Since 1991, when the last nationally recognised President Siad Barre was ousted, the Somali population has been living without a central functioning government providing any health service.

Since then, civil strifes and natural disasters have not spared any of the Somali regions. The areas around Mogadishu continue experiencing inter-clan tensions, roadblocks, resource based conflicts and escalating violence (assassinations, bombings and human rights abuses); floods at the end of 2006 hit around 300,000 people in Gedo and middle Shabelle regions; drought (spring 2007) has seriously compromised November harvest in Shabelle, Gedo, Bay, Hiran, Bakool and Juba regions. Here cereal production is estimated at only 1%, 5% and 8% of Gu (rainy season) Pre-War Average (PWA) (1995 – 2006) and 2%, 9% and 8% of last year’s Gu ’06 production, respectively. In Shabelle region (the maize Basket of the country), the production was 44% of Gu maize PWA (1995-2006) and 60% of Gu ’06 maize. Severe food shortage in the near future will further aggravate the vulnerability of the population due to the conflict.

While Somaliland presents an acceptable nutritional situation, the rest of Somalia presents serious to critical level of malnutrition. Early this year, surveys from the southern regions report between 15 to 20% global acute malnutrition. The penury of the shortage of hospital beds and medical services indicate that severe malnutrition cases cannot be provided minimum life saving, therapeutic feeding.

Global Acute Malnutrition: southern regions
(Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Juba and Hiran)

CE-DAT is a global database on the human impact of conflicts and other complex humanitarian emergencies and serves as a unique source of health indicators for monitoring conflict-affected populations and for the production of trend analyses, impact briefings and policy recommendations.

To subscribe to CE-DAT Scene click here. To unsubscribe click here.
Somalia - Current Figures (Cont’d)

- 1.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Of this 1.5 million: 295,000 are in Humanitarian Emergency requiring life saving interventions; 490,000 are in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis, requiring livelihood support¹.

- Highest concentration of IDPs in Galgadud (34% of the total), Lower and Middle Shabelle (25%), Hiran (13%) and Mudug (12%)³.

- 400,000 people were forced to leave Mogadishu because of generalized violence between February and May 2007. Of those, some 125,000 have already returned back, but at the same time around 27,000 people left the city since June⁴.

- Global Acute Malnutrition in southern regions is above the WHO Emergency threshold of 15% since early 2006 (see chart below). A rapid health assessment carried out by MSF in June in the Shabelle region reported GAM at 21.5% and SAM at 3%⁴. The situation is not expected to improve due to the poor Gu` rain season.

- Between 1 January and 10 August 2007, 3864 Acute Watery Diarrhoea cases were reported from Somaliland including 46 related deaths (Case Fatality Rate 1.24%).

- MSF expressed serious concern on the medical care availability in Mogadishu: less than 250 out of the 800 hospital beds available in Mogadishu in January are still in service.


CE-DAT and CRED News

CE-DAT Vacancies: Would you like to work in an international research team based in Brussels? Apply for: Health and Nutrition data analyst or CE-DAT database officer
Deadline: October 30, 2007

Upcoming events:

- MICROCON Work Package Leaders meeting - 12 October 2007, Brussels, Belgium.
- 4th CEDAT Technical Advisory Group Meeting December 2007

Website: Our web site now has a dedicated domain www.cedat.be Our database has a new dedicated email address: contact@cedat.be

Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
Université catholique de Louvain, 30.94 Clos Chapelle-aux-Champs, 1200 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32-(0)2-764.33.27 - Fax: +32-(0)2-764.34.41 - www.cedat.be - contact@cedat.be