

UNICEF Humanitarian Action 2010

SOMALIA

SITUATION UPDATE

Facing one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world, 42 per cent of Somalis continue to be in crisis, including the 1.39 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)¹ nationwide, half of whom are children under 18, including 640,000 children under five. With the highest rate of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in Africa, one in six children are acutely malnourished and one in 22 severely malnourished in Somalia, 60 per cent of young children have serious micronutrient deficiencies and hundreds of thousands are susceptible to disease given the country's low immunisation rates and lack of safe water and sanitation. More than 300,000 school-aged children are out of school in Central and Southern Somalia (CSZ) and internally displaced communities in the North East and North West Zones (NEZ/NWZ). Children are also exposed to severe protection abuses and violations including an increase in recruitment into armed groups from all sides. While the northern zones remained relatively stable, allowing for greater access to vulnerable populations, insecurity and violence intensified in the CSZ region from May 2009 into 2010, spreading beyond Mogadishu as the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and insurgent groups contest for control. Mainly due to the ongoing conflict, thousands have been killed in Mogadishu, including children and civilians caught in the crossfire. Schools and health centres continue to be attacked.

The cycle of drought and floods, characteristic of Somalia, has further exacerbated the situation, leaving 580,000 urban people struggling with high food and non-food prices and 1.25 million rural and pastoralist people in search of food and water. While rains in March slightly improved the situation in some areas, flooding is likely to increase the risk of disease and displacement. Furthermore, increased insecurity led to the suspension of the World Food Programme's activities including the General Food Distributions (GFD) programme in January 2010, which has affected the treatment of moderate malnutrition and prevention of severe malnutrition in insurgent controlled areas of CSZ², where 70 per cent of the population in crisis resides. UNICEF requires urgent donor support to continue critical interventions and scale up nutrition efforts to cover the gaps in supplementary feeding programmes (SFP) due to the WFP's withdrawal. With only US\$22.7 million or 35 per cent of funds received against the revised HAR by early June, multiple interventions will be suspended without sufficient financial support by the start of the third quarter of 2010.

KEY RESULTS FOR CHILDREN

Health and Nutrition: As of mid 2010, the second round of UNICEF/World Health Organization Child Health Days (CHDs) delivered an essential package of life-saving health and nutrition services to 1.5 million children under five (91 per cent of the children targeted) and 1.3 million women (68 per cent) of child bearing age nationwide³ - an improvement over the first round in 2009. Support to a network of approximately 550 Health Posts and 240 Maternal and Child Health facilities (MCHs) provides access to basic primary health care for about three million emergency-affected people, including routine immunisation, treatment of childhood diseases and provision of ante-natal care services. UNICEF, as Nutrition Cluster lead and supporting 90 per cent of the humanitarian response, continues to scale-up geographic and case coverage for acute malnutrition, treating approximately 33,000 children with severe acute malnutrition from January to June (out of 101,000 or 34 per cent of target) through support to 311 out-patient therapeutic/stabilisation centres, of which 16 were established in the CSZ area in 2010. UNICEF is attempting to bridge the gap following the suspension of WFP nutritional work in the CSZ region, by extending support to 60,000 children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), out of a caseload of 170,000 children (the original HAR target was to reach at least 60 per cent or 102,000 of all children with MAM) through 335 supplementary feeding programs sites in CSZ starting in June with partners.

WASH: UNICEF is the Cluster lead for WASH and responsible for 70 per cent of the humanitarian response in this sector. Over 770,000 emergency affected people (approx. 154,000 children under five) throughout Somalia have access to safe water via operations, maintenance and chlorination of 635 water systems, and more than 170,000, mainly in rural areas have gained access to safe water through the rehabilitation or construction of 87 against 283 planned water

¹ Somalia's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), January 2010. Figures projected until at least June 2010; malnutrition figures from February and May 2010.

² This excludes parts of Mogadishu.

³ 270,000 targeted children and 280,000 targeted women in the Kismayo district and parts of Lower Shabelle cannot be reached due to insecurity and access constraints.

systems nationwide. More than 110,000 people are benefiting from 2,950 new and rehabilitated latrines, and over half a million people have been reached with hygiene messages, soap and jerry cans, critical for contributing towards the prevention of waterborne diseases (exceeding the expected target). Support continues towards building the capacity of 252,180 community, civil society and institution members to manage solid waste in a safe and sustainable manner. Water trucking, as a last resort, was provided to 10,000 people affected by the rapid onset emergency in CSZ for one month. Chlorination activities intensified in March 2010 following cases of seasonal acute watery diarrhoea and cholera in the north and CSZ.

Education: Over 57,000 emergency-affected or displaced children (out of a planned figure of 100,000) or 30 per cent of children out of school in emergency affected areas - have newly enrolled in primary schools, including 29,000 girls. Over 1,900 teachers (363 females) received training in pedagogy, life skills, child rights, psychosocial care and support and emergency education.

Child Protection: About 10,000 people in 102 communities have been mobilised to prevent and respond to a range of child protection violations and gender based violence. More than 54,000 emergency-affected children received school or community-based psychosocial care and support. Through a network of 40 monitors from 20 local human rights monitoring organisations, 436 cases of child rights violations were documented from January through April, with almost all cases being referred to services or advocacy action at community level. UNICEF and partners launched a community initiative to reach 350 children/youth at-risk of recruitment and ex-child combatants with vocational training, non-formal education and psychosocial support in Mogadishu, Merka and Galgadud.

KEY CHALLENGES

Escalating violence, displacement, constantly shifting geographical control, general insecurity and logistical challenges continue to disrupt the delivery of supplies and services. This is coupled with the increase in cost of delivering aid, at a time where the current funding crisis already jeopardises the continuation of life-saving support. The withdrawal of the WFP and subsequent suspension of General Food Distributions and significant scaling down of moderate nutrition services have left a major gap in treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition cases.

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF works with UN agencies and over 150 NGOs in addition to donors, Somali administrations and local communities. As Cluster lead for Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), UNICEF directly supports approximately 90 per cent and 70 per cent respectively of total humanitarian response in these Clusters. UNICEF also contributes to the WHO-led Health Cluster (supporting 70 per cent of response), the UNCHR-led Child Protection Cluster, and co-leads the Save the Children led Education Cluster.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

UNICEF's 2010 HAR appeal has been slightly increased to US\$66 million, with a reduction in WASH due to access and capacity constraints, a slight reduction in Education and an increase in Health to cover a second round of CHDs. UNICEF has received only US\$22.7 million, or under 35 per cent of funds required against the revised HAR, leaving critical funding gaps for a range of emergency interventions. Carry over funds for Nutrition allowed UNICEF to take over the supplementary feeding programme by re-allocating 2009 funds. UNICEF programming facilitates the complementarities of regular and humanitarian interventions, such that teacher incentives and training and education supplies in emergency affected areas are supported through non-humanitarian funds. Although UNICEF requires an additional US\$43 million to respond to the full scope of revised Core Commitments for Children in 2010, a minimum of US\$16.2 million is immediately required to allow lead time for ordering and delivering supplies and to avoid closing down various critical life saving activities.

Funds received against the HAR 2010 (US\$)				
Sector	Original 2010 HAR requirements	Revised HAR requirements	Funds received	Funding gap
Health	12,320,000	16,102,100	9,506,250	6,595,850
Nutrition	18,850,000	18,850,000	3,986,482	14,863,518
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	18,833,000	15,728,500	2,698,262	13,030,238
Education	8,101,500	7,935,800	5,015,187	2,920,613

Child Protection	6,216,500	6,216,500	1,515,260	4,701,240
Shelter and Non-Food Items	1,188,100	1,188,000	0	1,188,000
Total*	65,509,100	66,020,900⁴	22,721,441	43,299,459

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES: JULY – DECEMBER 2010

Health

- Child Health Days will continue, targeting 1.5 million children under-five (over 90 per cent of the total) and 1.2 million women of child-bearing age (over 70 per cent of the total). Some 3 million displaced or vulnerable people will continue to have access to essential medicines and vaccines through health facilities.

Nutrition

- An additional 60,000 children with severe acute malnutrition will receive life-saving treatment: 60,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition will receive targeted supplementary feeding in the CSZ area and 50,000 children in Afgoye with blanket supplemental feeding.
- Coverage of vitamin A supplementation for young children will be increased, along with micronutrient supplementation for pregnant and lactating women and de-worming of vulnerable groups.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Access to safe water will be maintained for 770,000 people through operations and maintenance, and chlorination and extended to 330,000 more people for a total of 1,100,000 by year-end, alongside hygiene education. An additional 70,000 people will benefit from construction of latrines.
- 160,000 people will gain access to safe water through rehabilitation/construction of water systems

Education

- At least 43,000 more children (50 per cent girls) in emergency settings will be enrolled in child-friendly primary schools (with WASH facilities), for a total of 100,000 new enrolments by year-end.
- Teachers in emergency settings will continue to receive monthly incentives from the start of the new school year in September 2010, thereby keeping schools operational for at least 100,000 children.
- An additional 200,000 vulnerable school children will receive school supplies for the new school year.

Child Protection

- At least 350 at-risk or ex-combatant children and youth will have access to vocational, non-formal education and psychosocial services. Advocacy efforts with the TFG on recruitment of children into armed groups will be resumed.
- An additional 198 vulnerable communities in all three zones will be mobilised to prevent and address protection violations and gender based violence, particularly among IDPs, totalling 300 by year-end.
- An estimated additional 46,000 children in emergency settings will receive psychosocial care and support services through community and school-based structures.

Shelter and Non Food Items

- Up to 15,000 families affected by emergencies will be supported with non-food items.

⁴ These requirements are in line with UNICEF requirements in the Somalia consolidated appeal (mid-year review, 14 July).