

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

# SOMALIA

## IN 2007



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

### CORE COUNTRY DATA

Population under 18 (thousands)	4152
U5 mortality rate	225
Infant mortality rate	133
Maternal mortality ratio (2000 adjusted)	1100
Primary school enrolment ratio*	28
Primary school enrolment ratio for girls*	22
% U1 fully immunized (DPT)**	33
% population using improved drinking water sources	29
% HIV/AIDS prevalence***	0.9
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe malnutrition**	17

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2007*

\* Somalia Primary Education Survey, preliminary results, UNICEF 2005/6

\*\* MICS Survey, UNICEF Somalia, 2000

\*\*\*Median sentinel site prevalence, WHO, 2005

### Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2007

Sector	US\$
Health	7,400,000
Nutrition	6,136,000
Water and environmental sanitation	2,824,800
Education	2,979,876
Child protection	2,473,350
Early recovery	1,735,750
Shelter, non-food items and operations	952,300
<b>Total*</b>	<b>24,502,076</b>

\* 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

Children in Somalia continue to face some of the world's worst survival conditions in a country where under-18-year-olds make up 53 per cent of the population. Unresolved ethnic divisions, weak or non-existent administration and prevailing poverty severely limit access to basic health care, safe water and primary education. In the last year alone, the southern and most populous part of the country has faced severe drought, localized flooding and major political instability that threatens to become a major conflict with international ramifications. In contrast, North-West Somalia and, to a lesser extent, North-East Somalia enjoy comparative stability and have fledging administrative structures.

The drought that began in late 2005 and continued into 2006 has put further stress on children with more than 20 per cent suffering from acute malnutrition. In any year, water is a precious commodity, and while less than 29 per cent of the population have access to safe water sources, this figure falls to 18 per cent in Central/South Somalia. Additionally, improved means of excreta disposal are available to only 51 per cent of the population. In these conditions, cholera and diarrhoeal diseases are endemic. This is set against a backdrop of a lack of basic health care resulting in an estimated 133 of every 1,000 babies dying in infancy and less than 30 per cent of children attending primary school. The control of preventable diseases, including polio and malaria, continues to be problematic due to lack of access and to the ongoing displacement of the population by conflict and drought. Vulnerable groups and the displaced also require protection from increased risks of violence and exploitation. Although the HIV prevalence rate remains below the 1 per cent threshold, public health experts are concerned that the pandemic could rapidly spread if this threshold is breached. Prevention therefore remains essential.

## 2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

UNICEF's major challenges in 2006 focused on assisting drought-affected populations in Central/South Somalia. Despite limited access and weak implementing partner capacity due to security concerns and lack of funding, UNICEF-supported emergency interventions improved nutritional and health status, access to education and protection of children. UNICEF took up the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) designated lead in the coordination of the nutrition, water and sanitation and education clusters.

Improving access to safe water was the immediate priority as assessments were showing that in most drought-affected areas 84 per cent of the population did not have access to safe water supply nor to adequate means of excreta disposal. An estimated 775,000 people (of which 295,000 were directly assisted by UNICEF) benefited from emergency drought response interventions conducted by the cluster. A measles campaign was undertaken with WHO and NGO partners to address the risk of measles outbreaks due to vaccination rates below 50 per cent. Initial findings show that 86 per cent coverage (696,000 children) was achieved in the drought-affected areas. UNICEF coordinated the nutrition cluster attempts to reach 58,000 malnourished children and supported the expansion of the supplementary feeding programmes from 10 to 27 sites in the affected areas. In partnership with WFP, UNICEF supported selective school feeding with the aim to retain in school more than 18,000 children.

To assist one of the most vulnerable groups in the country, the estimated 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), UNICEF supported expanded learning opportunities for 150 schools, strengthened health services, including immunization and nutritional care, in 40 community health facilities and improved access to safe water for 50,000 IDPs and their host populations. In addition, UNICEF provided information on HIV/AIDS and supported community mobilization activities for child protection. UNICEF's tsunami programme continued the 'build back better' approach in communities based on the initial emergency response.

### 3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007

#### **Coordination and partnership**

UNICEF works in partnership with numerous national and international NGOs, UN agencies, donors, Somali administrations and local communities. Coordination with these partners is based on its active participation in the UN Country Team, the Somalia Support Secretariat (SSS) and the cluster system, in which UNICEF leads the nutrition, water and sanitation, and education clusters.

#### **Regular programme**

As Somalia is characterized by chronic vulnerability to natural and man-made emergencies, the 2007 Consolidated Appeal Process includes an early recovery pillar to help focus on restoring livelihoods. UNICEF will use its emergency relief activities combined with early recovery activities to ensure that assistance is linked to the regular country programme. This approach will help build sustainable results and leverage additional resources to pursue long-term targets, including the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **Health (US\$ 7,400,000)**

In 2007, UNICEF is seeking to strengthen and expand its emergency health response through the provision of basic primary health care services for 1.4 million people affected by conflict and drought in Central/South Somalia and to reach a further 400,000 displaced people dispersed across the country. Since nutritional recovery takes time, the children who experienced the severe drought situation in 2006 are expected to be more vulnerable to infectious diseases and complications that will increase morbidity and mortality. Priority interventions will focus on the provision of expanded primary health care services to combat the main communicable diseases and to promote safe motherhood. Key activities will include:

- Provide essential medical supplies for health posts and maternal and child health centres;
- Provide fixed, advanced and outreach immunization services countrywide with emphasis on vulnerable groups; strengthen routine immunization;
- Launch a polio immunization campaign to support the containment and reversal of the current outbreak;
- Combine social mobilization in communities with capacity-strengthening and supervision of health care providers;
- Support mobile health teams in displaced communities;
- Provide child health services, including immunization, micronutrient supplementation and antenatal care;
- Disseminate health messages through information, education and communication initiatives;
- Provide institutional support to transitional institutions to develop capacity for emergency response.

#### **Nutrition (US\$ 6,136,000)**

The nutrition surveillance activities in most parts of Central and South Somalia record unacceptable acute malnutrition rates of 15 per cent and above. In 2007 priority nutrition programme activities aim to support an estimated 60,000 malnourished children to prevent excess mortality and promote their nutritional well-being. The programmes will expand life-saving selective feeding and address the underlying causes of malnutrition that were identified in the 2006 drought response. Community-based therapeutic care to ensure nutrition response in insecure areas and coordinated support through related activities will be the key programming approaches to increase the coverage of vulnerable children. Main activities will include:

- Provide technical support and improve the capacity of selected feeding implementing partners;
- Provide emergency nutrition supply and support the warehousing facilities;
- Support current routine and emergency nutrition response activities and advocate for the integration of complementary programmes, including food security and livelihood promotion projects, comprehensive public health services, and water and sanitation;

- Identify and support community-based organizations and Somali nationals with the potential to improve nutrition response coverage in both accessible and inaccessible areas;
- Improve intra-cluster and inter-sectoral programme coordination in the emergency response.

#### **Water and environmental sanitation (US\$ 2,824,800)**

This project aims to provide emergency water and sanitation to 300,000 people, particularly those displaced or at increased risk of displacement due to the ongoing drought. The provision of safe water and basic sanitation amongst vulnerable groups will improve the well-being of women and children and reduce the risk of communicable diseases, including cholera outbreaks. UNICEF will focus on partnerships with international and local NGOs to reach the most remote areas. Capacity-building of local partners will be central in the response. Key activities will include:

- Rehabilitate water sources and protect as appropriate;
- Provide basic sanitation and hygiene services;
- Chlorinate water points in cholera-prone areas;
- Provide water trucking services when no other solutions are available;
- Conduct regular monitoring to identify gaps and enhance coordination and partnerships.

#### **Education (US\$ 2,979,876)**

To ensure that the right to education is fulfilled for all, UNICEF will set up temporary learning spaces and provide educational materials, together with appropriate incentives and training to ensure quality education and to retain students and teachers. These activities will be integrated into the 'back-to-school' campaign that will cover all areas of Somalia, with particular focus on girls and hard-to-reach groups such as IDPs. The capacity-building components aim to support the development of local and national institutions to assess the situation, provide educational opportunities, coordinate the response and monitor the impact of education interventions. Key activities will include:

- Provide tented learning spaces and educational material for 10,000 displaced children;
- Provide rapid training to displaced teachers and community education committees to ensure effective management and sustainability of schools and learning spaces;
- Ensure girls' access to educational opportunities through affirmative action;
- Train national and local authorities in conducting rapid assessments, undertaking advocacy and complying with the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (INEE);
- Train national and local authorities in management functions to support a rapid response for education in emergencies;
- Support the development of the education management information system (EMIS) to ensure that information is collected on the number and location of children displaced or affected by emergency; on the availability and conditions of school facilities; and on the availability of learning materials and teachers.

Across Somalia there is a need for education initiatives that focus on out-of-school adolescents who have missed the opportunity of formal education. UNICEF's activities will aim at developing life skills amongst adolescents to contribute to early recovery/conflict resolution and to emphasize the role of girls:

- Youth-to-youth (Y2Y) education for adolescents, including IDP adolescents, through information communication technologies via existing equipped youth multipurpose centres, and through peace education via participatory education theatre and ongoing youth broadcasting initiatives;
- Peace mentoring, leadership and organizational development training for 100 youth groups programming for adolescents.

### **Child protection (US\$ 2,473,350)**

The impact of drought and conflict on livelihoods and on the availability and access to food and water exposes children and women to increased risk of violence, exploitation and HIV transmission. UNICEF is tackling these issues by focusing on community-based programmes to build a rights-based culture amongst vulnerable groups, such as IDPs and their host communities. Key activities will include:

- Assess and develop capacity of existing local partners in human rights and in the monitoring of protection issues; identify at least 20 new NGO partners to expand coverage;
- Develop community mobilization tools to enhance awareness of protection issues related to children, IDPs and sexual and gender-based violence;
- Provide greater access to information and to life skills development for HIV prevention, care and support amongst vulnerable women, especially among female IDPs (for 12,000 women);
- Support new legal institutions, particularly with regard to vulnerable groups in the justice system, including child victims, offenders and witnesses;
- Engage influential religious and secular leaders in the HIV response;
- Train and deploy psychosocial workers and establish peer support mechanisms to respond to abuses, particularly gender-based violence;
- Document reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence and disseminate information among monitoring networks and authorities;
- Develop mine-risk education materials for community mobilization and for use in schools.

### **Early recovery (US\$ 1,735,750)**

Early recovery funding is a cross-cutting programme aimed to support the link between relief and development, with special emphasis on rebuilding sustainable livelihoods. The programme emphasizes capacity development to ensure that both authorities and communities retain and build upon the benefits of humanitarian interventions. Activities proposed include:

- Enhance early warning systems to improve disaster preparedness capacities with local authorities;
- Promote UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies with key local stakeholders;
- Support community-driven development to integrate a human rights-based programming approach to ensure individuals are aware of their entitlements in the transition from relief to development;
- Strengthen regional coordination mechanisms to provide a minimum package of HIV interventions to vulnerable populations in Central and South Somalia;
- Support the participation and political inclusion of women, minorities and youth as new local government structures are established in order to ensure these groups have the skills to actively engage in and influence policy dialogue.

### **Shelter, non-food items and operations (US\$ 952,300)**

UNICEF is one of the major humanitarian actors present in Somalia with a broad range of programme activities. This allows UNICEF to provide a rapid response in emergencies in support of the Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies through the provision of shelter and non-food items. In close coordination with key partners, such as WFP and OCHA, UNICEF coordinates the flow of relief items and maintains efficient logistical capacity to access vulnerable populations. Key activities include:

- For rapid emergency response, procure and pre-position key shelter items and family relief kits that include essential items such as blankets, insecticide-treated nets, jerrycans and kitchen sets;
- Provide support to maintain flexible operational capacity, including security, air operations and general logistical support.