flood Response Team free rent and free guards at the airfield as compensation for a relief truck looted on 4 December. Investigation into the 29 November shooting incident in front of

UNICEF's compound still continues.

GEDO: Overall security situation remains quiet in the main towns of the Gedo region; Bardera, Lugh, Bulohawa and El-Wak.

BAY/BAKOOL: The security situation in Bay region remained tense with reports of increased militia movement in the run up to the planned national reconciliation conference re-scheduled to take place in Baidoa on 20 December.

MOGADISHU: The situation in Mogadishu remains tense. On 11 December, at least four people were killed and an unknown number of others were injured during clashes between rival militia in North Mogadishu which lasted two days. Reports indicated that the Monopolio market stalls in North Mogadishu was looted during the clashes. On 8 December, unidentified gunmen attacked the money changers' market in North Mogadishu and stole an unknown amount of money. A similar incident occurred at El-Adde market in North Mogadishu on 5 December. Presently, clan elders in North Mogadishu are trying to pacify the conflict which originated from a dispute over a farmland in Deganley village, 25 km north of the Mogadishu. The greenline crossing for UN international staff in Mogadishu remained off-limits due to security threats. The main seaport and airport remained closed.

JOWHAR: The security situation in Jowhar and Balad remained tense in relation to the conflict in North Mogadishu. On 6 December, a UNDP/UNV guard and his friend were injured in an accidental discharge of fire from a mishandled gun. They were evacuated to the hospital with hand injuries. The Jowhar/Beletweyne and Jowhar/Balad roads are still unsafe and not recommended to international organizations.

BOSASSO/NORTHEAST: The situation in Bossaso, Garowe, and Galkayo remained stable. On 8 December, the SSDF leadership in Bossaso decided to convene a northeast inter-regional constitutional conference starting 1 February 1998 for 10 days with the aim of establishing a regional government. *1998*

HARGEISA/NORTHWEST: Hargeisa, Borama, Burao and Berbera remained stable. On 10 December, the Italian envoy to Somalia, Ambassador Cassini, paid a one-day trip to Hargeisa and holds talks with Mr Egal and members of the administration in the Northwest.

SECURITY ADVISORIES

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- A. Travel to Mogadishu, Bay, and Bakool regions remains restricted on the basis of UN Phase 5 status.
- B. Travel to these areas requires approval of both the UN Designated Official and UNSECOORD.
- C. Travel of UN International staff to Tiyyeglo is prohibited until further notice.
- D. UN international staff road travel to Las Anod and Erigavo is restricted.
- E. The Jowhar/Belet Weyne road remains restricted to UN International staff.
- F. Flights and travel of international staff to Gedo and Kismayo are limited to emergency operations only.
- G. Travel to Somalia by UN international staff requires prior security clearance from the Designated Official.

END REPORT.

Prepared by the United Nations coordination unit (UNCU), in

collaboration with the Chief Security Advisor.

The United nations country team (UNCT) SOMALIA MONITOR is issued out of various reports received from the field. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the United Nations. Queries and submissions should be forwarded to the UNCU, Facsimile No: (254-2) 448439 and Telephone No: (254-2) 448434