Laas Caanood Conflict Update

UNICEF Somalia Country Office

As of 26 April 2023

Situation and Humanitarian Needs

- During the past two weeks, the situation in Laas Caanood was mostly calm, with sporadic conflict in certain areas. However, tensions have remained high, and further clashes are anticipated.
- The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has grown slightly, with estimates ranging from 154,000 to 203,000. The conflict has had a particularly negative impact on three regions—Sool, Nugaal, and Ayn.
- Humanitarian organizations are able to reach the affected population in the ongoing response to provide life-saving humanitarian aid.



Highlights of UNICEF and Partners Response

Health

- Over 25,449 people have received treatment within the Outpatient Department (OPD) including 9,701 children under the age of five.
- A total of 3,956 children also received measles vaccinations.

Nutrition

- To date, 4,364 children have been screened for malnutrition; 355 were admitted into the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP), 25 were treated in stabilization centers, and 1,848 received Vitamin A supplementation.
- Further, 7,923 pregnant and lactating women received counseling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) as well as health education.

WASH

- UNICEF continued providing emergency water to 35,000 women, men and children through water trucking.
- In addition, 2,290 people received hygiene kits, aqua tabs, and soaps,

Child Protection

- Children associated with armed forces or groups (15) (CAAFAG) were identified, screened, and provided with community-based reintegration services, including vocational education.
- Additionally, 4,903 children received essential child protection-related messages.
- 4,081 children have accessed mental health and psycho-social services.
- 272 unaccompanied and separated girls and boys registered with family tracing and reunification services and family-based care or appropriate alternative services.

Education

- An estimated 1,400 children benefited from educational and learning activities in 12 schools.

Coordination

- During the reporting period, the Puntland and Somaliland field offices engaged on preparedness and response reviewed the ongoing wash, health, and nutrition interventions, which included rehabilitating 11 water sources, providing sanitation services for 5,000 people, promoting hygiene awareness, and providing hygiene kits to 30,000 displaced people, provision of an integrated health and nutrition services both at health facility and community level.

Challenges/Recommendations

- Due to the intermittent and unpredictable nature of the fighting, the displaced population is not likely to soon return to their original location, thus deteriorating the already precarious humanitarian situation of the drought-affected population hosting the IDPs. To expand services and provide WASH and medical supplies, more resources are needed.