Somalia remains in a state of chronic humanitarian crisis, with the number of children under five acutely malnourished projected to rise to 850,000 during the course of 2017, with 150,000 of these children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Five million people, or 40 per cent of the population, is food insecure. There are 3.2 million people in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and 3 million children remain out of school. More than 1 million people are internally displaced and more than 30,000 refugees have returned from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Fighting in Gaalkacyo, Lower Shabelle region and the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Bakool, Hiraan and Galgaduud has generated instability and displaced nearly 150,000 people. Drought continues to prevail in Puntland and parts of Somaliland as well as in southern Somalia. Malnutrition rates remain above emergency thresholds in internally displaced persons sites and Somalia is plagued by disease outbreaks, including measles and acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera. Without urgent assistance, the drought could lead to a considerable deterioration in children’s wellbeing, with a likely sharp rise in the caseload of children requiring urgent treatment for malnutrition.

**Humanitarian strategy**

In line with the 2016–2018 Somalia inter-agency humanitarian strategy, UNICEF will continue to support populations affected by crises. This will include life-saving assistance; prevention and response to disease outbreaks; an integrated response to malnutrition; provision of protective environments; and access to education. UNICEF Somalia has developed a more focused response for 2017, looking at the core humanitarian interventions to be implemented. The 2017–2019 National Development Plan will reflect all resilience programmes; hence the reduction in 2017 humanitarian requirements despite higher needs. UNICEF will continue to strengthen its strategic partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) to address the deteriorating food security and nutrition situation, and expand the use of the SCOPE biometric platform. This will be combined with a shift towards direct implementation and continued efforts on preparedness and cross border coordination. UNICEF will transfer 30 per cent of funds to local partners, exceeding the Grand Bargain commitments, and will use humanitarian cash transfers to support returnees and newly displaced communities. UNICEF will also invest in reducing vulnerability by ensuring linkages with resilience and development programming through durable solutions and the National Development Plan.

**Results from 2016**

As of 31 October 2016, UNICEF had received US$60,591,925 against the US$82,268,287 million appeal (74 per cent funded). UNICEF and partners focused on preventing and treating malnutrition through a strategic partnership with WFP and timely pre-positioning of nutrition supplies. UNICEF surpassed its measles target through additional small-scale campaigns conducted in drought-affected areas. With 13,700 cases of AWD/cholera reported in 2016, 161 per cent higher than in 2015, emphasis was placed on the provision of WASH and health emergency services to contain the outbreak. Services were scaled up in drought-affected areas, including through mobile teams, and more people were reached with safe water, hygiene treatment and health services. UNICEF supported the release of 845 children associated with armed forces, with an inclusive reintegration package, and supported survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). WFP and UNICEF’s partnership to address the alarming food insecurity and malnutrition levels in Somalia was extended to support the reintegration of Somali returnees from Dadaab by providing emergency cash-based transfer assistance packages for up to 5,000 refugee households to help them settle back in their locations of return.
In line with the country’s inter-agency 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan, UNICEF is requesting US$66,130,000 in 2017 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Somalia. Without additional funding, UNICEF will be unable to reach 1 million children in response to the drought, through prevention and response to disease outbreaks, and to address the needs of populations displaced by conflict. This funding is also critical reducing malnutrition rates, providing vulnerable populations with access to basic services and ensuring children affected by emergencies live in safe and protective environments.

Results are through 31 October 2016 unless noted
1 In 2016, UNICEF targeted 108,750 out of the total estimated caseload of 150,000, and reached 78,720 children with treatment. SAM results were planned under the humanitarian programme and reached with humanitarian funding,
2 UNICEF is working to align cluster and UNICEF targets for 2017
3 For hygiene kits and health services, Central Emergency Response Fund funding for the logistics cluster enabled UNICEF to transport supplies to affected areas free of charge.
4 For access to sustained water, UNICEF repaired several boreholes in Puntland and Somaliland as part of the drought response, which was not foreseen at the planning stage. This was achieved at minimal cost because the response was jointly implemented with the respective ministries of water and resources. This helped reach more people than planned with the existing funds.
5 Timely funding early in the year was critical to ensuring that UNICEF’s social protection work in 2016 could roll out a year-long, monthly unconditional cash transfer to labour-constrained households. In the absence of a level of financing that would allow UNICEF to implement consistent and predictable transfers and achieve the desired impacts, the cash transfer programme was suspended as of March 2016. In addition, the WFP and UNICEF’s partnership to address the reintegration of up to 5,000 refugee households is not reflected within this result as it is a different cash-based programme.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>2017 requirements (US$)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>19,806,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6,128,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water, sanitation and hygiene</td>
<td>11,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>10,037,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash transfers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster/sector coordination</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66,130,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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