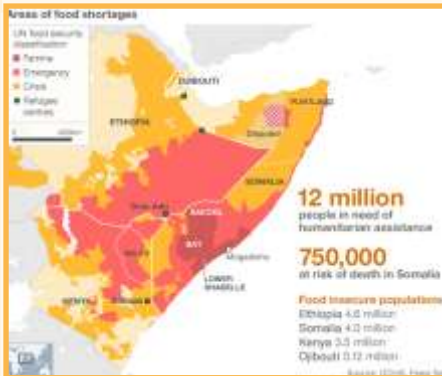


Working together for Somalia

September 2011



Crisis Overview



Somalia has been in a protracted crisis for the past decade. In late July 2011, following a prolonged drought, the UN declared famine in the Horn of Africa. Over 12 million people are suffering in the region, with 4 million in Somalia alone. According to IFRC, 3 million of these are in the South.

A lethal combination of conflict, drought, soaring commodity prices (up to 270% in some areas) and lack of humanitarian space lead to a desperate situation where people's lives and livelihoods are at risk. According to OCHA, nearly 400,000 children are malnourished, while people walk for as long as four weeks to reach the safety of a refugee camp.

The need for coordination and cooperation between INGOs, local civil society and the Diaspora prompted The Humanitarian Forum to act. Read more about our meetings discussing humanitarian coordination and a long-term vision for Somalia.

Information: ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/Somalia.

Photos: flickr.com/photos/humanitarianforum.



Humanitarian Coordination Meeting—Nairobi, 15 August

Recognising the need for coordination and cooperation among international humanitarian actors, on 15 August 2011 The Humanitarian Forum in partnership with the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation brought together 61 people from 13 countries.

The participants represented multilateral organisations like the United Nations, Islamic Development Bank and Red Cross/Crescent movement, western and Muslim INGOs and local Kenyan and Somali NGOs.



"We are targeting big numbers but people are still dying on the ground"

A wide-ranging debate in different break-out groups and plenary focused around key issues, such as global food and fuel prices, food security, water, cross-border migration, nomads, climate change, aid consistency on both sides of the border, disease (epidemics remain a large threat), brain drain and the involvement of neighbouring countries.



"Somalia is at the epicentre of a regional crisis"

Mark Bowden, UN Humanitarian Coordinator, said that "there has been a lot of progress ... but there is still much complexity and challenge ... **Somalia is at the epicentre of a regional crisis**". He outlined the humanitarian challenges and emphasised that "humanitarian activities should also lead to a better future in development terms".

Kiki Gbeho, OCHA, pointed that the main problem is 'access to food throughout Somalia'. Kiki added that some INGOs are able to work even in areas controlled by Al Shabaab. She mentioned that the CAP was about 50% funded (much of which had been received since July).



The participants also felt there was a large gap between needs and delivery, and an uneven response. Hassan Ismail, Islamic Relief, said "We are targeting big numbers but people are still dying on the ground".

Local Kenyan NGOs believed that in some areas of Kenya the situation could get as bad as Somalia in a short period of time: "There is an overwhelming need". In Kenya, there are problems of moving food (due to poor infrastructure), limited human resources, and delays in visas.

The participants agreed that a long-term vision needs to be found regarding the humanitarian situation in Somalia. See overleaf for our meeting discussing the relief to recovery transition.

Minutes: humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/east-africa-famine-2011.html

"This is the first time that such a selective, active group meets and discuss a better vision for the future... Now, we need to put results on the ground".

Atta el Manane, Ambassador, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

A long term vision for Somalia— Nairobi, 26th September



On 26-27 September, over 120 delegates from more than 75 local, international, and multilateral humanitarian agencies participated in lively discussion about a longer-term vision for Somalia.

“Focus on progress through partnership, rather than competition”

In opening comments, the acting UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Rozanne Chorlton, called for the **different participants to work together**: “Focus on progress through partnership, rather than competition.”

Strengthening the bond between major humanitarian actors from different backgrounds, Ambassador Atta El Manane, OIC said: “OIC and OCHA are already married”. There was a consensus among the participants, expressed by Ambassador Mostafa Khogary (League of Arab States): “it is vital to look at moving from relief to recovery, and from competition to collaboration”.

Mohamed Ahmed Salem from the Islamic Development Bank echoed the need for cooperation and a long-term vision for **Somalia**: “We need to show we have one single agenda.”



“Recovery is a duty, there has been too much short-termism”

Rozanne Chorlton, Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, UN

To encourage in-depth discussions on longer-term development plans for Somalia, participants were divided into groups: water, livestock and livelihoods, and food and agriculture. Each group put forward their vision for recovery, identifying main priorities, opportunities, challenges and recommendations.

Some of the most notable recommendations expressed during the meeting were: information sharing, linking the UN and the OIC coordination systems (creating a unitary system) and advocacy at different levels.



On the ground



Our President, Dr. Hany el Banna, was invited by the World Food Programme to join them on a needs assessment journey to the Kenyan IDP camps in July this year.

There, he was able to witness the situation on the ground firsthand and encouraged humanitarian **actors to help those in need**: “We must become the drivers, instead of taking a back seat”.

Following his journey with the WFP, Dr. Hany made several visits to Mogadishu and the IDP camps both inside and outside Somalia. During his visits, he witnessed the creation of a Somali coalition of NGOs: Somali Humanitarian Operational Consortium (SHOC), attending to the local needs.

Another important stakeholder emerging from the UK Somali Diaspora is the Somali Relief and Development Forum (SRDF). To find out more about their work, access their website: srdf.org.uk.



Updates from our members and partners

Our members and partners have kindly provided us with details of their response for the Somali crisis. The needs can be met efficiently and speedily through collaboration and partnerships between humanitarian organisations wanting to provide relief. This avoids the duplication of efforts and enables those in need to receive the aid and care they require. Organisations have different skills, methods, contacts, trust and access to funding. Improving the quality of development and humanitarian work is vital for saving more lives.

For up-to-date information, access the OCHA website: unocha.org or our East Africa Famine 2011 page: humanitarianforum.org/pages/en/east-africa-famine-2011.html

MCF has been taking a leading role on empowering the UK Somali Diaspora to respond to the famine. More about their work on their website: muslimcharitiesforum.org.uk.

IHH's activities benefitted up to 400,000 people since March 2011 in the Somali capital Mogadishu, Lower and Middle Shabelle. IHH distributed food items, canvas, hygiene kits, kitchenware, water containers. They offered medical care, dug 70 water wells and sent two cargo vessels with aid benefitting 800,000 people, cumulatively.

IFRC and the Somali Red Crescent, rehabilitated water sources, distributed non-food items and

ceramic water filters to improve hygiene. Read **more about IFRC's appeal**: ifrc.org/docs/appeals/11/MDRSO001EA.pdf.

Islamic Relief has distributed family food packs to 160,000 people. They have delivered 100 water trucks, providing 120,000 people with a minimum of 8 litres of clean water every day. Islamic Relief has also established 5 mobile clinics in Mogadishu and built latrines in IDP camps in Mogadishu.

Oxfam has provided water and sanitation services and is operating a cash transfer programme. They are also distributing agricultural inputs and non-food items and supporting water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Qatar Charity is helping thousands of families affected by the famine in Mogadishu and South Somalia through an 800,000 Qatari Riyal emergency relief programme.

We have a section on our website dedicated to projects and proposals for humanitarian needs in Somalia. Send us your reports, press releases and project proposals at info@humanitarianforum.org.

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Map: OCHA; Photos: The Humanitarian Forum, WFP/ Sigfried Modola