

Somalia

Part 1: Situation update in the country

A child born in Somalia in 2018 might have wondered, somewhere between hope and apprehension, what the future had in store. Being born in Somalia in 2018 still meant being born in a country gripped by conflict. Most likely that child's parents knew little else but war in their own lifetimes. Just as likely, the community that child was born into still lived under looming threats of droughts, floods, cyclones and epidemic outbreaks. Odds for that child to survive and thrive were among the lowest in the world. UNICEF Somalia's 2016 Situation Analysis of Children in Somalia found that more than one in seven children died before the age of five.

If born a girl, that child had little chance of escaping from the prevalent practice of female genital mutilation and cutting. She would likely spend less time in school than if she were a boy, especially if she was born into a poor household in a rural community, where boys did not fare that well either when it came to school enrolment. Early childhood education was virtually inaccessible and she was more likely to grow up illiterate, with 50-50 odds she would be working as a child and married before she turned 18. She would carry and give birth to six children or more over her lifetime, risking her life each time, as 1 in every 12 women died in Somalia due to pregnancy-related causes. As a child she would be more likely to go to sleep hungry almost every other night. She would most likely not have access to safely managed water sources and sanitation, as only one in five Somalis had such access. If she belonged to a rural community, close to half the time the only option available would be open defecation, with that practice even more prevalent if she lived in a nomadic community.

Any child born in Somalia in 2018 entered one of the world's least protective environments. One in 42 children died between the ages of 5 and 14, which was among the highest rates in the world. Intimate partner violence was prevalent, and girls and women faced a myriad of risks related to gender-based violence. Recruitment into armed forces and groups was a risk, mostly for boys, and adolescents faced specific perils engaging in illegal migration. Somalia's youth faced bleak prospects, with few employment opportunities and mounting frustration leading to risky behaviours. Just under half of the population (45.6 per cent) was under the age of 15, and three-quarters of the population was under the age of 30. The youth unemployment rate was one of the highest in the world, at 67 per cent for youth aged 14 to 29, with women experiencing higher unemployment than men (74 per cent vs. 61 per cent). The plight of children living with disabilities was virtually invisible, although in 2018 Somalia signed onto the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Belonging to minority clans and groups further compounded the full range of vulnerabilities and risks a child faced on a daily basis.

In 2018, 1.2 million children were at risk of being malnourished, and 232,000 suffered from severe acute malnutrition. A total of 5.4 million people needed humanitarian assistance and more than 2.6 million people remained displaced. There were more than 6,200 cases of cholera and upwards of 8,000 suspected measles cases, predominantly starting in south Central Somalia, with nearly 3 in 4 cases among children under five. There have been no new cases of wild polio virus in Somalia since March 2007, but vaccine-derived cases continued on a regular basis, with 12 circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus (cVDPV) cases in 2018. More

than 3 million children remained out-of-school (61 per cent of children in Somalia), and exposure to armed conflict remained high, with 4,148 verified incidents of grave violations in 2018 of which 1,811 were cases of recruitment and use of children in conflict.

To address those issues, UNICEF prioritized an integrated, multi-sectoral response to residual drought impacts, displacement, conflict, disease outbreaks and seasonal floods, with a focus on providing life-saving services to address critical malnutrition and excess mortality, effectively respond to mounting protection threats, and support resilience building and early recovery. In line with Grand Bargain commitments, cash-based assistance was prioritized where appropriate, and efforts were made to continue strengthening localisation across the Somalia response. UNICEF Somalia received US\$101.7 million against the 2018 Humanitarian Action for Children (66 per cent funded), allowing for 1.1 million people to be reached, including 650,000 children.

The fact that Somalia managed to pull through an impending threat of famine in 2017 brought some hope for women and children and the country at large. In the last 12 months there were promising signs of recovery, and there is hope, even though the challenges are many. Growth was impacted by the 2017 pre-famine situation, which caused economic losses estimated at US\$ 1.7 billion in 2017. Between 2013 and 2017 real GDP grew by an average of 2.5 per cent, against 2.9 per cent for population growth, and projections are for growth to hover between 3 to 4 per cent for 2018-2020. In per capita terms this represents an annual contraction of 0.4 per cent as growth was still failing to contribute to poverty reduction according to the latest analysis by the World Bank. The country made progress on core macroeconomic reforms and in re-engaging with international financial institutions. For the first time in 30 years, the World Bank endorsed its Country Partnership Framework as well as International Development Association financing for Somalia. Somalia continued to move toward a Decision Point under the International Monetary Fund Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative for access to debt-relief. Somalia will also be one of the 'first mover' countries under the new 'Famine Action Mechanism' supported by the World Bank and other major international partners investing in prevention and risk informed programming at national scale in the country.

Civil society and the private sector were burgeoning across the country, with growing opportunities for partnerships. Even prior to 2018, UNICEF was already working with a majority of locally-based partners. The international community kept Somalia high on its agenda, making more and more long-term commitments to support the country's development plans.

These and other projections are predicated on consolidated security gains and on Somalia steering clear from major adverse climate shocks, new bouts of conflict, and political gridlock on its path toward adopting a new constitution and holding universal suffrage elections in 2020. There is potential to build further momentum, but it will not come without hurdles. A new El Niño cycle was around the corner and preliminary reports toward the end of 2018 pointed at below average rains, increasing the likelihood of drought. The political stalemate between the Federal Government of Somalia and some Federal Member States remained unresolved. Tensions led to sporadic fighting in the lead-up to local elections in South West State at the end of 2018, and little if no progress was observed in the standoff between Puntland and Somaliland. The prospect of elections in Puntland in early 2019 was another factor contributing to uncertainty.

In this context, children in Somalia were still very much at risk, and their future was far from assured. For every driver of change that may bring consolidate gains there are corresponding

potential spoilers, man-made or otherwise, that may again spell crisis for children, women and vulnerable communities across the country.

Part 2: Major results, including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

In 2018 UNICEF expanded health services under the Essential Primary Health Services package. Some 210 public health facilities in 47 districts and across 10 regions were supported to provide health consultations, immunization, ante-natal care, skilled birth delivery, postnatal care and nutrition services. Basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BeMONC) was made available in 63 of those facilities. Working with Ministries of Health and civil society partners, UNICEF reached 1,016,276 people, including 322,354 children under 5, with curative consultations. A total of 639,089 children under 5 years were reached as part of UNICEF humanitarian action for children, with partners playing a vital role in contributing to better health outcomes for women, children and their communities.

UNICEF worked in close coordination with the Ministries of Health, the World Health Organization and local partners, reaching 360,636 children under one-year (72 per cent coverage) with Pentavalent 1 vaccine; 310,664 (62 per cent coverage) received Pentavalent 3. Some 412,207 children under five were vaccinated against measles. As part of emergency efforts in response to a countrywide measles outbreak, UNICEF and partners supported a measles campaign targeting 4,624,869 children aged 6 months to 10 years, reaching 4,424,261 children (96 per cent coverage). The strong drive behind measles immunizations led to a reduction in suspected measles cases from approximately 23,000 in 2017 to approximately 8,000 in 2018. Efforts to eradicate polio continued in 2018. Somalia has not reported wild polio virus since August 2014, but the country experienced outbreaks of circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Virus types 2 and 3 (cVDPV) in 2018. Ten rounds of polio vaccinations took place in 2018 in accessible districts (2 National Immunization Days and 8 Supplementary Days) with an average coverage of more than 90 per cent. Five campaigns used monovalent type 2 oral polio vaccine (to protect children against the type 2 virus) and 5 used bOPV (to protect children against the type 3 virus). Approximately 3,500,000 children under five (out of 3,600,000 targeted) were immunized during the five monovalent type 2 oral polio vaccine campaigns. A total of 6,500,000 children under five (out of 8,000,000 targeted) were vaccinated during the two National Immunization Days. In 2018, Somalia recorded 6,206 cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and 4,087 cases (66 per cent) were treated in UNICEF-supported health facilities.

In the areas of maternal and newborn health, UNICEF supported partners to provide 191,549 women who were pregnant with ante-natal care 4 visits; 539,116 women who were pregnant attended at least one visit. Some 182,487 women who were pregnant (41 per cent of expected deliveries) were assisted by skilled personnel and 512,702 women received post-natal care from a skilled health worker (76 per cent in the first two days after delivery). UNICEF worked with government partners on developing the Every Newborn Action Plan, designed to serve as an evidence-based planning tool for newborn services as part of future strengthening of the overall health system in Somalia.

UNICEF Somalia was a Global Fund Principal Recipient for malaria and HIV in 2018 and

continued to play a vital role in supporting malaria and HIV prevention and treatment. This included support to the Ministries of Health with the implementation of the National Malaria Strategic Plan 2017-2020. In the north, the focus was on pre-elimination activities, and in the south the focus continued to be on malaria control. Between January and September 2018, a total of 234,742 patients were screened for malaria (195,417 with rapid detection tests and 39,325 through slides) of whom 30,488 (15.6 per cent) were confirmed positive and 76 per cent of those received treatment. During the same period, 79,084 long-lasting insecticide treated nets were distributed to women who were pregnant through the ante-natal care clinics and 53,629 received them through other campaigns. Per the Malaria Indicators Survey 2017, 86.5 per cent of children aged 0-59 months were sleeping under an insecticide treated net, compared to 17 per cent in 2015.

UNICEF continued to support HIV services across primary healthcare and prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Some 119 facilities provided antiretroviral treatment, with 2,309 people treated and followed up for HIV infection. Overall, the percentage of adults and children with positive HIV status living 12 months after the initiation of treatment reached 86 per cent for the 2016 patient cohort.

At the systems level, in 2018 UNICEF worked to improve the Health Management Information System (HMIS), with partners rolling out a new web-based Somali District Health Management Information Systems (DHMIS 2). Some 88 per cent of all public health facilities were regularly reporting into the system. Twelve District Health Management Information System officers and 6 regional Health Management Information System staff were trained on data quality and use of the system, helping achieve greater coverage and stronger reporting from the Health Management Information System. UNICEF provided support to the Human Resources for Health initiative through continuous trainings and provision of top-up incentives targeting key staff at national and regional level, including Health Management Information System coordinators and health personnel working across 210 supported facilities.

Through the Global Fund, UNICEF supported the revitalization of the female health workers programme, with refresher training and outreach support to 200 workers and 10 supervisors in 2018. For quality health care at all levels, in 2018 UNICEF and partners trained 760 community health workers on integrated community case management, 2,897 health workers and community mobilisers on communication for development (C4D), and 2,799 health workers on the reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health continuum of care. UNICEF worked with Ministry partners on the Logistics Management Systems, including the development of the Logistic Management Information System to support planning for, quantifying, procuring and managing essential commodities for health. A Supply Chain Commodity Security Technical Working Group was established and in Puntland UNICEF supported the construction of a non-vaccines supplies dry store.

UNICEF contributed to the development of the Health Sector Strategic Plan-II in 2018. Because the private sector is an important stakeholder in the provision of healthcare in Somalia, UNICEF commissioned a private sector capacity assessment to serve as a basis for the development of the private sector engagement strategy.

Humanitarian needs remained acute in 2018 and global acute malnutrition remained above the 15 per cent World Health Organization 'critical' threshold, particularly in internally displaced person communities. UNICEF and partners delivered lifesaving care and treatment to more than 200,000 children (45 per cent boys and 55 per cent girls). The number of severely acutely

malnourished (SAM) children reached represented 116 per cent of the targeted caseload, and 87 percent of the national SAM burden. UNICEF procured and delivered more than 3,000 metric tons of supplies, including 231,415 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) dispatched through a network of strategically located UNICEF warehouses. UNICEF met and exceeded the global humanitarian standards, with 95.7 per cent of children admitted cured, and only 0.4 per cent deaths, with a 2.8 per cent default rate.

To improve early detection, referral and treatment of severe acute malnutrition and improve barriers to access nutrition services, the mother-led mid-upper arm circumference initiative was implemented whereby mothers and caretakers in marginalized communities were trained and equipped to screen and refer children in their communities. UNICEF recognizes that while mothers play a key role in caregiving in Somalia, it is equally important to begin to shift gender norms and encourage fathers and other male family members to play a role in nutrition. Therefore, in 2019, UNICEF will target male family members, including fathers, to identify wasting and trigger referrals to nutrition services.

In 2018 UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) agreed to join hands to treat moderate acute malnutrition with ready-to-use therapeutic food in districts where UNICEF had an operational presence but there were no WFP targeted supplementary feeding programmes. Consistent with the lifesaving agenda of the humanitarian response plan, this approach (known as the expanded admission criteria) allowed UNICEF in 2018 to treat close to 9,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition. More than 900 community health workers were engaged in delivery of nutrition prevention and promotion services, including screening, identification and referral of children with severe acute malnutrition and counselling of mothers on optimal child feeding. Some 385,315 women who were pregnant received iron folate for the prevention of anaemia. To improve the diversity and quality of diets in children aged 6-23 months, 87,000 children benefited from micronutrient powders.

UNICEF's leadership, governance, technical support and oversight were at the core of the delivery of nutrition services. As the global nutrition lead, UNICEF supported coordination of nutrition services, ran cluster coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national levels and supported programme implementation. UNICEF led the revision of the guidelines for integrated management of acute malnutrition, and a pool of 35 master trainers from the Ministries of Health and academia were trained, with further rollout through cascade training planned in 2019. Through its leadership of the UN Network for Scaling-Up Nutrition, UNICEF contributed to efforts of the movement to develop and complete a multi-sectoral costed common results framework. The framework is the blueprint for a collective effort of all sectors and partners to address all forms of malnutrition in Somalia, including stunting. UNICEF supported the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement to develop a Social Mobilization, Advocacy and Communications Strategy for 2019-2021.

Recognizing that Somalia had one of the weakest nutrition workforces in the region, stemming from weak institutional capacity to standardize and regulate the health work force, UNICEF provided technical and financial support to Ministries of Health to develop a costed capacity development strategy. Because UNICEF strives to promote gender equality and reduce gender related disparities in service provision, the engagement and empowerment of both male and female community health workers was key to balanced access of services by males and females. In 2018, approximately 40 per cent of all community health workers trained in infant and young child feeding in emergencies were males.

UNICEF support was critical in the countrywide operationalization of the 'ONA' online nutrition reporting platform, which enabled provision of real-time gender and socio-disaggregated data. The platform is envisaged to address chronic nutrition under-reporting issues. The micronutrient survey implemented in 2018 is expected to update obsolete nutrition data. Data consistently showed a higher percentage of girls treated for severe acute malnutrition (45 per cent boys, 55 per cent girls), despite screening numbers indicating relatively similar percentages of boys and girls reached with screening (48 per cent boys, 52 per cent girls.) There was also a likely under-estimation of malnutrition caseloads given obsolete and inaccurate population data, and some emerging evidence suggesting a bias in estimation of the burden when using traditional measurement methodologies, which in turn may affect coverage of nutrition treatment services and exclusion errors. Those are recurring challenges UNICEF will work to address to improve the coverage, reach and quality of its nutrition efforts for women and children across Somalia in 2019 and beyond.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

UNICEF supported the Ministries of Education to build national capacities to deliver quality primary school education and increase availability of quality primary education services. Under UNICEF's efforts to increase access to formal or alternative pathways to primary education, working with partners, some 44,256 children (24,390 boys and 19,866 girls) were reached through formal schools and alternative basic education centres. A total of 88 newly constructed classrooms were completed in Jowhar and Warsheikh districts of Middle Shabelle, in Beletweyne district in Hiraaan and in Marka district in Lower Shabelle. Some 19,615 out-of-school pastoralist children (10,837 boys and 8,778 girls) accessed flexible alternative pathways to basic education through 96 established alternative basic education centres. A total of 906 community education committee members benefited from support to advocate for the importance of education in the community.

In Puntland, more than 3,200 schoolchildren (40 per cent girls) benefited from the construction and rehabilitation of 33 permanent school classrooms with 47 WASH facilities, with women's and girls' needs taken into account in facilities design. Some 500 sets of school furniture were procured for use in those schools. Scholarships were provided to 2,650 children from marginalized and poor households.

In Somaliland some 18,791 children (48 per cent girls), including vulnerable students, were enrolled and retained in 93 target schools, including through the engagement and support of the community education committee members, provision of school cash grants and promotion of a friendly learning environment through the installation of gender-sensitive WASH facilities, piped water, and mechanisms for rainwater harvesting. A total of 16,920 children (45 per cent girls) in 93 schools across Somaliland benefited from provision of 423 education kits and 20,000 textbooks. A total of 3,915 children benefited from the provision of 1,305 sets of school furniture. Some 4,725 out-of-school children (45 per cent girls) benefited from 105 upgraded learning spaces in 23 schools, together with safely managed and gender-sensitive WASH facilities in those schools.

With UNICEF support, a new primary grade 1-4 curriculum and related textbooks were launched and 36,000 students registered and sat for examinations across Somalia. Of those, 1,500 students who missed the unified national examinations due to displacement following the floods in Beletweyne were supported by UNICEF to re-sit for their examinations. In-service and pre-service teacher training was conducted for primary school teachers in Puntland for the first

batch of 325 in-service teachers. With UNICEF support, the Ministry of Education trained examiners and supervisors to develop the Monitoring Learning and Assessment tools for Grade 3 and 7. In the Early Grade Reading Assessment rollout, enumerators training was conducted for 56 Ministry of Education Officials in Puntland. Ministry of Education officials from the region were supported to participate in a week-long Pan-African workshop on early childhood development.

Investment in education systems continued in 2018. UNICEF worked with ministries to set up reliable data management and quality assurance mechanisms to track domestic financing for education. UNICEF, in consultation with the Federal Government of Somalia, established the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Working Group to revamp the EMIS systems, including re-starting the collation of education data for Somalia. In Puntland, technical and financial support was provided to the Ministry of Education to upgrade EMIS tools to fully align to and monitor Education Sector Strategic Plan indicators. Nine regional EMIS officers were supported as part of the EMIS decentralization strategy and training manuals were developed in advance of the annual education census scheduled to be conducted in 2019.

Four senior technical advisors were embedded within the ministry to provide additional capacity across different education departments. In Somaliland, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Education and the Joint Programme for Local Governance to support decentralized education service delivery. With UNICEF's technical and financial contributions, 49,000 students (40 per cent girls) from 257 primary schools benefited from the decentralized service delivery.

While progress was registered in Somaliland and Puntland, one challenge in 2018 was that a reshuffle in development partners working in the education sector in the south meant that the updated 2018-2019 education Statistical Year Book could not be issued, which hindered progress on education systems investment and support.

UNICEF worked to increase access for the most vulnerable children, including in internally displaced persons camps, host communities and among returnees. UNICEF reached 99,028 children, of whom 45 per cent were girls, with a combination of education in emergencies interventions. In the Central South regions of Somalia, UNICEF-led efforts reached 39,326 emergency-affected children with a combination of access to safe learning environments, advocacy and social mobilization, community education committee training, hygiene promotion and access to safe drinking water, psychosocial support, distribution of essential teaching and learning education supplies and recreational materials, and emergency school cash grants. One area of focus in 2018 was Beletweyne in Hiraan region, where an overflowing Shabelle River damaged 45 schools affecting 17,606 learners, including 1,500 exam-takers.

In Puntland, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education's Education in Emergency unit in undertaking a rapid assessment on education needs in vulnerable communities. A total of 17,450 students (40 per cent girls) were supported in 81 education in emergencies schools in nine districts through the establishment of 13 temporary learning spaces. Among those who benefited were 1,080 children in Garowe, Galkayo and Burtinle internally displaced persons camps. Hotlines were established with Regional Education Officers, and contingency plans for continuity of access to learning were developed by the Education in Emergency Technical Working Group. In Somaliland, 25,978 children (45 per cent girls) affected by Cyclone Sagar, were provided with access to safe and protected learning environments in 136 schools. UNICEF, in cooperation with education cluster members, identified 39 damaged schools in five

districts (Lughaya, Zeila, Berbera, Erigavo, Gebiley and Ainabo) for repairs and rehabilitation and deployed response efforts so that 20,000 emergency-affected children (45 per cent girls) across a total 100 target schools in Somaliland benefited from provision of 500 education in emergency kits and textbooks.

UNICEF employed several strategies for gender-responsive education, such as provision of scholarships for girls, specific messages on girls' education in social mobilisation campaigns, gender-disaggregated WASH facilities, dignity kits for distribution to adolescent girls and induction training to raise awareness on menstrual hygiene management.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

In 2018 Somalia continued to attempt to improve the protective environment for children and women. The country signed the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in September and passed the Disability Agency Act in December. At year end the Act was awaiting the president's signature to become law. In May 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the Sexual Offences Bill to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence. Advocacy efforts by UNICEF to strengthen the legal framework were accompanied by other initiatives to strengthen child protection systems. Five new Somali universities opened departments of social service work, while one university introduced diploma and certificate-level courses to strengthen the social service workforce. This was the result of a tripartite collaboration between the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development, Somali universities and UNICEF. The first group of 400 social service work students were enrolled in November 2018.

Community-based child protection mechanisms were strengthened during the year, and local actors engaged 44,866 people (22,957 male and 21,909 female) on how to address negative social norms sustaining female genital mutilation/cutting, child marriage and other harmful traditional practices. Staff inside nine local organizations enhanced their skills to roll out the communities' care model in Baidoa, Belet Hawa, Bossaso, Beletweyne, Iskushuban, Hargeisa, Kismayo, Marka and Mogadishu. This was possible through a mentorship programme implemented by UNICEF partner CISP. A total of 235,552 children (118,321 girls, 117,231 boys) were registered through both routine birth registration and immunization campaigns, mainly in Puntland and Somaliland. In the rest of Somalia, UNICEF joined other UN agencies to support the Federal Government in efforts to revitalize the civil registration system, which will include birth registration and other vital statistics.

Some 49,929 children (26,540 girls and 23,388 boys) accessed protection services, including 10,461 unaccompanied, separated and children on the move (4,881 boys and 5,580 girls). A total of 9,138 survivors of gender-based violence (3,099 girls, 4,458 women and 1,581 boys) had access to legal protection, medical assistance, psychosocial support and material assistance where appropriate. A total of 1,446 children affected by armed conflict (including 1,127 boys and 339 girls) benefited from psychosocial support, vocational training or formal education, as well as family reunification. A total of 32,604 children (15,296 boys and 17,308 girls) accessed psychosocial support services in areas affected by humanitarian crises.

Child recruitment remained a major concern as in 2018 the Country Taskforce on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism reported that 1,811 children (1,765 boys and 46 girls) were recruited in the first three quarters of 2018, compared to 1,586 children in the same period in 2017. Grave violations against children increased in 2018. A total of 4,148 incidents of

child recruitment, rape and sexual violence, abduction, killing and maiming, denial of humanitarian assistance, destruction of schools and hospitals affecting 3,566 children (2,997 boys and 569 girls) were registered (compared to 1,823 incidents in 2017 and 1,434 in 2016). Galmudug again had the highest percentage of violations against children (49 per cent) followed by South West State (22 per cent), Jubbaland (12 per cent), Banadir (9 per cent) and Hirshabelle State (8 per cent).

In August 2018, the Puntland President issued a decree to pardon 34 children, all boys, who were arrested, prosecuted and sentenced for their association with Al-Shabaab in March 2016. This was a result of sustained advocacy by UNICEF, the diplomatic community and other UN actors. The children were successfully reunited with their parents by IIDA, a UNICEF partner, in December 2018. Ministries of Justice in Puntland, Somaliland and the Federal Government of Somalia continued prison monitoring to provide services to children in detention. A total of 717 children (214 girls and 503 boys) in conflict with the law accessed psychosocial support and legal assistance provided through various child protection units within the ministries in charge of justice. The high number of children in detention requires continued advocacy for the implementation of juvenile justice laws in Puntland and Somaliland, and the enactment of such a law by the Federal Member States.

In November 2018, the Inter-ministerial committee on children and armed conflict validated the UNICEF-supported national strategy document to prevent and facilitate the release and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups in Somalia, as well as the roadmap for the implementation of the 2012 action plans signed by Somalia to end child recruitment and sexual violence against children during armed conflict. In July 2018, the Somalia Partnership Forum concluded its session in Brussels with a final communiqué stressing that children associated with armed forces and groups should be treated as victims in need of rehabilitation and reintegration in society. UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development for preparation of and participation in the forum.

During the year, UNICEF Somalia implemented the first phase of the Children on the Move programme supported by the UK Department for International Development, setting up 17 child protection desks across Somaliland and Puntland and helping 5,687 children (2,048 girls, 3,639 boys) to be reunified with their families and to access other child protection services. Under this initiative UNICEF also worked with the University of Hargeisa and the UNICEF Office of Research-Innocenti to generate evidence to better understand push and pull factors related to children on the move. The second phase of the programme will continue in 2019 and will seek to address those factors while promoting multi-sectoral services for affected children. In 2018 UNICEF led the coordination of the child protection sub-cluster, focusing on investing in preparedness, floods responses and conducting safety audits in internally displaced person sites and settlements in the south of Somalia.

Challenges during 2018 included the effort to pass the Sexual Offences Bill, with a drive by some opponents to keep the age of consent as low as possible. Similar efforts prevented Somaliland from enacting its own Sexual Offence Bill, although it had been passed by the National Assembly. The fact that Al-Shabaab accounted for at least 75 per cent of child recruitment and other grave violations against children in Somalia presented a challenge. This limited the effects of the monitoring and reporting mechanism, which was mainly based on dialogue with parties to the conflict. UNICEF will keep this issue on the agenda of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism Country Taskforce and explore further ways of

influencing Al-Shabaab to stop recruitment and use of children and other grave violations.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

In early 2018 efforts focused on continuing to address the aftermath of the 2017 drought emergency experienced across the country. By mid-year, focus was on response to flooding that affected many parts of the country and to the aftermath of Cyclone Sagar in Somaliland. Efforts throughout the year focused on maintaining emergency responses and investing in longer-term water, sanitation and hygiene services and capacity across Somalia. As a result, through government, NGOs and private sector partners, Somalia saw a significant drop in acute watery diarrhoea/cholera, from more than 60,000 cases in 2017 to 6,100 as of November 2018. UNICEF supported 1,091,708 people affected by emergencies (approximately 85 per cent of whom were internally displaced persons and 15 per cent were vulnerable members in host communities) to access safe water through trucking and rehabilitation of water sources and systems.

Sustainable options to go beyond emergency water supply were implemented through construction of a wide range of different water supply modalities. The European Union-funded four-town water-system project in Somaliland was completed, covering Erigavo, Togwajale, Burao and Boroma. This significant investment extended the reach of sustained safe water supply and enhanced the capacity of key stakeholders (government, private sector and community representatives) for water supply management. UNICEF investments on water systems overall enabled 816,455 people to access safe water, across a total 89 community water sources and systems (49 in Central South, 26 in Puntland and 14 in Somaliland) and 36 institutional water systems (including two completed EU-funded Urban Water Supply Schemes). Beneficiaries included 13,768 children from 39 schools and 61,200 patients visiting 29 health centres.

UNICEF, in collaboration with nongovernmental organization partners and government ministries, worked in 2018 to shift and improve models for traditional community water management toward government agency oversight and quality assurance or public private partnership models. This effort went hand in hand with capacity development of key government ministries and departments across the country focused on strengthening leadership, policy development, coordination and service provision capacity for those responsible for water supply, including with agreements for direct services provision and capacity building signed with Ministries of Education, Health and Energy and Water Resources at federal and member state level. The Baidoa town 25-year Master Plan was completed to enhance access to WASH services further to urban growth in Baidoa and the influx of vulnerable and internally displaced persons communities in 2018-2017. Under the auspices of resilience programming, UNICEF worked with the Puntland State Agency for Water Energy and Natural Resources to enhance its capacity. In 2018 the agency implemented 10 hydro-geophysical investigations for potential strategic borehole sites and conducted technical assessments of water supply in 25 health facilities to support the Health and Nutrition Essential Package of Health Services.

Some 149,598 people, including internally displaced persons and vulnerable host communities, were reached with safely managed sanitation services and 522,276 people were reached through hygiene promotion activities in 2018. UNICEF continued to implement community-led total sanitation to enhance behaviour change and eliminate open defecation. An estimated 92,280 people were provided with access to safely managed sanitation, including 28,711

people in open defecation free communities and 17,069 school children and 46,500 patients visited health facilities. A total of 67 communities out of the 155 triggered were certified as open defecation free in 2018. In schools, the 3-star approach of the WASH in Schools programme was implemented, with emphasis on small and inexpensive steps to improve WASH in schools. Eighteen target schools received menstrual hygiene management services through the provision of sanitary pads to 1,200 adolescent girls. More than 800,000 people were reached with key WASH messages targeting safe water, latrine use and handwashing at critical times. To complement those interventions, 91,206 hygiene kits were distributed through Ministries of Health and the Regional Supply Hubs mechanism, reaching 547,236 people. Prepositioning of emergency supplies at the hubs continued to provide a quick and effective response mechanism that was accessed by partners responding to emergencies. UNICEF continued to ensure leadership of the WASH cluster at central and local level, moving cluster operations in full to Somalia and investing in preparedness and response for floods, droughts and Acute Watery Diarrhoea /cholera response activities.

In 2018 UNICEF sought to address how the lack of WASH services disproportionately impacted women and girls, for example by improving access to services for women, who are the primary collectors of water, so that they could spend less time getting to and from water sources, or by setting up gender-sensitive and appropriate sanitation facilities. In emergency situations, the Somalia WASH Cluster standards were used, with 60 per cent of shared sanitation facilities assigned to females and 40 per cent for males, with the facilities located close to the homesteads and inside-operated locks installed to enhance safety. For the health and dignity of emergency-affected women and girls, UNICEF also initiated the inclusion of menstrual hygiene management kits as part of the standard WASH hygiene kit. A total of 12,203 menstrual hygiene management kits were distributed to women and schoolgirls. Institutional sanitation and hygiene promotion was implemented in 38 schools and 39 health facilities through the construction of gender sensitive sanitation facilities, benefiting 17,069 school children. A total of 46,500 patients visited different health facilities and schools.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Somalia continued to implement its National Development Plan 2017-2019, making progress on macroeconomic stabilization and normalization of relations with international financial institutions, and opening the prospect of access to debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative. With domestic revenue hovering at approximately 2 per cent of gross domestic product, much remained to be done to leverage the resources needed for every Somali child to have an equitable chance in life. Investment is needed to enhance the capacity of the Government to lead and coordinate the provision of basic social services, most of which were off-budget and aid-funded. It is critical to develop the necessary policies and institutional frameworks to channel future internal revenues and external development financing into critical long-term development investments for children.

UNICEF Somalia acknowledged the evolving and fluid context in Somalia, including an increased focus on transition from humanitarian programming toward resilience and development work, and invested resources to leverage past work on decentralised service delivery and social protection and established a strengthened in-house capacity for social policy, equity, gender and resilience support across all of UNICEF's partners in government and civil society. UNICEF had its first formal engagement with the Ministry of Finance at central level, which included support for participation in the regional budget transparency workshop and the development of a budget transparency improvement action plan. UNICEF supported

the Ministry to produce the first ever 'citizen's budget' in the country. As part of the UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, and working together with UN-Habitat, UN Capital Development Fund, UN Development Programme and International Labour Organization, UNICEF supported village-level community consultations, including outreach to women and youth groups. This culminated in the development of five-year development plans in 17 districts in Puntland and Somaliland. In four districts of Somaliland, district authorities fulfilled their devolved education and health functions benefiting 49,000 pupils from 247 primary schools and users of 56 health facilities. The Somaliland Ministries of Education and Health committed to increase their contributions to decentralized service delivery by more than 400 per cent over the previous year.

Strengthening civic engagement in local governance is a long-running area of UNICEF engagement to foster greater understanding among citizens of local governments' mandates, encourage greater participation and empower citizens to hold local authorities accountable. Together with the Ministry of Interior of Puntland, a stakeholder consultation workshop brought together 63 representatives from district, state and civic society organizations to develop a Puntland civic education strategy. UNICEF supported the revision of the Wadahadal civic education resource pack, with a strong focus on gender and social inclusion. This resource pack will support future civic education campaigns in all five Federal Member States as well as Banadir Regional Administration.

Leveraging close collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF strategically positioned itself within a growing network of stakeholders to advance a child-friendly social protection agenda. In partnership with WFP and funded by the Italian Cooperation, the joint UN programme 'Combating Poverty and Vulnerabilities through Social Protection' supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on drafting of the National Social Protection policy. The drafting process was coordinated by a technical working group led by the Ministry and included the participation of technical focal points from 14 government ministers, WFP and UNICEF. The process included up to 19 consultative workshops and community consultations including government representatives at federal and state level, the UN, nongovernmental organizations, private sector, donors and community representatives in Baidoa, Mogadishu and Kismayo. As part of the 2017 pre-famine response, UNICEF delivered unconditional cash transfers to 18,979 families and was working on a transition from humanitarian cash transfer to social safety nets.

In 2018 UNICEF built on the results and lessons of five years of joint work with the World Food Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization to develop and consolidate the Joint Resilience Action programme, a focused, area-based, holistic approach to build food security, protect children's nutritional status, strengthen health systems and invest in sustainable WASH services. UNICEF also bolstered its capacity to mainstream gender across all aspects of its programming and supported inter-agency coordination toward SDG 5 (gender equality) by taking a lead role in the finalization of the UN Somalia Gender Policy, as well as in the development of the accompanying implementation strategy. A research initiative to consolidate the evidence base for gender equality programming will be advanced in early 2019.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Working in Somalia was fraught with programmatic, operational, logistical and security constraints. UNICEF was well equipped to overcome those challenges and in 2018 triggered

an ambitious move to work even closer to communities, children and women in the country. After more than 25 years of remote operations from Nairobi, Kenya, the UNICEF Country Management Team moved back to Mogadishu in 2018, implementing an unprecedented and in-depth change management process that involved shifting personnel in programme and operational teams and setting up office and accommodation space for the full team to be based from within Somalia. This increased footprint inside Somalia benefited from strong institutional support from all layers of UNICEF, and overall stewardship from the UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office. This change was a considerable step forward in overcoming constraints inherent to remote operations, and brought UNICEF closer to its partners in government and civil society, and closer to the women and children it serves.

In 2019 UNICEF will further consolidate the strong foothold it has in Somalia and adjust programme and operations considering the inherently higher costs of working from within Somalia. Throughout the entirety of UNICEF Somalia's change management process in 2018, a commitment was made to a nimble and agile approach, with real-time lesson learning. UNICEF Somalia continuously reviewed its programme and operations footprint to stay fit for purpose for every child in Somalia. A strong commitment to staff support, staff welfare and well-being was transversal to every aspect of the change management process, acknowledging both the depth of the transition after 25 years of remote operations and the challenge of supporting staff to deliver in one of the world's harshest and most volatile security environments.

Access and security were continuing and ever-pressing challenges. This was true in the Central South regions of Somalia, where there were considerable numbers of internally displaced persons in need of lifesaving services, and continuing conflict and vulnerability to cyclical shocks such as drought and floods. Those access and security challenges also extended to many other districts of the country, with insecurity in the disputed areas between Somaliland and Puntland, particularly in Tukaaraq, which was a continuing flashpoint over the course of the year. Access constraints complicated efforts to reach full coverage of humanitarian and development programmes such as the polio and other vaccination campaigns, reaching malnourished children in remote rural areas or protecting children from forcible recruitment.

There were also inherent challenges related to the very nature of programming in Somalia. With respect to health and nutrition programming, one lingering challenge related to immunizations was that coverage was calculated based on administrative data, and in the absence of recent immunization coverage surveys, coverage rates need to be nuanced while efforts to extend the reach of the immunization programme need to be maintained. Coverage challenges across most, if not all, health and nutrition services also extended to reaching nomadic and migrant populations, particularly in areas of high insecurity and access constraints. Efforts to improve health and nutrition came up against many residual weaknesses in the Somali health system, which remained highly fragmented. Ministry partners, for example, still lacked the necessary number of skilled cadres in planning, managing, monitoring, supervising and coordinating programmes, while the subdivision of the country, including with the creation of the Federal Member States, added complexity to coordination, decision-making and priority-setting and for the health (or any other) system to work as a single coherent whole. Capacity gaps remained high in the newly created Federal Member States and more investment is needed to boost staff, systems and infrastructure at those levels. Clan dynamics strongly influenced how civil society operated, including in relation to government counterparts at local and national levels. This was a challenge not only in health and nutrition but across all

sectors. In this context of fragmentation, achieving programme integration and sustainability is a complex challenge.

Funding the transition of polio-specific efforts into improved routine immunization systems and sustained high expanded immunization coverage remained a challenge. Integration of moderate acute and severe acute malnutrition services still needs to be improved, with widespread disparities in programme availability, particularly in the south. Lessons moving forward include investing in further rationalization of partners in various locations as well as the implementation of the expanded admission criteria for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in areas where there were no such services.

In the education sector, one of the key lessons learned revolves around the use of Somali national nongovernmental organizations as a more cost effective and efficient approach that contributes to building local ownership. Another key lesson was that the evolution of governance in Somalia with the new Federal Member States requires a fresh approach and development of micro-plans for the Federal Member States to gradually become full-fledged local partners in the education sector. One significant constraint was that the sector remained heavily under-financed by both government and development partners, and was one of the areas suffering from the greatest funding shortfalls in 2018. The Government demonstrated its commitment to education in the National Development Plan 2017-2019 and the Education Strategic Plans 2018-2020, but challenges remained in matching those commitments with resource allocations. Maintaining community-based approaches and Somali-led co-financing thus remain necessary approaches to enhance community contributions to education, and will be supported in the coming years with an increased focus on social policy budget analysis and tracking, drawing on UNICEF's strengthened focus in those areas for the 2018-2020 cycle and beyond. Another challenge, particularly with regard to strengthening systems that are the necessary backbone for the education sector, was delays with the publication of the Annual Education Statistical Year Book, due among other things to a change in the development partners working in the education sector in the south. This limited the ability to report on progress in the sector, with knock-on effects on strategy development, priority setting and advocacy for resource mobilization. Going forward, UNICEF will continue to engage with donors and partners to make up for the gap in education data collection.

To build a stronger and more protective environment for children, constraints observed and lessons learned in 2018 included first and foremost the need for more robust interventions at the community level, notably to address child recruitment by armed groups, regional forces and clan militias. This requires strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms, targeting regional authorities, clan elders and religious leaders to prevent child recruitment, promote positive social norm changes (on child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence, and female genital mutilation/cutting), and investing in innovative socio-economic services for adolescents and young people. Sustained and coordinated advocacy with the rest of the UN system, the diplomatic community and civil society organizations involved in child protection is needed to secure positive outcomes for children. UNICEF Somalia will seek to more strategically leverage resources and play its convening role on high-level advocacy issues such as access to justice for children, civil registration and vital statistics (including through partnerships with the World Bank), and child legislation consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

There is a need for a coordinated approach to welfare workforce strengthening so as to minimize resistance to change and innovations in child protection systems. The social service

workforce curriculum could not have been developed without the mobilization of both universities and Federal Government of Somalia's Ministries. More investment is needed in working specifically with adolescents and youth. Youth represent a majority of the population and their opportunities to contribute positively to the country's future need to be nurtured. Youth engagement and participation programmes will be essential in building a truly protective environment for every child in Somalia. Much remains to be done to address the silent plight of children with disabilities, a regularly overlooked issue in Somalia that cuts across all programmes and where data is scarce and there are few partners to work with to address needs. Somalia's signing onto the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018 and UNICEF's global expertise in this area provide opportunities to address this continuing challenge in 2019 and beyond.

Key challenges in WASH included the lack of long-term development funding, high costs in the provision of services and limited capacity of implementing partners and government line ministries. More support and long-term investment is needed to accelerate certification of more communities and districts as open-defecation free and to maintain achievements in good hygiene and sanitation behaviours. Water quality continued to be a challenge and a more robust water quality and surveillance system was being proposed, drawing on the positive lesson learned in the establishment of the Puntland State Agency for Water Energy and Natural Resources water quality lab and repair centre. That new model tested in Puntland allowed for more robust water quality monitoring in the region and proved to be a solid and sustainable approach to strengthen and embed water quality monitoring capacity in local partners. Despite capacity issues, greater engagement for direct service provision through government ministries and departments was promising. Enhancing their capacity will be a priority, as they offer good opportunities for sustainability and immediate response when needed.

Urbanization and displacements due to drought and conflicts continued to be a major problem in planning and implementation of projects for sustained access to basic WASH services. This requires innovative and more strategic focus on resilient urban WASH interventions, including establishment of public/private-managed solar powered water supply schemes, drilling of deep strategic boreholes and construction of sub-surface water dams along dry river beds, as well as expanded investment in climate resilience interventions in a context where Somalia remains highly drought-prone. Key resource partners, including the United Kingdom, have been brought on board to support the drilling and equipping of four deep boreholes in strategic urban locations with critical needs. For rural areas, ongoing German- and Dutch-funded resilience programmes offer greater opportunities for enhanced access to WASH services.

Key lessons learned in communications revolved around engaging more with media and youth. In 2018, for example, more than 100 media practitioners and 40 youth received child rights and media training and blogging training, increasing their capacity to promote and protect child rights and let their voices be heard. Four Somali changemakers were supported to participate in the African Youth Conference. In 2018, a range of public advocacy tactics continued to highlight the situation of Somali children and women affected by drought, conflict and violence. Seven field trips were organized for international media and donors, including the Danish UNICEF National Committee, to bring much needed attention to the ongoing crises and to support fundraising. High quality multimedia products, such as photographs, videos and personal testimonials, were produced and disseminated to highlight challenges and progress, including the EU-UNICEF Urban Water Project inauguration in Somaliland, Children on the Move in Puntland and Somaliland. UNICEF Somalia expanded its social media presence. The

number of Twitter followers increased by 20 per cent, gaining 1.3 million impressions (cumulative), and Facebook increased by 30 per cent, gaining 346,000 engaged users (cumulative). Social media channels also were used for donor visibility. Together with partners, UNICEF also conducted communication/child rights training for nongovernmental organizations, government, the media and young people.

In the areas of social policy, monitoring and evaluation, one key challenge was the quality and availability of general macroeconomic and poverty data to advance the policy and advocacy drive toward equity. Lack of an updated census and security threats to enumerators meant surveys could not achieve full geographic coverage and had to be carried out with shorter versions of questionnaires. Regular collection of administrative data suffered from limited government capacity, significant fragmentation across partners and limited incentives for data-sharing. While continued investment in the statistical capacity of key government institutions, consolidation of administrative data and regular surveys are important, developing new sampling methodologies and innovative data collection approaches need to be a priority. Beyond data issues, equity and consistency in service delivery for children requires strong inter-ministerial policy work and coordination. There was limited institutional and human resources capacity, with a constant phenomenon of high turnover of ministry staff. UNICEF will invest in government capacity building and expand its partnership with the central Ministry of Planning in Mogadishu, while also leveraging its new setup in-country to be able to deliver in all circumstances.

Several cross-cutting programmatic areas will be further explored, including resilience, which will continue to be a pivotal entry point. Coordination issues at the macro-level in resilience programming can translate into district-level gaps and service delivery not being in sync. The absence of country-wide and integrated resilience building efforts remains a challenge. UNICEF will work with the World Food Programme to address this gap in collaboration, implementing a multi-year German-funded resilience project in areas of Central South with hopes that the programme can be scaled up. Lessons from the current resilience approach to service delivery provide critical evidence to develop a scalable model adapted to Somalia, one aimed not only at addressing health, malnutrition and stunting, but also designed to expand to new components in 2019 to cover all key sectors for children, with the hope this can deliver on giving every child a fair and equitable start in life.