



A mother and child receive care at a health facility supported by UNICEF in Karan district, Mogadishu.

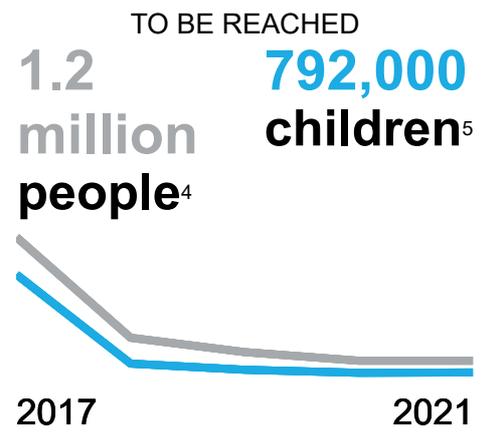
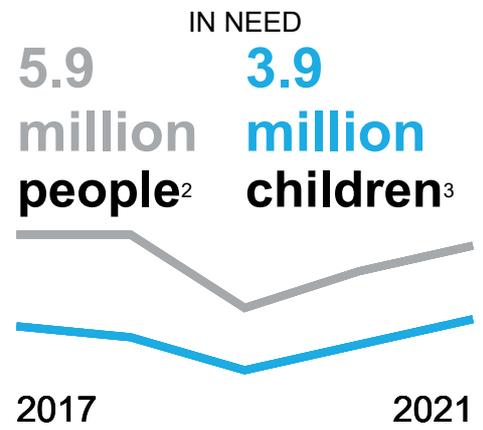
unicef 
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Humanitarian Action for Children

Somalia

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Somalia, 5.9 million people, including 3.9 million children, will need humanitarian assistance in 2021 due to the devastating impact of flooding, desert locusts and the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.¹ Conflict is also continuing to disrupt the lives of children and increasing their vulnerability to protection violations.
- In 2021, UNICEF will focus on increasing community engagement for social and behavioural change and strengthening accountability to affected populations in Somalia. UNICEF will aim to reach 1.2 million people, including 792,000 children, with humanitarian assistance. The response will focus on the most vulnerable groups, such as survivors of gender-based violence and children with disabilities.
- UNICEF is seeking US\$129.8 million to provide humanitarian services and support to the children of Somalia. With these funds, UNICEF will be able to reach 121,500 children with treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM), over 1 million people with health services and 850,000 people with emergency water services.



KEY PLANNED TARGETS



121,500

children admitted for treatment for severe acute malnutrition



1.1 million

children and women accessing health care



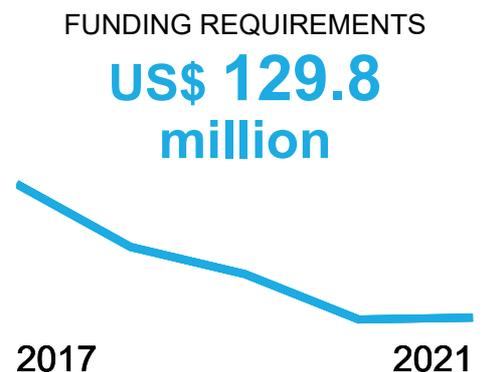
850,000

people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water



160,000

children accessing educational services



Figures are provisional and subject to change upon finalization of the inter-agency planning documents.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND NEEDS

Children in Somalia are affected by multiple humanitarian crises, including the ongoing conflict, flooding, desert locusts and the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, an estimated 5.9 million people, including 3.9 million children, will need humanitarian assistance in Somalia in 2021.⁶

The locust infestation – the worst in Somalia in 25 years – has deepened food insecurity and devastated livelihoods. An estimated 162,000 food insecure Somali children are at risk of SAM.⁷ Livelihoods have also been impacted by the severe floods that affected 250,000 people in central and southern Somalia in 2020 and destroyed service and road infrastructure.⁸

Where floods have undermined access to clean water and sanitation and hygiene services, and health service utilization and awareness are low, children are at risk of waterborne diseases, including acute watery diarrhoea/cholera. Some 4.6 million people, including over 3 million children, need access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).⁹

The ongoing conflict also continues to put children at risk of protection violations and impact their access to basic social services. An estimated 2.6 million people have been displaced by conflict in Somalia, with 939,000 people newly displaced in 2020.¹⁰

The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak have heightened risks of gender-based violence, malnutrition and mental health challenges for affected populations. Women and girls are increasingly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse; some 1.3 million women and girls require protection from gender-based violence.¹¹ Remittances have declined by 17 per cent; and incomes are down 20 to 30 per cent among poor urban households and internally displaced persons.¹² The pandemic has also placed severe strain on already fragile health systems in Somalia, with limited access to dedicated health services putting vulnerable children at additional risk.

The school closures caused by the pandemic have significantly disrupted children's education in Somalia. Some 1.9 million children currently require access to schooling.¹³ Declining enrolment could lead to a serious deterioration in education outcomes and impede children's learning over the long-term.

SECTOR NEEDS



Nutrition

962,000 children are at risk of acute malnutrition¹⁴



Health

3.9 million people lack access to basic health services¹⁵



Water, sanitation and hygiene

4.6 million people need clean and safe water¹⁶



Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA

1.9 million children need protection services^{17,18}

STORY FROM THE FIELD



“We have already produced almost 2,000 face masks,” said Fardosa* with pride. She is part of a small group of women working creatively to make cloth face masks to help protect families in nearby communities from COVID-19.

Fardosa is a survivor of gender-based violence and receives support at a safe house run by a partner with UNICEF support. The safe house seeks to equip survivors with the knowledge and tools to support themselves. The women are offered health and legal services, psychosocial support and skills training to rebuild their lives.

* Name changed to protect identity.

[Read more about this story here](#)

UNICEF is supporting survivors of gender-based violence to make cloth face masks to protect their communities.

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

As conflict, drought, floods, desert locust invasion and COVID-19 and its secondary impacts drive vulnerabilities in Somalia, UNICEF will respond with innovative and sustainable solutions and support access to basic services for those affected.

Learning from the COVID-19 response, communication for development will cut across all of UNICEF's programmes. UNICEF will engage communities to share information on good practices and how to access services. Third-party monitoring of service provision will be expanded to engage communities in programme design and strengthen resilience in areas with limited access. Utilizing a data-driven approach, UNICEF programming will be informed by risk analysis and service mapping to identify areas that have been underserved by humanitarian actors. UNICEF will also provide effective feedback mechanisms as part of its humanitarian programmes.

UNICEF will continue to expand health services – including measles vaccination – into previously inaccessible areas of Somalia. Across the country, measles cases will be monitored to ensure rapid response to outbreaks. Vulnerable children will be supported with nutrition services, including early detection, screening and treatment for acute malnutrition. UNICEF's water and sanitation programming will focus on the establishment of safe water supply systems, drilling strategic boreholes and exploring innovative approaches to providing safe water to populations in need.

UNICEF will develop and deliver robust prevention campaigns and specialized services to support survivors of gender-based violence. Communities will be engaged through individual behaviour change activities to support the prevention of gender-based violence; and survivors of gender-based violence will gain access to multi-sectoral, specialized services. Children associated with armed groups/forces will receive mental health and psychosocial support, education and job skills training to facilitate their reintegration back into their communities.

In schools, vulnerable and marginalized children and youth will have access to quality education and safe drinking water. Infection prevention and control activities, including hygiene promotion, will be mainstreamed across the WASH response, in all education activities and in health programmes.

In its approach to service provision, UNICEF will be more engaged with and accountable to affected populations and will target the most vulnerable people, including internally displaced persons, survivors of gender-based violence and children with disabilities.

UNICEF leads the WASH and nutrition clusters, co-leads the education cluster with Save the Children and leads the child protection area of responsibility in Somalia. UNICEF will also continue to serve as the technical lead of the COVID-19 risk communication and community engagement pillar.

Progress against the 2020 programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports:

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/somalia/situation-reports>

2021 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Nutrition

- **121,500** children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment¹⁹
- **880,000** primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- **25,000** children aged 6 to 59 months with moderate acute malnutrition admitted to therapeutic care through the simplified protocol



Health

- **1,096,305** children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities²⁰
- **2,096** health care facility staff and community health workers trained on infection prevention and control
- **83,320** children under 1 year vaccinated against measles



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- **850,000** people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene
- **175,000** people reached with sanitation services in vulnerable settlements and communities
- **1,200,000** people reached with hygiene promotion activities and hygiene kits distribution in vulnerable settlements and communities²¹



Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

- **170,000** children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support
- **100,000** women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions²²
- **1,600** children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities or provided with adequate care and services



Education

- **160,000** children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- **120,000** children accessing appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces
- **1,200** teachers trained in basic pedagogy and psychosocial support

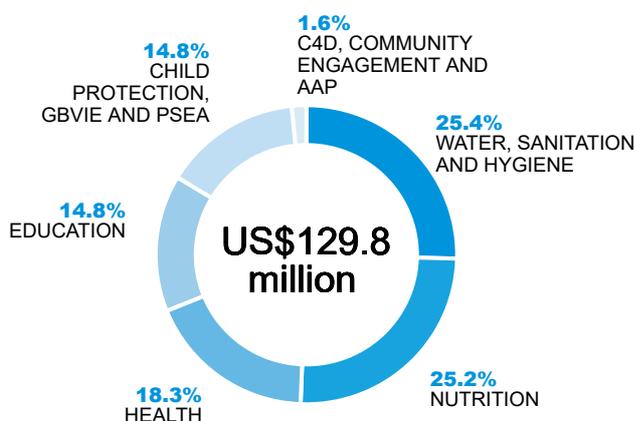


C4D, community engagement and AAP

- **500,000** people reached through messaging on individual, family and community level prevention practices and access to services

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2021

UNICEF is requesting US\$129.8 million to meet the needs of crisis-affected adults and children in Somalia in 2021. Without this funding, UNICEF and its partners will be unable to provide critical life-saving interventions addressing the impacts of conflict, health emergencies and climate-related crises. Adequate funding will allow UNICEF to bridge its humanitarian action with more sustainable and resilient programming; reach severely malnourished children with vital treatment; respond to COVID-19 through targeted health interventions; provide vulnerable children with safe drinking water and treatment for preventable diseases; reach survivors of gender-based violence with psychosocial support and clinical care; and support communities to be more resilient against shocks.



Sector	2021 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	32,718,475 ²³
Health	23,710,868
Water, sanitation and hygiene	33,000,001 ²⁴
Child protection, GBVIE and PSEA	19,196,691 ²⁵
Education	19,200,000
C4D, community engagement and AAP	2,021,760
Total	129,847,795

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ENDNOTES

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Somalia: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft), OCHA, 2020.
2. Ibid. The overall number of people in need has increased from 2020 primarily due to rising food security, with 3.5 million people in need of food assistance, 3.9 million in need of health support and 2.3 million in need of shelter assistance in 2021.
3. Ibid. This figure was calculated based on children making up 66 per cent of the total population.
4. This figure was calculated using the highest coverage programme target of people to be reached with hygiene kits and hygiene promotion activities. Given the integrated nature of UNICEF's service provision in Somalia, this target provides a platform for the provision of other services to affected populations. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that people with disabilities make up 15 per cent of the population, which means an estimated 180,000 people with disabilities will be supported by UNICEF programmes. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children; and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
5. This figure was calculated using the highest coverage programme target of 792,000 children to be reached with hygiene promotion and hygiene kit distribution. This includes 50 per cent girls and 50 per cent boys. Children with disabilities represent 15 per cent of the child population or 118,800 children (including 59,400 girls).
6. 'Somalia: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
7. Ibid.
8. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Somalia: Hagaa Season Floods Update 3', OCHA, 23 August 2020.
9. 'Somalia: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid. This includes children with SAM and moderate acute malnutrition.
15. 'Somalia: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
16. Ibid.
17. Due to space constraints, the following acronyms appear in the appeal: GBViE (gender-based violence in emergencies); PSEA (prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse); C4D (communication for development); and AAP (accountability to affected populations).
18. 'Somalia: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview' (draft).
19. The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit has identified the SAM burden for 2021 to be 162,000 children in Somalia. UNICEF will treat 121,500 children with SAM and will provide therapeutic supplies for the entire SAM burden of 162,000 children in Somalia. UNICEF will treat 25,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition with other agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP) treating the remaining children.
20. The remaining health care caseload will be reached by other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in Somalia.
21. In the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan, 2.54 million people are targeted for WASH cluster activities. UNICEF will target 1.2 million people with other humanitarian agencies engaging in programmes to reduce the gap. In addition, resilience partners are programming in areas that previously focused primarily on a humanitarian response.
22. This target includes 94,500 people to be reached with risk mitigation or prevention support and 5,500 people to be reached with response interventions.
23. The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit has identified the SAM burden for 2021 to be 162,000 children in Somalia. UNICEF will treat 121,500 children with SAM and will provide therapeutic supplies for the entire SAM burden of 162,000 children in Somalia. UNICEF will treat 25,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition with other agencies such as WFP treating the remaining children.
24. Due to increased cost efficiencies in programmatic and procurement activities UNICEF is able to reach more people with a decreased budget compared with 2020.
25. This includes US\$16,859,031 for child protection interventions and US\$2,337,660 for gender-based violence interventions.