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PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release)

AMISOM to Deliver Aid to Famine Victims In Mogadishu

Mogadishu, August 23rd, 2011; AMISOM today received a plane load of food and medical provisions intended for distribution to the famine-afflicted residents of Mogadishu.

Totaling 13.5 metric tons, the aid, included food supplements for children under five, mosquito nets, vitamin A, de-worming Albedozale syrups, zinc supplements, powdered milk and spaghetti.

It has been donated by the Lindner Foundation Uganda, and flown into the Somali capital by the Uganda Peoples Defence Force.

At hand to receive it was the Deputy Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Hon. Wafula Wamunyinyi, accompanied by the AMISOM Force Commander, Maj. Gen. Fred Mugisha.

Hon. Wamunyinyi expressed his gratitude to the Foundation for the donation and said it was a valuable gesture of support for the suffering people of Somalia.

“We at AMISOM have been mandated to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid and we are proud to play our part in the effort to save the people of this nation. Not only are our troops helping to make the city safe for humanitarian work, we are also helping in delivering the aid to local communities,” he said.

“Coming two days before the African Union hosts a pledging conference to raise funds for Somalia, this is a strong indicator of the efforts ordinary Africans and governments are making to alleviate the suffering in the country,” he added.

Last week, AMISOM delivered another consignment of food, this time donated by the staff of RA International to the capital’s Wardhiigley District for distribution to IDPs in the area.

Denis Awalinga, Country Director for Lindiner Foundation Uganda, who arrived with the aid said that the assistance provided by AMISOM had been crucial in getting the aid to Somalia.

“At the beginning of this month, we saw what was happening here and we felt that, as a child-based NGO, we do what we can, we give the little that we could. So we got in touch with AMISOM and they carried out assessments on the ground with the help of local NGOs which allowed us to make judgments on what to bring,” he said adding that AMISOM would also help transport the aid to the Somali populace.

The UN has declared a famine in 5 regions of the war-torn country, most of them in areas where extremist insurgents have banned the delivery of humanitarian aid. The AU will host a pledging conference in Addis Abba on Thursday which is expected to raise millions in cash and kind for Somalia.

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