

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION SOMALIA IN 2009



Core Country Data	
Population under 18* (thousands)	4,389
U5 mortality rate**	135
Infant mortality rate**	86
Maternal mortality ratio**	1044
Primary school enrolment ratio***	27.9
Primary school enrolment ratio for girls***	22.1
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)*	39
% population using improved drinking-water sources**	29
Estimated number of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2007 (thousands)*	24
% U5 suffering moderate and severe malnutrition**	36/38

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2009, **Somalia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006, ***Somalia Primary School Survey, UNICEF 2005/06

In 2009, UNICEF will focus on accelerating young child survival targeting 1.5 million children and 1 million women with high-impact interventions, and ensure access to basic primary health for some 3 million vulnerable people. Emergency nutrition interventions will continue to target about 90,000 acutely malnourished children and blanket distribution of ready-to-use foods will reach 138,000 children under age five in areas with the highest malnutrition rates. More than 1.2 million people will be provided with water, sanitation and hygiene services; 214,000 children in emergencies will have access to basic education; and an estimated 300,000 girls and women most at risk will benefit from protection services.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	38,950,183
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	17,153,000
Education	13,388,500
Child Protection, HIV and AIDS, Empowerment and Participation	8,935,200
Shelter and Non-Food Items	1,033,000
Total**	79,459,883

* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

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

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Following the worst violence in 17 years, the failure of another season of the 'Gu' rains, the economic crisis and decreased humanitarian access, more than 3.25 million people in Somalia are in need of humanitarian assistance, including an estimated 650,000 children under age five. This represents a major deterioration during 2008 – with a 77 per cent increase in the number of people in need of emergency response since January 2008 and a 300 per cent increase since early 2007. The combination of violence, mass displacement, drought and extreme poverty, coupled with very low basic social service coverage, has greatly increased children's vulnerability to protection abuses, disease and malnutrition. Civilians are bearing the brunt of the continuing waves of violence between Ethiopian/Transitional Federal Government troops and insurgents in the Central and Southern Zone. Fighting resulted in over 850 civilian casualties between June and September 2008 alone and 1.3 million people are internally displaced, including nearly 300,000 protracted internally displaced persons (IDPs). Since September 2008, new displacements include over 35,000 people in and around Mogadishu along a 15-kilometre stretch of road between Mogadishu and Afgoye, which has become the world's most densely populated IDP settlement. Most IDPs in the Central and Southern Zone are living in overpopulated camps with limited access to water, food and adequate sanitation services. The influx of IDPs from the South to the relatively more stable northern zones has also begun to strain already limited social services, coupled with a deteriorating livelihood situation in the northern zones.

Somalia's humanitarian indicators prior to the escalating conflict, current economic crisis and high food prices were already among the worst in the world. Only 29 per cent of the population had access to safe drinking water in 2006 and 37 per cent to improved sanitation facilities. Immunization rates for children under age one were only at 5 per cent and immunization against measles at 39 per cent. School enrolment remains low at 27.9 per cent nationwide and at a mere 22 per cent in the Central and Southern Zone. Today, almost all Somalis are affected by the fragile security environment, large-scale displacements, food insecurity, hyperinflation and lack of basic social and health services – with coping mechanisms stretched to the limit as families struggle to absorb these multiple shocks. The impact of violence and economic decline on children in particular is manifold, including a sharp increase in malnutrition throughout the country. Global acute malnutrition rates have increased to 18.6 per cent¹ – significantly above the emergency threshold level – and a total of 180,000 children are acutely malnourished, of which an estimated 26,000 are considered severely malnourished. Somalia is one of two countries in the region most affected by high food prices, which limit food access for market-dependent households including the urban and rural poor, pastoralist and IDP populations throughout the country. Given the lack of safe drinking water, poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, limited dietary intake, malnutrition and recurrent outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) children are at high risk, especially in drought-prone areas.

Protection abuses are widespread including the recruitment of child soldiers, detainment of youths, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The Security Council 1612 Report on Children in Armed Conflict of May 2008 highlighted an increase in violence against children in Somalia. Over 150 children were killed or maimed between January to July 2008 due to indiscriminate and targeted attacks (e.g., crossfire, roadside bombs). In addition, women and children in IDP settlements are at heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence. By September 2008, schools and health centres had become targets, depriving children of safe and protective space in an environment where accessing education is already all too difficult.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners UNICEF has continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of the Somali population affected by conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks. Despite the dire security situation and access constraints, UNICEF and partners managed to scale up interventions in health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and continue to focus on similar priority areas, such as education and child protection.

By mid-2008, UNICEF had increased the number of supported feeding programmes to over 200 (up from 135 in 2007), reaching 5,200 severely acutely and 30,000 moderately acutely malnourished children every month. A total of 280 feeding programmes should be operational by December 2008. In addition, 55,000 children under age five in Afgoye IDP camps and over 7,000 in Bossaso IDP camps received blanket supplementary feeding (over 90 per cent of coverage) in the camps. UNICEF and partners are on track to reach the target of treating 60 per cent of severely malnourished children by the end of 2008 across Somalia² as well as launching a new initiative to reach over 138,000 children aged 6–36 months out of 180,000 children in areas showing the highest malnutrition rates with blanket feeding of preventive ready-to-use foods through distributions to start in November 2008.

1 Food Security Analysis Unit (FSAU) Somalia, August 2008.

2 Target of 60 per cent is based on detailed assessment of access and implementing partner capacity.

In partnership with local health authorities and communities, UNICEF and WHO successfully immunized over 90 per cent of children under age five (1.65 million out of 1.8 million) against polio; 1.6 million children under age five received vitamin A and 1 million were dewormed throughout Somalia during National Immunization Days (NIDs). Somalia has maintained its polio-free status since March 2007. UNICEF and partners also vaccinated 142,600 children under age 15 against measles (90 per cent of target) in Afgoye and Mogadishu IDP camps. As the lead provider of essential drugs, vaccines and cold-chain equipment in Somalia, UNICEF supplied more than 250 maternal and child health facilities and 500 health posts with essential medicines and vaccines ensuring access to basic primary health care for an estimated 3 million people. Major preparatory work was completed for the upcoming introduction of 'Child Health Days', which will target 90 per cent of children under age five nationwide and 60 per cent of women with a package of high-impact child survival interventions. By the end of 2008, 387,000 long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) were distributed for free to vulnerable households in malaria-endemic areas, primarily funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), but closely coordinated with UNICEF's emergency response.

UNICEF ensured access to basic education for 25 per cent of school-aged children (out of 75,000) in the Afgoye corridor through support to 43 temporary learning centres and over 1,000 IDP schoolchildren in Puntland. As the designated agency to provide all textbooks and education supplies for primary schools in Somalia, UNICEF distributed school kits and textbooks to some 34,254 schoolchildren in drought-prone and conflict-affected areas. Due to funding limitations, UNICEF was unable to provide additional supplies. UNICEF and partners have maintained teacher motivation levels and reduced escalating attrition rates through training and incentives to over 1,000 teachers in Central and Southern Zone, benefiting 40,000 children. Over 200 community education committee (CEC) members in 30 IDP schools, benefiting 6,000 learners in the Afgoye area, were trained in psychosocial care to ensure a holistic approach to the needs of learners.

Through community-based child protection systems, UNICEF and implementing partners have reached 18,560 children (including 7,420 girls) with psychosocial support services and provided them with access to child-friendly spaces. Child protection advocates continue to mobilize 140 communities (about 420,000 people), including 100 IDP communities, focusing on mine-risk education, violence and abuse, and basic child rights. Child protection advocacy work with the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) and partners continues and aims at strengthening the protection of civilian capacity by monitoring and reporting rights' violations, especially of women and children, in conflict-prone areas. UNICEF and local partners continue to support 52 communities (about 156,000 people), including 15 IDP settlements, with community emergency preparedness and response planning, focusing on hygiene and sanitation. Through woman-to-woman networks in eight regions in Central and Southern Zone, UNICEF continues to provide HIV and AIDS education and awareness to over 1,750 women and girls.

UNICEF reached about 508,000 people in the Central and Southern Zone (1.09 million in all Somalia) with access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion, of which an estimated 250,000 are IDPs along the Mogadishu-Afgoye corridor. In the Central and Southern Zone alone, about 140,000 people benefited from water chlorination and social mobilization activities to control and prevent acute watery diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks. Shelter and non-food items were distributed through partners to more than 130,000 vulnerable people in targeted IDP areas.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

Coordination and Partnership

UNICEF works closely with UN agencies, numerous international and local partners, donors, Somali administrations and local communities. Coordination with these partners is based on active participation in the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Somalia Support Secretariat and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system, in which UNICEF leads for nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and education.

Linkages of HAR with the Regular Programme

UNICEF's regular Country Programme is part of the joint 2008–2009 UN Transition Plan (UNTP) for Somalia, including early recovery and development programming. As Somalia is characterized by chronic vulnerability to natural and man-made emergencies, there are close linkages between humanitarian response and long-term initiatives.

UNICEF's multisectoral response in 2009 is expected to reach over 1.5 million children and 1 million women with high-impact child survival interventions, in addition to ensuring access to basic primary health for some 3 million vulnerable people. More than 1.2 million people will be reached with WASH services. All budgets below include programme support costs to accommodate the rising costs for security and logistics capacity, which are a prerequisite for UNICEF's humanitarian response.

Health and Nutrition (US\$ 38,950,183)

During 2009, UNICEF and partners will aim to reach 1.5 million children under age five (90 per cent of age group) with a lifesaving package of services, alongside prevention and management of acute malnutrition, targeting some 90,000 children through the following key activities:

- Provide 1.5 million children under age five (90 per cent of age group) and more than 1 million women of childbearing age (over 60 per cent of women) nationwide with high-impact child survival interventions during 'Child Health Days': immunization against measles and polio, vitamin A supplementation, deworming, provision of oral rehydration salts, hygiene education, nutritional screening, and tetanus toxoid vaccination for women;
- Increase access to appropriate health care for 3 million people through continuous supply of medicines, vaccines, nutritional food products and cold-chain services to 250 mother and child health centres and 540 health posts throughout Somalia;
- Provide selective feeding for up to 90,000 acutely malnourished children – 60 per cent of children under age five with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 40 per cent of children under age five with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) – through technical support and training of NGO partners and distribution of feeding supplies to a network of 280 feeding programmes (based on continuous nutritional surveillance); target an additional 138,000 children aged 6–36 months with blanket distribution of ready-to-use food every two months in areas showing the highest malnutrition rates, with a particular focus on the Central and Southern Zone and IDP camps in the north;
- Coordinate nutrition cluster response and ensure closer integration with Food Aid, health and WASH sectors, including the development of behaviour change communication materials and tools.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 17,153,000)

In 2009, approximately 1,245,000 Somali people affected by conflict and disaster (drought, flooding, socio-economic crisis), focusing particularly on children and women, will be reached through the following key activities:

- Provide 800,000 people with access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation, construction and protection of water sources and water trucking where necessary, including AWD/cholera prevention;
- Promote improved hygiene and sanitation practice for 500,000 people to reduce waterborne diseases; construct/rehabilitate sanitation facilities for 300,000 people at household and school levels, focusing on IDP communities;
- Support cluster partners and strengthen the capacity of local authorities for more effectively coordinated, delivered and monitored response, integrated with health, nutrition and education interventions;
- Train local authorities and community members to operate and maintain water and sanitation facilities, with a special focus on enhancing youth participation in monitoring efforts.

Education (US\$ 13,388,500)

In 2009, at least 214,000 children (85,500 girls), 10,000 out-of-school youths, 3,000 teachers (600 female), and 500 community education committees (CECs) (250 female) in emergency-affected locations will benefit from the following key activities:

- Install up to 200 child-friendly and tented/traditional learning spaces with WASH facilities; rehabilitate up to 20 damaged schools; and provide essential teaching/learning materials;
- Reach 10,000 vulnerable out-of-school youths with life skills-based education;
- Provide training and incentives to 3,000 teachers and train 500 CECs to improve the quality of education, school management and retention;
- Mobilize and sensitize communities to ensure access to education for emergency-affected and vulnerable children;

- Strengthen cluster coordination at regional levels and build the capacity of education authorities and cluster members through applying the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (MSEE).

Child Protection, HIV and AIDS, Empowerment and Participation (US\$ 8,935,200)

For 2009, the overall goal is to strengthen the protective environment for children and families at risk of violence, exploitation and abuse through the following key activities:

- Protect 1,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through access to medical, legal and psychosocial services and protect 30,000 girls and women through HIV awareness (including on SGBV);
- Protect 1,000 child victims of rights' violations through monitoring by trained personnel and access to confidential investigation of violations; ensure access to child-friendly community mechanisms for identification, monitoring and response to psychosocial needs for 8,000 children;
- Mobilize 600 vulnerable communities (1.8 million people) to identify key child protection concerns (including family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied minors and separated children) and establish appropriate protective mechanisms; mobilize 900 community, religious, and political leaders to advocate for improved child protection and HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;
- Support about 800,000 people (60 per cent women and children) in the Central and Southern Zone to develop practical emergency preparedness and response plans, including the protection needs of women and children.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (US\$ 1,033,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to ensure that 90,000 displaced people (some 15,000 households) have improved access to adequate shelter and survival items through contingency planning and stockpiling of non-food items (NFIs) and increased coordination and collaboration with agencies and clusters.