

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS 1960-1995

The main purpose of this chronology is to help the reader by reconstructing MSF's actions and public statements in regional and international news reports of the period. It is intended as a tool for this specific document, and not as an academic reference.

| | Somalian crisis | International | MSF Operations | MSF public statement and advocacy |
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| 1960 | Reunification and independence of Somaliland from the UK and Italy. | | | |
| Oct. 1963 to feb. 1964 | 1st Ogaden war between Ethiopia and Somalia. | | | |
| 1969 | Siad Barre coup - dictatorship | | | |
| 1977-1978 | 2nd Ogaden war. Ethiopia holds on to sovereignty over the Ogaden. | | | |
| 1979 to 1987 | | | MSF F provides assistance to the refugees from Ogaden (Hiiran, Gedo). | |
| 1985 | Start of SNM rebellion in the North of Somalia. | | MSF F supports Ethiopian refugees around Hargeisa (Somaliland). | |
| 1986 | | | MSF H develops medical programmes in the northwest of Somalia. | |
| 1987 | | | January 10 MSF F expatriates taken hostage in Tug Wajale. Closure of MSF F programmes in Somalia. | |
| 1988 | May SNM offensive on Hargeisa and Burao – hundreds of Somali refugees in Ethiopia. | | Suspension of MSFH programme in north west of Somalia. | |
| 1989 | USC rebels begin underground resistance in central and southern Somalia. | | January MSF H resumes activities in Boroma. May Interruption of MSF H Boroma programme & expatriate evacuation. | |
| 1990 | May 114 clan leaders issue the Mogadishu Manifesto , which condemns the actions of the Siad Barre regime. | | January MSF H revives health centres in villages around Alei Badei. March MSF F explo in refugee camps in Boroma. April MSF H team evacuates Boroma after a car looting. | |

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| | <p>July elections called for February</p> <p>July-August attacks and roadside bombings against the structures of the regime and foreign nationals.</p> <p>October opposition parties agree to bring down the government by force.</p> <p>December - SNM controls the north. - USC gains ground. - Siad Barre declares a state of emergency. - Mogadishu is paralysed. - UN humanitarian personnel evacuate from Mogadishu.</p> | | | |
| 1991 | <p>January 27 Siad Barre flees toward southwest of Somalia.</p> | <p>January 2 Gulf war starts.</p> | <p>January 2: decision to make a 'MSF Europe' surgical mission in Mogadishu.</p> <p>7: MSF team arrives in Mogadishu and sets up in Digfer General Hospital.</p> <p>9: MSF contact with USC in Rome.</p> <p>11-12: MSF contact with USC in London.</p> <p>13: MSF exploratory mission in USC areas – a driver is wounded.</p> <p>16: MSF team evacuation for safety reasons.</p> <p>23: MSF team back to Somalia, meets the rebels and sets up in SOS hospital in USC zone.</p> <p>30: MSF team evacuation from Mogadishu for safety reasons.</p> | <p>January 4: MSF F PR 'MSF Charters a Plane to Somalia.'</p> <p>5: MSF F PR 'MSF plane has not received permission to land in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>6: MSF F PR 'Part of the MSF team has left Mombasa for Mogadishu.' - MSF F PR 'MSF team unable to reach Mogadishu.'</p> <p>7: MSF F PR 'MSF team arrived in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>8: MSF F PR 'MSF team in Mogadishu', <i>Reuters & Liberation</i>: 'According to MSF team government still controls Mogadishu.'</p> <p>9: MSF official appeal for half a day ceasefire.</p> <p>10: MSF F PR 'MSFin Somalia: injured flock to Mogadishu Hospital.'</p> <p>12: MSF F PR 'MSF team stay in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>14: MSF B PR 'Emergency aid in Somalia - MSF team fired upon as it crosses the front-line.' MSF B PR: MSF working on both sides of the front.'</p> |

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| 1991 | <p>February 2: Interim President Ali Mahdi calls for international aid.</p> <p>21: failure of national reconciliation process; mushrooming of rival factions.</p> | <p>March Rebellion of Kurds in Irak, repressed by the regime.</p> <p>April The Kurds flee the Iraqi troops toward Turkey and Iran.</p> <p>5: United Nations Resolution 688, calling on Iraq to end repression of its population.</p> <p>6: Operation Provide Comfort (USA and Gulf War allies) to bring humanitarian relief to the Kurds.</p> | <p>February 1: new team of 4 MSF medical doctors in Mogadishu.</p> <p>24 February to 3 March: MSF H exploratory mission in the north of Somalia (border with Ethiopia)</p> <p>25: MSF in Medina hospital & health structures supply.</p> <p>March MSF H opens an office in Berbera and a medico-surgical project in Hargeisa hospital.</p> <p>Mid-March: Kenya denies take off clearance toward Mogadishu to private aircrafts = difficulties for MSF supply.</p> <p>April - MSF largest ever aid operation to bring aid to the Kurds. - Mogadishu: MSF pays armed guards to protect the hospital.</p> <p>20 to 21 and 29 to 2 May: MSF F exploratory missions in Kismayo.</p> | <p>MSF F PR: 'Update on MSF emergency response in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>15: MSF F PR: 'Correction: none wounded among the MSF team in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>16: MSF F PR: 'The MSF team leaves Mogadishu.'</p> <p>23: MSF F PR: 'MSF working again in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>27: MSF F PR: 'MSF team overwhelmed by influx of wounded.'</p> <p>28: Reuters, BBC, NYT: 'According to a MSF representative, President Siad Barre has fled his presidential palace.'</p> <p>February 10: MSF PR: 'MSF reaffirms its complete neutrality,' - MSF F launched the magazine to donors 'Extreme Emergencies.'</p> <p>20: Reuters 'Signs of malnutrition in Somalia, French doctors say.'</p> <p>March 06 - MSF F PR 'MSF intervenes in Somalia's North,' Reuters: "Doctors report northern Somali town devastated by civil war."</p> |

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| 1991 | <p>May 18: SNM declares unilateral independence of Somaliland. - Meeting of Somali factions in Djibouti: Ali Mahdi confirmed as interim president. - Aideed and Somaliland disagree.</p> | <p>Late May - Tigrayans take power in Ethiopia. - Massive return of Ethiopian refugees to their country & influx of Somali and South Sudanese refugees.</p> | | <p>May 27: <i>Reuters</i> 'Catastrophe threatens Ethiopian refugee camps, doctors say.'</p> |
| | <p>July 6 Somali factions sign a cease-fire and agree to expel Siad Barre.</p> | | <p>June - MSF B & MSF H leave 'MSF Europe' mission in Mogadishu. - MSF H extends programmes in north (mine clearing with Rimfire).</p> | |
| | <p>August - Restart of fighting between Siad Barre forces and USC - Restart of UN operations in Mogadishu</p> | | <p>July MSF F starts a programme of reconstructive surgery in Mogadishu.</p> | <p>July 'Daring to heal,' Kathleen Hunt <i>The New York Times Magazine</i> - account on MSF team life and activities in Mogadishu.</p> |
| | <p>September 8 to 10: fighting between Ali Mahdi and Aideed troops. Aideed demands Mahdi 's resignation</p> <p>17: Red cross plane hit over Berbera.</p> <p>27: UN suspends its aid operations in Mogadishu.</p> | | <p>September - François Jean (MSFF): 'MSF is too close to the Abr Guedir clan.' - MSF team evacuation from Mogadishu because of the fighting.</p> <p>30: MSFB announces MSFF it won't be able to take charge of a Kismayo program due to lack of human resources.</p> | |
| | <p>October 2: A new government was formed.</p> <p>11: Ali Mahdi calls on the international community to deliver urgent food aid.</p> <p>23: Somali government accuses the forces loyal to Siad Barre of committing acts of genocide.</p> | <p>October 15: WFP announces that 4.5 millions Somalis risk dying of hunger.</p> | | |

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| 1991 | <p>November 17: extremely violent fighting resumes between troops of Ali Mahdi and Aideed in Mogadishu.</p> <p>December Total war in Mogadishu, looted and destroyed by Aideed's forces, bombing blocked access to harbour.</p> <p>13: Hashi Egal (USPF) called for an armed, international intervention.</p> <p>15: 2 ICRC employees killed in Mogadishu during a food distribution.</p> <p>20: humanitarian aid flights recommence for Mogadishu.</p> | <p>November 7: SCF: The arrival of Somali refugees and Ethiopian returnees in Ogaden carries risk of a food crisis for the region.</p> <p>December 15: Andrew Natsios (OFDA): - announces that USA would double its emergency aid. - criticises the incapacity of the UN to deliver assistance to the civilian population. The US State department calls on the international community to stop this 'absurd slaughter.'</p> <p>23: ICRC calls on the UN to 'act urgently.'</p> <p>27: Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary General announces the dispatch of a small team into Mogadishu and the plan for progressive reinforcement of aid.</p> | <p>November - Within 15 days, 2,000 injured treated in Medina hospital. - MSF & ICRC are the only relief agencies operating in Mogadishu.</p> <p>December - MSF B explo in Kismayo. - MSF H explo in the north - MSF difficulties to supply because blockage of ICRC boat by bombing in the harbour. - MSF F considers doing an evaluation of the nutritional situation in Merka. - Meetings between MSFF senior executives and the two war chiefs clan leaders</p> | <p>November 20: MSF F coordinator to AFP: about 400 injured admitted to the hospital since Sunday.</p> <p>26 : - MSF F Regional Office for East Africa PR: 1,500 wounded hospitalised in Mogadishu. - MSF calls for a cease-fire</p> <p>December 13: AFP 'No more blood for Somali wounded, doctors say.'</p> |
| 1992 | <p>January Fighting in Burao (north of Somalia).</p> <p>5: UNICEF physician killed by bandits in the north.</p> <p>14: an ICRC employee is killed in Kismayo.</p> | <p>January 6: James Jonah, UN General Secretary Special Envoy in Somalia declared pessimism that a ceasefire could be</p> <p>Mid-January: ICRC alerts on the nutritional situation in the camps looted outside Mogadishu – organised wet kitchens.</p> <p>23: UN Security Council imposes an arms embargo.</p> <p>31: UNSG and director general for UNICEF call for emergency humanitarian aid in the Horn of Africa.</p> | <p>January 5: a shell hit Benadir hospital where an MSF team is working.</p> <p>6: Withdrawal of 5 MSF expatriates from Somalia.</p> <p>15: MSF H evacuates Burao with 300 wounded.</p> | <p>January 6: MSF F PR 'For security reasons, MSF is recalling part of its team from Mogadishu,'</p> <p>15: MSF F&H PR 'MSF evacuates from Burao for security reasons,'</p> <p>16: ICRC 'Hundreds of thousands of Somalis are suffering from the famine,'</p> <p>17: MSF F&H PR: 'MSF extends its aid in northern Somalia.'</p> <p>29: MSF F PR 'MSF speaks out on the situation in Somalia,'</p> <p>30: MSF Press conference MSFF deputy director of operations and MSF H President in New York - 'MSF, humanitarian emergency in Somalia.'</p> |

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| 1992 | <p>February 14: Ceasefire under UN supervision between Aideed and Al Mahdi forces.</p> | | <p>February MSF F opens a programme in the refugee camp in Liboi (Kenya).</p> <p>22 February to 3 March: Exploratory mission of MSF B programme manager</p> <p>March 11 MSF F's management committee asks Serge Manoncourt (Epicentre) to conduct a nutritional evaluation of the situation outside Mogadishu.</p> <p>Late March: MSF B starts medico-surgical and nutritional assistance to Kismayo.</p> | <p>February MSF F message broadcast on radio - hospitals should be considered neutral zones.</p> <p>March 10 MSF F sends information letter to donors about Somalia.</p> |
| | <p>April 24: UNSC Resolution 751: 50 UN military observers to monitor ceasefire and distribution of food aid. Mohamed Sahnoun appointed UN special envoy to Somalia.</p> <p>May - Siad Barre flees to Kenya after failing to take back Mogadishu. - Supply resumed via Mogadishu port - UN observers deployed in Mogadishu.</p> <p>15: Kismayo falls into the hands of the USC.</p> | <p>April 24: UNSC Resolution 751: 50 UN military observers to monitor ceasefire and distribution of food aid. Mohamed Sahnoun appointed UN special envoy to Somalia.</p> <p>Late May SCF launches a famine alert.</p> <p>June End of MSF operations in Kurdistan.</p> | <p>April : 1 & 2: MSF F coordinator in Mogadishu carries out a preparatory mission for the nutritional assessment in the Merka region.</p> <p>18 to 28 April: MSF F epidemiological survey in the Merka and Qorioley districts amongst a population of around 100,000 inhabitants, residents and displaced. In displaced camps 90% of children under five are malnourished, 75% of them severely.</p> <p>May MSF H expatriates evacuate from Hargeisa and Burao: remote control management until November.</p> <p>15: MSF B team in Kismayo evacuates.</p> <p>End May: Opening of a nutritional programme in Merka.</p> <p>June MSF B team back to Kismayo.</p> | <p>April Proposal for a MSF press officer in the Horn of Africa refused by HoMs</p> <p>21 MSF F on TF1 news: footage on the evaluation team in Merka and coordinator interview.</p> <p>May 21 MSF F press conference - epidemiological survey results Merka/Qorioley - famine alert - appeal for massive aid distribution</p> <p>23: MSF F president's annual report: 'awareness - raising activities on the famine are equally as important as the operational activities.'</p> <p>June 18 Reuters Medical charity says Africans dying due to indifference.</p> <p>26: MSF F board of directors debated on the relevance and capacity of the organisation to undertake large-scale food aid distributions.</p> |

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| 1992 | <p>July 5: 4 UN observers over 47 have arrived in Mogadishu</p> <p>20: Omar Arteh Ghalib, Interim Prime Minister of Somalia calls for the reinforcement of humanitarian aid and for UN troupes in Somalia.</p> <p>26: 4 Somali factions declare that the escort of humanitarian convoys is not necessary and recommend instead, a national police force.</p> <p>August 15: WFP airlift starts to Baidoa, flurry of media in Mogadishu and Baidoa.</p> | <p>July 9: ICRC launches a new aid appeal to save Somalis from famine.</p> <p>10: UN postpones arrival of observers following Aideed's opposition.</p> <p>15: UN appeals to the generosity of donor states on behalf of people in the Horn of Africa.</p> <p>20: UNSC agreement to deploy 51 cease fire observers and 500 armed soldiers.</p> <p>22: US senator Nancy Kassebaum, back from Somalia, calls for an immediate deployment of UN troops.</p> <p>24: UNSG Boutros-Ghali reproaches the UNSC for neglecting the 'war of the poor' in Somalia for 'the war of the rich' in ex-Yugoslavia.</p> <p>27: UNSC Resolution 775 authorises increase in strength of the United Nations operation in Somalia: - Technical mission to be sent to Somalia to investigate the terms for putting in place a force for peacekeeping and for protecting humanitarian programmes - Urgent organisation of an airlift to deliver food aid.</p> <p>30: Andrew Natsios, USAID lobbies for a massive food distribution secured by UN forces.</p> <p>August 9: Mohamed Sahnoun, UN representative in Somalia to Le Monde: it is possible to avoid resorting to force.</p> <p>12: agreement between M. Sahnoun, and Somali fac-</p> | <p>Mid June: - MSF F explo in Baidoa - 'worse than Merka.' - MSF sections' directors of operations decide to open a position for a communication officer for the Horn of Africa, based in Nairobi.</p> <p>July 6: MSF B team attacked and kidnapped for several hours in the Habanera camp in Kenya.</p> <p>26: Having won police protection, MSF B recommences activities in the Kenyan camps.</p> <p>Late July: explo MSF F in Baidoa/Bardera/Dinsor/Audindle.</p> | <p>July 12: New MSF F Somalia program manager to Le Monde, 'People in the tents, if not hundreds of thousands will die in the coming weeks.'</p> <p>Mid-July: MSF F information breakfast with ambassadors in Paris.</p> <p>20: MSF B PR on Kenya camps: 'MSF places its medical activities on stand by to call for increased protection of aid workers and refugees.'</p> <p>22: Rony Brauman, President of MSF F recommends that the US Congress implement a large-scale food aid operation.</p> <p>August 4 MSF international PR 'Population decimated by famine on the Somali coast.'</p> <p>11: Letter MSF & other NGOs to Boutros Ghali expressing concerns about Somalia.</p> |

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| 1992 | | <p>tions on deployment of 500 Pakistani 'Blue helmets.'</p> <p>- M. Sahnoun calls on the international community to set up an airlift to carry international aid into Somalia.</p> <p>Mid-August: WFP announces that without massive aid, 1.8 million people were threatened with starving to death.</p> <p>17: ICRC calls for more food aid.</p> <p>Late August: the EU releases 6 million ECUS (euros) for emergency humanitarian aid to Somalia.</p> | | <p>20: MSF International PR 'Discovery of a "mortuary zone" in western Somalia.'</p> <p>30: 'The clans and how they affect relief work,' <i>The Sunday Times</i> by Geoff Prescott, MSF H Coordinator in Somaliland.</p> |
| | <p>September</p> <p>14: Initial contingent of Blue Helmets arrives in Mogadishu.</p> <p>15: WFP starts to drop food aid in isolated regions.</p> | <p>September</p> <p>1: SCF to AFP/Reuter 'The UN's record in Somalia is a failure.'</p> <p>9: UNSC accepts UNSG's request to increase the number of Blue Helmets deployed in Somalia to over 4,000 men.</p> <p>24: On return from Somali refugee camps in Kenya, Audrey Hepburn, UNICEF's Special Ambassador states that Somalia can still be saved.</p> | <p>September</p> <p>1: MSF Communication Officer for Horn of Africa starts in his position.</p> <p>Mid-September: MSF H opens an emergency medical programme in Baidoa in cooperation with MSF F, Care International, Concern, UNICEF, ICRC.</p> <p>- Agreement on MSF F being responsible for joint representation for the two sections with regards to the authorities in Mogadishu.</p> <p>- MSF F opened programmes in Hoddur and Wajit.</p> <p>- MSF F coordinator facing some problems with the Aided clan.</p> <p>18: 5 MSF F employees and 2 journalists briefly taken hostage in Medina hospital.</p> <p>Late September: MSF F Coordinator opposes MSF B desires to open a programme in Bardera.</p> | <p>September</p> <p>9: MSF F and MSF H Presidents (Rony Brauman and Jacques de Milliano) Press Conference in Nairobi:</p> <p>- Priority to massively increase the distribution of food aid.</p> <p>- Doubts that the presence of UN troops will improve security for humanitarian operations in Somalia.</p> <p>10 to 13: Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, star presenter on French television in Mogadishu (with airfare paid by MSF F).</p> <p>10: MSF F PR & interviews, 'Priority must be given to the continuation and decentralisation of food aid.'</p> <p>- Unreleased MSF B PR 'MSFB declares itself in favour of the Blue Helmet deployment to Somalia.'</p> <p>11: Reginald Moreels, MSF B President internal note from MSF F & H on public opposition to the Blue Helmet deployment.</p> <p>- Wilfried Maertens (ex Prime Minister of Belgium), MSF B envoy in Somalia calls for the deployment of UN forces in order to protect the distribution of humanitarian aid.</p> |

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| 1992 | <p>October 8 to 11: Suspension of food air lifts for four Somali towns.</p> <p>23: - Suspension of food airlift Bardera. - International aid prevented from deploying in the port and at Mogadishu airport by Aideed forces. - Aideed demands the constitution of a police unit with the help of international forces.</p> <p>November 12: A convoy transporting food aid is attacked near Baidoa.</p> <p>16: Interim president Ali Mahdi threatens to bomb the port in Mogadishu.</p> <p>20: A group of NGOs refuses the protection of UN guards and relies on their own Somali guards.</p> <p>24: A shell hit a WFP ship in the port of Mogadishu.</p> <p>28: Aideed declares his acceptance of a possible dispatch of 30,000 UN soldiers to Somalia to protect the distribution of food aid.</p> | <p>October 10: UN asks the donor countries to support its '100 day-day action' programme of 82.7 million dollars to provide assistance to the Somalis.</p> <p>20: France Day for Somalia (school students asked to bring rice for Somalis).</p> <p>27: M Sahnoun, UN representative in Somalia forced to resign.</p> <p>November Early: In the USA, increasing demand for direct intervention by US forces in the area most severely affected by the famine.</p> <p>26: On her return from Somalia, Sophia Loren actress and UNHCR 'Good Will Ambassador' raised alarm on the situation.</p> <p>27: UN sources, picked up by CNN circulate information regarding the possible deployment to Somalia of a UN-led multinational force, under US command.</p> | <p>October 1: MSF CH opens a programme in Kansardhere (part of MSF F programme).</p> <p>14: Part of MSF H team in Baidoa is evacuated for one week following rumours of a possible attack on the town.</p> <p>21: Looting of the MSF H radio room in Baidoa.</p> <p>Late October: Medina hospital's staff on strike forbids access to MSF expatriates at the hospital.</p> <p>November Early: MSF F decides to close down its activities in the Medina hospital.</p> <p>7: some of MSF H team in Baidoa evacuates again after one of them was shot at.</p> <p>10: MSF F headquarters decides that the coordinator of the mission, who had been receiving death threats over several months, ordered to get out of Somalia.</p> <p>21: a weapon is aimed at two nurses from MSF H team in Baidoa.</p> <p>Late November: MSF H expatriates return to Hargeisa and Burao.</p> | <p>15: Rony Brauman, MSF F President to La Croix (France) 'It is necessary to delay sending the Blue Helicopters to Somalia to avoid stirring up tension.'</p> <p>17: MSF F PR 'MSF to the rescue of children in Hoddur.'</p> <p>23: MSF F launched a fundraising appeal for its aid operations in Somalia.</p> <p>October 3: Rony Brauman, MSF F President to Le Monde 'at the price of 20% of the total value, international aid can produce real results, international protection would cost between five and ten times more.'</p> <p>5: MSF CH PR 'MSF Switzerland intervenes in Somalia to assist 30,000 people.'</p> <p>28: MSF F PR 'Mr Sahnoun departure illustrates the limits of UN employees and its action.'</p> <p>November Early MSF F steps up advocacy with main stakeholders and decides to re-launch communications to highlight slow progress and mistakes of UN machine.</p> <p>10: 'Fatal sense of resignation. Many Somalis quietly shun aid, await death.' Chicago Tribune: MSF F team in Hoddur attests that the death rate remains extremely high.</p> <p>12: 'Somalia: America flies over a starving country' by Brigitte Doppler and Frédéric Vigneau, MSF F team in Somalia in Le Monde.</p> <p>27: - In an interview-debate with Libération, Rony Brauman, MSF F President argues against military intervention in the name of humanitarian aid. (picked up by The New York Times.)</p> |

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| 1992 | <p>December 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the glare of cameras, Bernard Kouchner, French minister of Health and Humanitarian Affairs carries sacks of rice collected by French school students on his shoulders. - Massive arrival of journalists in Mogadishu: prices sky-rocketed. - NGO expatriates evacuated to avoid lootings before the international force arrived. - Armed groups leave Mogadishu for Baidoa: looting and violence. <p>8: Two US fighter planes flew over Baidoa, accentuating the tensions within the armed groups.</p> <p>9: US troops lands in Mogadishu with much media fanfare and took control of the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Night of looting in Kismayo. <p>11: Ali Mahdi and Aideed sign a peace agreement.</p> <p>17: the US contingent of troops and the French foreign legion participating in Operation 'Restore Hope' finally deploy to Baidoa.</p> <p>18: 200 US soldiers land in Kismayo airport disarm one NGO's guards and take off again.</p> <p>20: Belgian and US contingents land in Kismayo port.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food supply restarts <p>25: French contingent arrives in Huddur.</p> | <p>December 3 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meles Zenawi President of Ethiopia called on the international community to 'uphold the Somali people's pride.' - UNSC Resolution 794: authorises the roll out of a military operation (Restore Hope) in Somalia under the United State's command so as to 'establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations.' <p>6: United States' Ambassador in Nairobi Smith Hempstone, 'if you liked Beirut, you're going to love Mogadishu.'</p> <p>9: Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN General Secretary, announces a five stage action plan 'to extract Somalia from chaos.'</p> | <p>December 5: Evacuation of MSF CH/F team from Kansardehre, temporary closure of the mission.</p> <p>6: 3 vehicles belonging to MSF and Catholic relief are stolen in Kenya and driven to Somalia. Kenya announces the closure of its border with Somalia.</p> <p>5 - 16: MSF H's expatriate team in Baidoa reduced to 3 people.</p> <p>9 - 20: After a night of looting, a party of expatriates from humanitarian organisations, including seven MSF B volunteers, evacuates to Nairobi.</p> <p>15 December - 14 January: MSF F conducts an epidemiological survey in Huddur.</p> | <p>- MSF internal position paper Jacques de Miliano, MSF H President 'MSF takes no position on the appropriateness of military action.'</p> <p>30: MSF F Draft letter to UNSG: a range of precautions should be taken to ensure the intervention stays on track (cancelled on 1st December).</p> <p>December 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSF F board voted against an MSF public positioning regarding the in-depth issues underlying the American troops' intervention in Somalia. - Pierre Harzé, MSF B's Communication Director to L'Indépendance/Le Peuple, 'this intervention had become necessary but it posed security risks for members of humanitarian organisations.' <p>7: MSF H PR, 'Looting in Baidoa - the slow pace of preparations for the Somali intervention increases the risks.'</p> <p>10: AFP 'MSF's president denounces the grotesque antics of Kouchner and his bags of rice.'</p> <p>11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSF B letter to the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Belgian Representative at the United Nations and the Belgian Ambassador in Nairobi asking for information on the operational aims of 'Restore hope.' - MSF B coordinator voiced concerns about the risk of image-confusion between the MSF B team in Kismayo and the contingent of Belgian soldiers due to arrive. - MSF H PR 'Despite the fighting, Médecins sans Frontières continues to offer assistance in Baidoa.' |

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| 1992 | <p>30 December to 1 January: US President George Bush visits Somalia. Pictures with Ali Mahdi and Aideed.</p> <p>31:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - US troops in Merka. - Somali armed groups depart from Mogadishu. | | | <p>16: MSF H Baidoa team to the media, 'The president of the United States did not keep his promises.'</p> <p>28: Dominique Martin, MSF F Programme Manager editorial in <i>Libération</i> 'The day the soldiers leave Somalia.'</p> <p>29: Reginald Moreels, President of MSF B, to <i>The New York Times</i>, 'The warlord Jess, who had initiated the violence, told me that it would only last an evening.'</p> |
| 1993 | <p>January</p> <p>2: The UNICEF representative in Kismayo is murdered by his own guards.</p> <p>14: Kurt Lustenberger, the ICRC delegate in Bardera, is murdered by looters.</p> <p>15: The Somali factions sign a ceasefire agreement and plan a reconciliation conference.</p> <p>Late January</p> <p>22-24: Belgian para-troopers attacked by Morgan's forces in Kismayo.</p> <p>February</p> <p>5: U.N. launches a wide-scale operation to distribute food to the Mogadishu population in an attempt to bring down the price of staple items. For first time, US troops are target of stones by young Somalis.</p> <p>22: Kismayo falls into the hands of General Morgan, hundreds dead and injured.</p> <p>23: Valerie Place, a nurse working for the Irish organisation Concern is killed</p> | <p>January</p> <p>4: Military sources in Mogadishu announce that Operation Restore Hope will come to an end by 20 January at the latest to be replaced by an operation supported by the UN, 'UNOSOM II'.</p> <p>22: The United States officially asks the UN Security Council to take command of the multinational task force in Somalia (UNITAF).</p> | <p>January</p> <p>1: Near a Kismayo beach, the MSF B team discovers the corpses of December's massacred victims.</p> <p>6: MSF B opens a programme in Bardera.</p> <p>23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSF CH/F mission in Kismayo is re-opened after an assessment. - MSF B vehicle attacked by the population in Kismayo. <p>24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSF B team evacuates Kismayo. - MSF H vehicle attacked & guards injured in Baidoa. <p>26: MSF B team returns to Kismayo.</p> <p>29: MSF B team evacuates from Bardera.</p> <p>February</p> <p>22: Some one hundred people take refuge at the MSF B base, protected by Belgian paratroopers, then replaced by American soldiers.</p> <p>27-28: MSF H team is attacked by its armed guards. The coordinator is threatened with death.</p> | <p>January</p> <p>3: MSF B PR 'The death of a UNICEF representative in Kismayo could have been avoided.'</p> <p>3: Reginald Moreels, President of MSF B set out criteria for when 'a humanitarian worker could call for a military intervention, once all diplomatic channels had been exhausted,' in <i>Le Soir</i>.</p> <p>6: Wilfried Maertens (ex Prime Minister of Belgium), MSF B envoy in Somalia to <i>Le Soir</i>, 'the Somali paramilitary groups need disarming and a dialogue instigated with the Somali faction chiefs.'</p> <p>22: MSF B PR 'Somalia: Violent combat overnight in Kismayo.'</p> <p>February</p> <p>4: MSF F publishes results of an epidemiological survey in Huddur. Mortality rate remains seven times higher than normal in displaced population. MSF renews its call on public generosity to improve this situation, which remained so critical.</p> <p>22: MSF B PR 'Somalia - Violent combat overnight in Kismayo.'</p> <p>24: MSF F Coordinator for the Horn of Africa called for a press conference to</p> |

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| 1993 | <p>during an attack on her vehicle by Somalis near Afgoye.</p> <p>22-28: Fighting between Morgan and Jess clans in Kismayo.</p> <p>March 15-28: Somali factions make an agreement to set up a 'national council of transition' and general disarmament.</p> <p>26: - In Mogadishu, US soldiers, feeling threatened by stones thrown at their vehicles, shoot into the crowds, wounding children. - In Kismayo, while Jess' troops attempt to take over the town, the UNITAF carries out a naval air show of force in the bay.</p> | <p>March 16: Belgian Secretary of State for Development Cooperation, visiting Kismayo states to the press that the use of armed guards by NGOs is dangerous and complicates the positioning of troops.</p> <p>26: The UNSG gives its backing to a large-scale peacekeeping operation, dubbed UNOSOM II, that will gradually take over from the UNITAF with 28,000 troops and 2,800 civilian staff.</p> <p>April 19: UNITAF is officially replaced by UNOSOM II.</p> | <p>March MSF B team witnessed abuses by the Belgian para-troopers. 1: meeting of MSF Somalia Programme Managers on security. - MSF B - no further need of armed guards. - MSF F & H would like to reach this point, but they hadn't got there yet.</p> <p>2: Meeting of MSF Coordinators in Nairobi and Mogadishu. - There is still an emergency humanitarian crisis in Somalia. - MSF should review its operational approach in this country, notably its dependence on armed guards or UNITAF forces.</p> <p>3: As a security preventive measure, MSF F evacuates from Kansardhere. - MSF H in Baidoa under protection of Australian forces.</p> <p>8 to 12: MSF F general director and programme manager visit the missions in Somalia where a decision has been made to implement a disengagement process over two months.</p> <p>17: MSF B asks MSF F not to justify its withdrawal by declaring the country's emergency is 'at an end.'</p> <p>26: One of MSF H security guards is shot dead by an Australian soldier.</p> <p>April 8: MSF F decides to close the Kansardhere programme.</p> <p>26: MSF H programme in Baidoa is terminated.</p> | <p>condemn the loss of human life caused by Operation Restore Hope.</p> <p>March 2: MSF H PR 'MSF fears further deterioration of the security situation in Baidoa,'</p> <p>5: MSF F Board debates the question of maintaining or potentially removing the teams from Somalia.</p> <p>13: MSF at the 3rd UN humanitarian assistance coordination meeting for Somali: "The plan proposed within the UNOSOM framework has little chance of being implemented while the security problems are not resolved."</p> <p>15: MSF B coordinator to Reuters 'It's much worse now [with the UN troops]. Kismayo has never been so violent. Our programme here has been set back by six-to-eight weeks.'</p> <p>16: MSF H PR 'Protection by United Nations soldiers – Somalia, the Médecins sans Frontières team in Baidoa complete again.'</p> <p>17: MSF B PR and Press conference - 'Médecins sans Frontières Belgium shocked and outraged by the opinions held by Ministers Delcroix and Derycke following their brief visit to Somalia.'</p> <p>April Rony Brauman, MSF F president in Messages newsletter' Médecins sans Frontières and the UN - between us, it's ambiguous.'</p> |

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| 1993 | <p>June 5: 23 Pakistani UNOSOM II soldiers are killed during a confrontation near a radio station controlled by Aideed.</p> <p>11: UNOSOM II's air forces launches night attacks on the neighbourhoods supporting Aideed with the aim of destroying the radio and locations presumed to be holding weapons piles.</p> <p>13: 15 people, including women and children, are killed while a demonstration is stamped out by the UNOSOM forces.</p> <p>17: UNOSOM forces launch air and land interventions in Aideed's neighbourhood causing the deaths of sixty Somalis, wounding sixty, and destroying dozens of buildings.</p> | <p>June 6: UNSC Resolution 837 condemns attacks on the United Nations Operation in Somalia.</p> <p>9: AICF announces the suspension of all its missions in Somalia due to the climate of insecurity.</p> <p>13: - Leading US political and military figures expresses their regrets for civilian deaths but state that the UN's actions can be defended, accusing General Aideed of using women and children as human shields. - US House Democrats ask if the rules of engagement have not been shattered and predict that this sort of incident will happen again.</p> | <p>May The final programmes run by 4: MSF F in Mogadishu are officially closed. One coordinator stays to close Huddur programme to assess the other missions and relations with UNOSOM and identify other potential zones to explore.</p> <p>June Closure of MSF F mission in Huddur.</p> <p>11: Surgical team from MSF F lands in Mogadishu.</p> <p>13: The MSF team treats some of the wounded from the UNOSOM attack.</p> <p>17: The AICF house, where AICF and MSF teams are holed up, along with several journalists, is bombed during the course of the morning. A Somali employee is killed, ten others are wounded.</p> | <p>23: The Dutch media announces that MSF H is planning to withdraw from Baidoa.</p> <p>May 3: MSF H PR 'Somalia - Security conditions no longer acceptable in Baidoa,' Médecins sans Frontières suspends its programme.'</p> <p>Early May: Peter Casaer, former MSF B coordinator writes a report on 'the conduct of the Belgian para-trooper commandos,' and sends it to the Belgian King but no plans to distribute it publicly.</p> <p>15: MSF F president's annual rapport, 'epidemic of the militarisation of humanitarian aid.'</p> <p>26-27: MSF F at OFDA meeting to review the military-humanitarian operations, the military intervention happened too late. The military/humanitarian confusion has negative repercussions on the security of relief workers.</p> <p>June 11: MSF F and MSF Spain share a declaration drawn up by NGOs operating in Somalia for the special representative of the UN's General Secretary for ONUSOM II expressing concern about the consequences of large-scale operations led by the UN forces in Mogadishu.</p> <p>13: AFP 'The killing by U.N. troops in Mogadishu of at least 14 Somali demonstrators was slated Sunday as 'monstrous' by the president of French medical agency Médecins Sans Frontières.'</p> <p>14: MSF B/F/H/E PR: 'MSF statement against the killing of civilians in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>15: MSF F PR: 'A surgical team from Médecins sans Frontières has been in Moga-</p> |

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| 1993 | <p>- Digfer hospital, where some Aideed partisans are hiding out, is bombed during the course of the morning.</p> <p>July 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNOSOM forces shell one of General Aidid's houses where elders, clan and local leaders are meeting. - A mob kills four foreign journalists in retaliation. <p>August 30: UNOSOM launch a new helicopter operation in the Digfer Hospital area, where the home of General Aideed is located.</p> | <p>Night of 16 and 17: UN's Special Envoy in Somalia gives an order to arrest General Aideed, whom he qualified as a 'threat to the security of Somalis and the international community.'</p> <p>18: The U.S. President Bill Clinton declares that the operation in Somalia had 'ended' and was a success.</p> <p>July Early July:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Africa Rights, accuses the Belgian military contingent of violent and racist acts against Somali civilians - The media and international community steps up criticism of the UN forces' strategy and urges them to resume discussions with General Aideed <p>August 5: <i>The Washington Post</i> reports on an internal report in the legal department of the United Nations on Somalia severely criticising the attack by the American forces on 12 July on the house sheltering Somali elders.</p> <p>13: 26 NGOs working in Somalia publicly criticise the direction taken by UNOSOM II, highlighting the ethical and legal issues, raised by its actions.</p> | <p>July Mid July: Peter Casaer, former MSFB Coordinator gives an updated version of the report sent to the King in May to the Minister of Defence.</p> | <p>dishu since 11th June to respond to the emergency medical needs associated with the gradual deterioration of the situation in the Somali capital.'</p> <p>17: MSF F PR 'UNOSOM forces attack aid base, MSF calls for official enquiry.'</p> <p>July Early Peter Casaer, former MSFB Coordinator confirms to the media that his team in Kismayo has witnessed abuses and refuses to participate to an inquiry under the Ministry of Defence.</p> <p>20: MSF F submits an appeal 'for violation of humanitarian law in Somalia during UNOSOM operations on 17 July' to the United Nations Security Council, the Military High Command and national commands of the United Nations forces in Somalia</p> <p>27: MSF F/USA PR 'Médecins sans Frontières (MSF)/ Doctors without Borders submits an appeal to the United Nations.'</p> <p>Late July: An information campaign on the MSF F appeal is led among the actors concerned at the UN and in the member countries, in particular. among the US senators.'</p> <p>August 24: Actueel (VRT, Belgium Radio) Belgian paratroopers recount, and attempt to justify, the 'blunders' that they committed in Somalia.</p> |

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| 1993 | | <p>22: the US leaders decide to send a unit of Rangers to Somalia and announce that General Aideed needs to be 'eliminated from the Somali equation.'</p> <p>25: the UNSG releases the results of an investigation demonstrating that the attack on 5 June against the Pakistani Blue Berets was carried out by the forces under General Aideed, who is now liable to legal prosecution.</p> <p>30: AICF denounces the use of its premises by the UNO-SOM II forces for an operation aiming to capture local personnel tasked with providing security for the neighbouring premises used</p> <p>September Regarding the accusations against the Belgian paratroopers, an enquiry commission was set up in Belgium, composed of senior officers and the national defence's director of civil administration.</p> | | |
| | <p>October 3: UN forces reinforced by US commandos launch a vast operation in Mogadishu against the troops led by General Aideed; at least 500 Somalis and 19 US soldiers killed, one pilot is captured.</p> <p>4: Aideed publicly demands 'a stop to the massacre of Somalis.'</p> <p>6: Bodies of American soldiers are paraded and a captured pilot is humiliated in Mogadishu.</p> | <p>October 7: US President Bill Clinton announces they are sending 1,700 additional troops to Somalia. - The US State Department immediately calls for its nationals to leave Somalia.</p> <p>8: US President Bill Clinton announces that the solution to the problems in Somalia are political and not military.</p> | <p>September MSF F introduces an appeal regarding the attack of the base in June, this one to the United National Administrative Tribunal of the UN.</p> <p>October 5: MSF F leaders re-examine the need to launch a further intervention in Somalia.</p> <p>7 to 20: MSF F explo in south Mogadishu.</p> <p>20: MSF F managers ask themselves if they should return to Mogadishu to treat the 20% of wounded civilians not being treated by the ICRC or Somali doctors.</p> | <p>September Somalia - a humanitarian crime,' by Rony Brauman, President of MSF F published by Editions Arléa.</p> <p>26: MSF F representative in Somalia to AFP: 'MSF F is going to have nothing more to do with Somalia and will pack its bags.'</p> <p>27: AFP - 'Relief Group Blasts UN, Pulls Out of Mogadishu, - Belgian aid group to stay in Somalia.'</p> <p>28 Reuters: 'MSF France leaves Somalia.'</p> <p>October 3: AFP 'Aid boss slams US, UN.'</p> <p>6: Rony Brauman, MSF F President, to Antenne 2 (France) - MSF F is withdrawing from Somalia to avoid being held hostage by the military-humanitarian system. - MSF F is going to send a team to Mogadishu to provide support for any surgical emergencies.</p> <p>7: AFP: 'MSF fears a new wave</p> |

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| 1993 | | <p>December Belgian Enquiry commission issues a report which recognised that unacceptable abuses were committed by the Belgian paratroopers in Kismayo, but considers them isolated cases.</p> | | <p>of violence in Mogadishu.'</p> <p>13: Rony Brauman president of MSF F to La Croix (France) – 'Most of the patients treated by MSF in Somalia have been injured by the Blue Berets.'</p> <p>21: Envoyé Spécial programme on Antenne 2 (France): Patrick Vial Representative of MSF F in Somalia wondered whether the calls for aid to fight famine didn't ultimately have a part in aggravating Somali misfortune.</p> <p>November 18: MSF F Press conference on Populations in Danger (MSF F publication). Reuters - Rony Brauman, MSF F President, 'In Somalia, the United Nations pose a fatal threat to humanitarians.' - A. Destexhe, MSF International General Secretary - 'The results of the UN operations in Somalia, as in Bosnia, are negative on both a humanitarian and a political level.'</p> |
| 1994 | <p>March The last US soldier leaves Somalia.</p> | | | |
| 1995 | <p>UNOSOM troops leave Somalia.</p> | | | |