

CISP SCALES UP ITS ACTIVITIES TO RESPOND TO THE DROUGHT CRISIS IN SOMALIA

Essential drugs, food baskets and safe water as quick emergency response in South Central Somalia



A dead cow around Dhoobley ©CISP July 2011

As largely reported in the media, Somalia is facing the most severe humanitarian crisis in the world today. The drought-induced famine, exacerbated by the chronic emergency conditions in the country, is affecting half of the population (3.7 million, including 1.25 million children), two third of which are in the worst affected south-central zone.

"They die in front of us, we can't do anything. If we had at least a salary we would spend it to assist them" (Dr Hawa Ibrahim, talking to Francesco Kaburu, member of CISP's assessment team, Waberi MCH, Mogadishu, 26 July 2011)

CISP's efforts to bring relief to the drought stricken population



A woman in Bondhere IDP camp in Mogadishu. She walked all the way from Bay and Bakool region (about 20 days) ©CISP 21 August 2011

CISP, which has been present in Somalia in the last 25 years, is rapidly scaling up its activities with quick response interventions, to help save as many lives as possible in this beleaguered country. Operations integrate multiple sectors (food, health, nutrition, water, sanitation and protection), to face the different aspects of the emergency. CISP's emergency activities target people in IDP

settlements (Mogadishu), as well as those who are on the move (Dhoobley). Since people are most vulnerable when they are mobile, CISP's effort is also directed to the Somalis living in drought stricken areas (Mudug, Galgaduug and Hiraaan regions), in order to prevent them from leaving their homes in search of better conditions.

"If we had enough food and water here, we would have no reason to think about continuing our journey towards Kenya or Ethiopia" (Fatuma, 22 years old, 27 July 2011, Mogadishu)

DROUGHT

In the last 20 years, the Somali people have been afflicted by protracted conflict, extreme poverty and recurrent natural disasters, which have drained all their resources and eroded their traditional coping mechanisms. The failure of the October-December 2010 Deyr rains and of the April-June 2011 Gu rains determined increased livestock asset losses and crop failure. The impact on the food security situation has been dramatic, with famine rapidly spreading across the Southern and Central part of the country. 1.25 million children are in urgent need of malnutrition treatment (figures: OCHA, Aug 2011).

DISPLACEMENT

Everyday thousands of people flee their home in search of food and water. In June and July alone, more than 100,000 people moved into Mogadishu (figures: OCHA, Aug 2011).

"All the 103 people ran away from my village, near the border of Hiraaan and Galgaduud. We covered almost 300 km. For few days we travelled by bus, but then we ran out of money and walked for 20 days. It was tough. We had to hide in the bush. At militias' checkpoints, we had to be as convincing as we could, to persuade them that we were not going to Mogadishu" (IDP from Hiraaan, Mogadishu, 26 July 2011)

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CISP's response to the drought crisis in Southern Somalia (Benadir, Juba, Hiraan)

Building on its long term presence on the ground in the Southern region, interrupted in recent years for security reasons, CISP is concentrating its effort in Benadir, Juba and Hiraan regions.

Mogadishu (Benadir)



Fatuma, 6 years old, affected by Severe Acute Malnutrition, Mogadishu ©CISP 26 July 2011

The situation is very critical in Mogadishu, currently the main recipient of IDPs from all over the country. To organize its response, CISP conducted a multi-sector Initial Rapid Assessments in 5 IPD settlements and 5 MCHs (in Hodan, Boondheere, Hamarwayne, Hamarjabab and Waberi), as well as in Benadir hospital. As a result of the assessment, a quick response intervention (2 months) is being carried out, including:

food baskets distribution and supply of safe water to 1,000 IDP families. Furthermore essential drugs have been provided to 3 MCHs and Benadir hospital.

Medium term interventions (6-8 months) have also been envisaged in the Health and Wash sectors, to control the outbreak of infectious diseases and reduce health risks in the IDP settlements and host communities.

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"We are now assessing protection and education needs of women and children in the IDP settlements, as it is crucial for CISP to address also the increased risks of violence and to provide safe learning places", (Halima Ismail, CISP Field coordinator).



A baby girl affected by corneal dystrophy in Waberi, Mogadishu ©CISP 28 July 2011

MALNUTRITION

The high malnutrition rates, combined with poor sanitation conditions, shortage of safe water and increased risks of infectious diseases outbreaks, make this picture even more alarming.

"When people between 6 and 17 years old start to suffer of acute malnutrition, it means the situation is really dramatic for us. Sometimes you can't differentiate who is more in need, the mother or the child"

(Obstetrician, talking to CISP Staff in Bondhere MCH, Mogadishu, 29 July 2011)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

"There are children affected by corneal dystrophy, caused by meningitis and subsequent to acute malnutrition. These are cases that you only see on the books. In 30 years of activities in Somalia, I have never seen something similar. Last time I saw something of this kind, I was a student in Ethiopia, in 1984."

(Abdi Tari, CISP's medical doctor, Waberi, Mogadishu, 28 Jul 2011)

Initial Rapid Assessments

CISP's assessments are conducted in accordance with UN OCHA's Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) Tool and Guidance Notes, jointly with international and local partners.

Dhoobley (Lower Juba)



An old woman waiting for food in Doblely ©CISP July 2011

Dhoobley is a transit point for IDPs travelling to Dadaab, along the borders with Kenya. CISP has provided food baskets to 300 households selected amongst the transiting people, to mitigate their necessity to undertake the hazardous journey to Dadaab.

To face rising GBV, a protection project is planned to start soon, including MCH support for GBV cases and assistance in the establishment of community based protection mechanisms.

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Belet-Weyne (Hiraan)

In July CISP, in partnership with HWS, conducted an assessment in Belet-Weyne, which identified immediate needs in terms of Water and Sanitation. CISP's rapid response intervention includes the rehabilitation of 6 water points, the construction of 100 latrines in each of the 3 IDP camps near BeletWeyne, as well as sanitation training.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

People on the move become exposed to serious human rights violations, such as gender based violence and human trafficking.

"I have been traveling with my daughter from Jowhar. We walked for one month, and we wanted to reach Dadaab, but we had to stop here because my daughter delivered a baby a week ago. It's my first time to see food trucks for close to 5 years now.

We were planning to continue our trip to Dadaab, but I've heard many bad stories: I've heard that women are raped and their clothes striped. I would not like to be in such a situation. Since now food has come I will just stay in Dhoobley", (Samey Muxumed, an old woman talking to CISP's protection officer Fatuma Aden, during a food basket distribution in Dhoobley, August 2011)

CISP's response to the drought crisis in Central Somalia (Galgaduud and Mudug)



Children in Hodan camp, Mogadishu ©CISP 21 August 2011. Children are sent to beg in town, and are at high risk to be separated from the parents. "Out of my six kids, three are missing" this woman said to CISP's staff

CISP is monitoring the drought related situations in the central regions of Galgaduud and Mugug where it has been conducting long term interventions for the last 15 years. CISP is on high alert considering that projections indicate that the entire central and southern Somalia will suffer the same extreme food and nutrition crisis now prevailing in the five areas where famine has been declared. Being already on the ground, CISP can easily scale up its intervention, integrating emergency operations. Despite the majority of the funding being diverted to famine affected areas, CISP's effort is aimed at preventing the deterioration of the crisis. Assessments have been conducted in Ceell Dheer and Galcaad (Galgaduud), in Xarardhere (Mudug), and emergency prevention activities have already started with basic drugs and food distribution, as well as rehabilitation of 8 shallow wells.

CISP'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE 2011 (as at 30 August 2011)

| Component | Main activities | Geographical area | Beneficiaries |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| Food | Food baskets distribution | Mogadishu (Banadir) | 1,000 households for 4 weeks* |
| | | Dhobley (Lower Juba) | 300 households for 2 weeks** |
| | | Ceell Dheer, Galaad (Galgaduud), Xarardere (Mudug) | 500 households for 4 weeks** |
| Health and nutrition | Provision of essential drugs and response to outbreaks of infectious diseases | Mogadishu (Banadir) | 3 MCH and Banadir hospital (3 months)* |
| | | Ceell Dheer, Galaad (Galgaduud), Xarardere (Mudug) | 2 hospitals and 1 MCH (3 months)* |
| Water | Supply of safe water (water trucking) | Mogadishu (Banadir) | 8,000 people for 4 weeks* |
| | Rehabilitation of 18 shallow wells | Ceell Dheer and Xarardere (Galgaduud) | 24,000 people (7,5 lt per day) |
| Protection | GBV prevention and response | Mogadishu (Banadir), Dhobley (Middle Juba) | Planned for September 2011 |



*All the quotes are taken from CISP's reports and assessments 2011

Way forward

Alongside with the quick response currently ongoing, CISP is continuously monitoring and assessing the needs on the ground, planning interventions and raising funds to be able to mitigate the impact of the crisis. CISP's efforts will continue focusing on Benadir, Juba, Hiran, Galgaduud and Mudug regions in South Central Somalia. High priorities will be given to activities that integrate Health, Wash and Protection, targeting IDPs and people on the move.

The **International Committee for the Development of the People** (CISP) is a Non Governmental Organization established in Rome in 1983 to engage against the impact of poverty and denied rights worldwide. CISP has been active in over 30 countries worldwide: in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and Europe. CISP has been operating in Somalia since its inception and is currently implementing projects in the sectors of Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Protection and Livelihood, in Benadir, Galgaduug, Hiraam, Mudug and Lower Juba.