

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

SOMALIA

DONOR UPDATE 4 JUNE 2004

URGENT FUNDING NEEDS FOR...

- ...all programmes, with the exception of Water and Environmental Sanitation. Less than 50% of the required amount has been received to date and continued donor support to programmes is essential in maintaining activities and moving forward with planned interventions.

ISSUES FOR CHILDREN¹

As mid-year approaches, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remains difficult. In a country with some of the world's highest rates of infant and maternal illness and death, and severely limited access to basic services, Somali children and women continue to suffer from chronic food insecurity, severely worsened in some areas by drought, and fresh waves of displacement caused by inter- and intra-clan conflict. Poverty, disease and limited educational and employment opportunities continue to take their toll on the health, welfare and dignity of Somalis. Out of a population of about 6.3 million², more than 350,000 remain refugees, while another 300-370,000 have been internally displaced by years of conflict, many for periods of up to ten years.

Violence and armed conflict continued throughout much of southern and central Somalia. In the north, the murder of four aid workers within six months in the self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland, and continuing tensions over a long-running border dispute between "Somaliland" and the self-declared autonomous Puntland State of Somalia, led to new operational restrictions on United Nations agencies and NGOs.



Boundaries and names shown do not imply official UN endorsement or acceptance.

ACTION

Drought response to the Sool Plateau, northern Somalia, continues...

The Sool and Sanaag areas of northern Somalia remained seriously affected by prolonged drought throughout the first quarter of the year. In March, the third round of mobile health and nutrition interventions, originally started in early December 2003, was completed. The response was planned in cooperation with WHO and local authorities in the northern zones targeting the worst affected areas of the two regions with immunization, micro-nutrient supplementation, de-worming, out-patient and ante-natal services, nutritional screening and provision of targeted supplementary rations. In addition to Sool and Sanaag, the neighbouring Togdheer region was also covered by two mobile health and nutrition rounds in January and March. To the greatest degree possible, UNICEF has cooperated with WFP in order to enable linkages between targeted supplementary foods and provision of a family food ration. Although final figures have not been tabulated, an estimated 9,000 children have been vaccinated

¹ Inputs in this section are based on the Mid-Year Review of the CAP, produced by UNDP Somalia.

² Includes about one million Somalis in the Diaspora.

during these interventions, a response that may have contributed to the prevention of a measles outbreak in an area where fewer than 25 percent of children have been vaccinated against the illness. In addition to health and nutrition interventions, UNICEF response has included the rehabilitation of shallow wells, primarily targeting areas of Eastern Sanaag. A total of 35 wells were to be rehabilitated by the end of April.

Further to the east, the Bari, Nugal and Mudug regions in the Northeast Zone (also called 'Puntland') have faced varying degrees of drought, in part caused by the influx of pastoralists groups migrating from Sool and Sanaag. The situation, although not as severe as that faced in Sool and Sanaag, continues to require close monitoring.

While no major disease outbreaks have been reported in the drought affected areas, a generally poor child nutritional status remains a continuing concern. In March, a UNICEF-funded nutrition survey conducted by *Action Contre la Faim* in three districts of Nugal and Mudug regions of Puntland found 15.9 percent global acute malnutrition. Follow-up assessments took place during May to determine which areas will require continued nutritional intervention.

In anticipation of the possibility of failed or late 'Gu' rains (April/May), UNICEF is procuring emergency stocks to replenish supplies. Some funding requests have been submitted, but *an adequate response to the 2004 Appeal is essential in maintaining response for this and other emergency scenarios that may arise during the course of the year.*

Cholera outbreak hits the Central and Southern Zone...

In 2003, the efforts of UN agencies and NGOs, working in close cooperation with community based organizations and local authorities, contributed to a successful campaign against cholera during which the targeted case fatality rate of less than five percent was maintained (at <1%). In late March, a steep increase in diarrhoea cases was reported in Mogadishu and UNICEF and partners responded by providing pre-positioned cholera treatment kits, Oral Rehydration Salts and IV fluids to the four main hospitals in Mogadishu. At the same time, large scale chlorination and social mobilization activities began under the oversight of a local inter-agency Cholera Task Force supported by a larger Task Force at the Nairobi level. On 22 April, an outbreak was declared and the case numbers subsequently reached a peak of 674. A considerable reduction took place after that and the number has steadily decreased. So far, the case fatality rate has been at 1.05 percent. Outside of Mogadishu, an increase in diarrhoea was observed including cases in Afgoi, and parts of Middle Shabelle as well as in Galkayo and Bossaso in Puntland. However, none of these cases have been confirmed as cholera. UNICEF and partners continue to monitor the situation to ensure an effective and coordinated response.

Flood watch...

With the onset of the long "Gu" rainy season, agencies are closely monitoring the possibility of major flooding, in particular along the two major rivers, the Shabelle and Juba. A sudden surge of rain in southern Ethiopia led to the first major increase in Shabelle river levels in the third week of April in response to which FAO/FEWSNET issued their second ten-day "Flood Alert Bulletin". Although no flooding was reported, a further build-up of river levels at Beletweyne highlighted the need to step up flood preparedness activities.

Toward that end, UNICEF met with Middle Shabelle authorities on 27 April and provided sandbags and logistical support for river bank management along key stretches of the river in Jowhar district. A standing UNICEF flood preparedness plan for the Central and Southern Zone was updated as the basis for sequential actions in the event of a 'red alert' for high risk of major flooding. This has been shared with UNICEF partners as the basis for upgrading overall readiness. UNICEF remains an active member of the Somalia Aid Coordination Body's Flood Working Group and has made contributions to the development of a new inter-agency Flood Preparedness Plan for Southern Somalia, a process led by FAO over the last year. In central and southern Somalia UNICEF maintains relief stocks capable of assisting up to 8,000 households with a package of relief items including blankets, jerry cans, plastic sheeting and mosquito nets. In addition, ready-to-eat foods (BP-5 compact biscuits) are also available for the same number of households for one week.

Vulnerabilities to conflict and other disasters...

UNICEF and OCHA conducted a needs assessment in the Galgaduud region in early April, following population displacements due to a new round of inter-clan clashes in the Cerale area in mid-March. The Galgaduud region is characterized by the prevalence of armed groups and is very difficult to access. As an outcome of the assessment mission, and in consultation with agencies more operational in the area, UNICEF is planning to support the expansion of health services to improve access for the internally displaced groups.

In March, UNICEF assisted 650 families with relief supplies in Mandeere village, Middle Shabelle region, when their homes were burned in an accidental fire triggered by strong "Jilaal" dry season winds. In addition, support was provided for the restoration of a primary health care clinic and a primary school that were also destroyed in the fire.

UNICEF participated in an end-May inter-agency food economy-based assessment of Mareery district, Middle Juba region, where the effects of local conflict, the continued targeting of minority clans and subsequent deterioration in food security are increasingly demonstrated in high malnutrition levels and, reportedly, high mortality rates. The exercise is planned in cooperation with FSAU and a number of local NGOs active in the area. All UNICEF field operations are planned closely with the UN Security Office, UNSECCORD, and are done in strict adherence to staff safety requirements.

Health...

In a major boost for polio eradication efforts in Somalia, the country was removed from the list of polio-endemic countries in March. This step forward is the result of nearly two years without any confirmed cases of the disease in the country. The next step in the process is obtaining polio-free status, and UNICEF, WHO and partner agencies will continue with regular National Immunization Days until the disease is totally eradicated from Somalia. In addition to ending polio, the vaccination campaigns have acted as a vehicle for peace building for over eight years, fostering cooperation among communities and achieving access to locations which had formerly been inaccessible due to insecurity. Agencies continue to work closely with traditional and Islamic leaders who have been a major force behind the eradication programme, actively participating in immunization campaigns and calling for communities to immunize their children.

Education...

UNICEF's 2003/2004 Primary School Survey is underway, which provides up-to-date data relating to primary schooling in Somalia and is used to measure progress and assist in forward planning for all groups engaged in education work in the country. Among the many statistics provided, the survey reports on gross enrolment, the male/female ratio for both pupils and teachers, the pupil/teacher ratio, the main teaching modes, ownership and management of schools, facilities available, fee systems and teachers support. Once finalized, the information is disseminated to all partner agencies, community education committees, local education authorities and others for their information and use. The information provided through this report feeds into the overall work of the education sector, including the work of school mentors, who are tasked to visit schools, observe lessons, interact with teachers based on their observations and then provide pedagogic hints and guidance as needed. There are also a group of mentors who support the community education committees and assist them with administration, management and overall guidance as they work toward improving enrolment of children. The mentoring system has been ongoing since 2003 and early reports indicate that this hands-on approach is resulting in increased enrolment.

Protection and Youth Participation...

During the first quarter of the year, child protection coordination networks have been established in Bari, Nugal, Mudug, Benadir, Lower Shabelle and Hiran regions, and similar initiatives are under way in other areas around Somalia. The role of these networks is to facilitate information sharing and coordination of advocacy initiatives and actions on behalf of child victims of violence, abuse and exploitation. The networks have agreed on priorities for their work, including the improvement of the situation of street children, the strengthening of efforts towards total eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the protection of children belonging to internally displaced populations.

A team of 24 child protection advocates (CPAs) have begun work in about 40 communities throughout Somalia in the first quarter of 2004. They have helped organize community-based dialogues and mobilize leadership to ensure that every child grows up in a protective environment. Thus far, the level of involvement of community leadership has varied greatly. Successful efforts include: access to education for disadvantaged children; commitment from businesspeople to provide support and care to street children; community action to protect children against prostitution and exploitative labor; and the commitment of some militia leaders to support children's attendance in school as opposed to involvement in the conflicts.

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control...

The first comprehensive HIV/AIDS Knowledge, Attitudes, Beliefs and Practice (KABP) survey has been completed. The study was undertaken to assess the levels of knowledge among men and women age 15-49 in Somalia and to identify attitudes and practices related to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections. The study will provide inputs into subsequent policy design and programming on HIV/AIDS for all partners. The results will also be linked to the ongoing HIV surveillance system recently established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Throughout Somalia, advocacy interventions are being implemented by UNICEF and various local and international agencies. However, adequate support for service provision – such as voluntary counseling and testing, improved treatment of opportunistic infections, prevention of vertical transmission and antiretroviral treatment – is critical in order to establish a comprehensive HIV/AIDS response and stop the epidemic from escalating. To date, funding for services against the Appeal has been low.

Major constraints encountered include:

The first quarter of 2004 was characterised by continued insecurity, marked by the murder of a Kenyan relief worker and a Somali driver working for the NGO GTZ in what appeared to be a deliberate, targeted attack in the Northwest Zone ('Somaliland'). This follows the murders of three international aid workers in late 2003, also in Somaliland. Some operations in the zone have been scaled down and tight restrictions have been implemented that affect travel both to and within the zone.

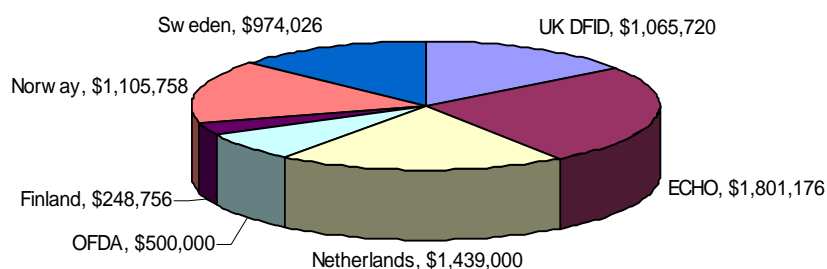
Finally, increased clan fighting in the Bay region, Central and Southern Somalia, has caused additional internal displacement and the formation of two new IDP camps in Bilale and Walaq Villages, Wajid District. Approximately 3,000 people are currently affected by the conflict which, according to reports from clan elders, included the killings of over 100 children and women. Emergency needs in the camps include food, shelter, cooking utensils and health services. To date, UNICEF has provided 1,500 IDP kits, 12 metric tonnes of Supermix and two drums of chlorine, all from pre-positioned field stocks.

Throughout Somalia, and particularly in the Central and Southern Zone, UNICEF remains deeply concerned about the apparent targeting of civilians, including children and women.

FUNDING

2004 APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS as of 19 May 2004 (all figures in US\$)				
Sector	Target	Funded	Funded %	Unfunded
Health	5,888,636	2,803,585	48%	3,085,051
Nutrition	1,515,909	845,352	56%	670,557
HIV/AIDS Prevention	411,648	168,491	41%	243,157
Water & Environ. Sanitation	2,247,727	2,034,437	91%	213,290
Primary Education	5,232,693	578,201	11%	4,654,492
Youth Development and Participation	1,267,614	488,095	39%	779,519
Mine Action	65,341	-	0%	65,341
Protection	1,306,818	216,276	17%	1,090,542
Total	17,936,386	7,134,436	40%	10,801,950

UNICEF Somalia CAP Funds Received by Donor as of 19 May 2004



IMPACT OF UNDER-FUNDING AND PRIORITIES

As of mid-May, funding levels received are similar to those received in previous years. However, interaction with donor groups indicates that funding levels may generally be lower in 2004. While core programmes are ongoing, and funding constraints have not yet hindered programme activity, the ongoing drought and insecurity could put additional strain on the resources that have been received to date. If funding is not received as anticipated, activities may have to be scaled down. Among the many ongoing interventions, this could affect: support to basic health services, including immunisation and malaria prevention; support to the critical polio eradication campaign;

supplies and support to teachers and communities working to increase access to and quality of education; work with local authorities and communities to strengthen the protective environment for children; work with youth groups to promote peace, provide learning opportunities and strengthen their leadership and organizational skills; and advocacy efforts with local authorities and community groups on HIV/AIDS prevention.

UNICEF Somalia priorities will continue to focus on life-saving interventions.

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