



Late and erratic rains during the 2019 Gu's cropping season (April-June) coupled with low river levels resulted in the poorest cereal harvest since the 2011.

More than 100,000 people were newly displaced by drought between January and July this year.

*continue to invest in efforts to identify durable solutions,”* said Hamza Said Hamza, the Federal Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management.

Against this backdrop, the Somalia humanitarian operation remains under-funded with the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan having received US\$ 494 million by end of August - less than half the requirement. *“I thank the donor community for the swift support for the Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP), which enabled humanitarian agencies to scale-up response and keep nearly 1.9 million out of acute food insecurity through September 2019. However, the DIRP is currently just under 50 per cent funded and without additional resources and sustained collective response, 2.1 million people will face severe food insecurity through December. Humanitarian partners stand ready to respond, but they cannot do so without sufficient resources. I urge all donors to continue to step up support to enable the provision of life-saving assistance to the large numbers of people in Somalia who are in need of assistance,”* said George Conway, the acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia.

## A quarter million Somalis newly displaced

More than a quarter of a million people have been displaced between January and July this year largely due to drought and conflict. According to the UNHCR/NRC-led Protection Return and Monitoring Network (PRMN), more than 100,000 people were newly displaced by drought in 2019. This is 50 per cent lower than recorded for the same period in 2018. However, an increase was reported in July with an estimated 28,000 people newly displaced - a 57 per cent increase compared to June.

Armed conflict and insecurity have also uprooted an estimated 126,000 people from their homes as of July, according to PRMN. Conflict-induced displacement in 2019 has remained below levels observed during the same period in 2018 when 208,000 people were displaced. Most of the conflict-related displacement occurred in Lower Shabelle where armed operations by Somali security forces backed by international partners against the Al-Shabaab group resumed in April 2019.

Evictions, sometimes forced with little or no warning, also continued to rise with an estimated 134,000 displaced person affected in the first half of the year. Of these, some 108,000 people were evicted in Mogadishu alone.

Humanitarian partners continue to provide life-saving, livelihood support and to advocate for durable solutions for internally displaced persons. In July, the shelter cluster assisted nearly 33,000 persons with standard household kits comprising of plastic sheets, blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats and kitchen sets. Emergency and transitional shelter kits were also provided to newly displaced persons. Efforts to mitigate or prevent forced evictions continue. The Banadir Regional Administration has also adopted an eviction guideline that reinforce human rights standards and other legal or policy provisions.

## Somalia marks World Humanitarian Day

Somalia was part of the global commemoration of the World Humanitarian Day on 19 August to celebrate humanitarian workers, most specifically women humanitarians as the theme for this year. Events were held in Mogadishu and major towns across Somalia.

The event in Mogadishu was highly attended by local and international NGOs, private sector, donors, UN agencies and high-ranking Federal Government of Somalia representation, including the Ministers of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; Women and Human Rights Development; and Planning, Investment



The Federal Minister of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Management, Hamza Said Hamza giving his remarks at the World Humanitarian Day event in Mogadishu.

and Economic Development as well as the Deputy of the Ministers of Health and Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management.

*“As the government of Somalia, we salute the women working in the humanitarian sector and despite the challenges they are facing, their courage and patriotism in serving this country is an effort worth emulating,”* said Mr. Hamza Said Hamza, the Federal Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management.

Speaking on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, the UNICEF Country Representative, Mr. Werner Schultink, called for more involvement of women in humanitarian activities. *“Evidence shows that when women are involved in humanitarian action including at the decision-making level, the humanitarian response is more effective,”* said Mr. Schultink.

A veteran activist and humanitarian worker, Ms. Aisha Shaur Ugas, was presented with a humanitarian hero award at the event for her role in championing the rights of women and children and advocating for gender equality.

### SSWC Director among 24 women honored on World Humanitarian Day

When Mogadishu turned into a battleground for rival clan militias in early 1991, Amina Hagi Elmi was overwhelmed by a much more private conflict. Having fled a comfortable home in Somalia’s capital with her family, the young businesswoman now found herself



Mama Amina, Director of Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) NGO

beneath a tree in Balcad — over 35km from her home — and to her despair, she discovered that her period had come. *“It was a disaster because I didn’t have any water or soap,”* she recalls. *“I became very nervous. When disaster or war strikes, the international community wants to give people water, food and shelter, but there is another need, which is women’s dignity,”* she says.

Elmi, 60, has spent the past three decades trying to protect other women from the helplessness she felt when the civil war broke out. While armed conflict and climatic shocks, particularly severe drought have displaced an estimated 2.6 million people in Somalia, Elmi has fought for women’s dignity with sanitary pads, scarves and soap. She is one of 24 women who were honored by the United Nations on World Humanitarian Day on 19 August.

In 2011, her campaign was recognized by international agencies when her “dignity kits” were included in the emergency package that displaced people receive from Shelter partners. Each kit contains traditional Somali dresses, scarves, underwear, pants, sanitary pads, soap and laundry detergent. Since then, the organization Elmi co-founded and directs, Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC), has distributed an estimated 70,000 dignity kits to displaced women and girls in IDP settlements in southern and central Somalia.

Mogadishu is home to about 497,000 Somali IDPs, making the city among Africa’s most crowded hubs for internally displaced people. In the unplanned urban sites, makeshift shelters provide little security for women and girls, and a report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) has shown that women face a significant risk of rape, particularly at night. The burden on women is becoming even more difficult as land prices rise and IDPs are being pushed further out of the city, which means longer distances to health-care facilities and potential labour opportunities.

Humanitarian response is more effective when women are involved.

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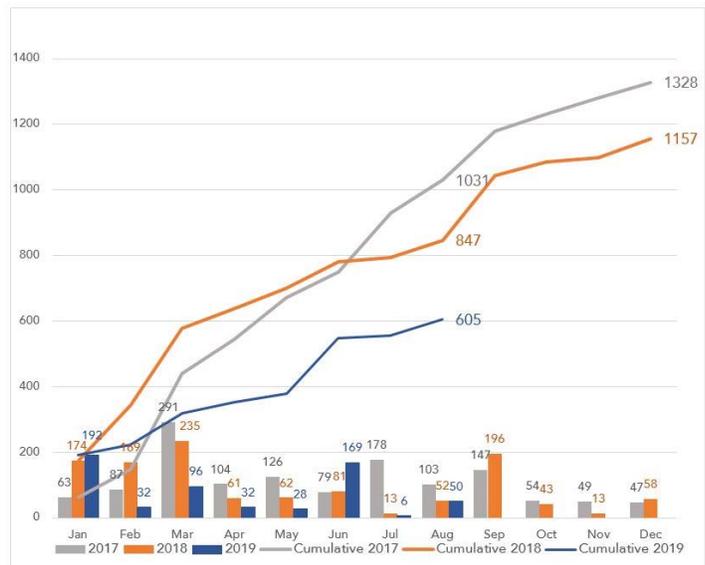
When she visits the sites for internally displaced, carrying an aura of authority and determination, women and girls respectfully greet her with cheers of “Mama Amina” — a title that makes Elmi beam with pride. But she was far from destined to a life as a humanitarian. Growing up in a middle-class family, the young Elmi studied accounting and management at the now-defunct Somali Institute of Development Administration and Management, and after briefly working with the local government, she started a business of importing medicine for local pharmacies. One morning in December 1990, as 32-year-old Elmi got ready for work in downtown Mogadishu, clan-based fighting that overthrew the government erupted in the streets. Dragging her parents along, Elmi fled the city and ended up under the tree in Balcad. “As a businesswoman, I used to wear new, fashionable clothes, but I ended up with nothing,” she says. “I realized how it was to be internally displaced.”

## Funding shortfall hinders response

Humanitarian needs have remained worryingly high and protection concerns have persisted across Somalia in the first eight months of 2019 as a result of climatic shocks and conflict and associated displacement. By 23 August 2019, \$611 million has been mobilized for the Somalia operation of which \$494 million against the activities in the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)/Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP) and \$118 million for the activities outside of those appeals. This is less than what was received during the same period in 2017 (\$1.03 billion or 59 per cent of the requirement) and 2018 (\$847 million or 72 per cent of the requirement).

Only \$253 million mobilized since the Drought Impact Response Plan was announced in May this year.

With only an additional \$253 million mobilized since the launch of the DIRP, which calls for \$686 million, which supersedes the HRP over the final seven months of 2019, more funding is urgently required to address the immediate needs of 6.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by the end of the year. An increase in donor contributions is critical to enable humanitarian partners to sustain life-saving efforts and prevent further deterioration of the situation in Somalia.



Somalia total humanitarian funding, Jan-Dec 2017-2019: Source FTS as of 23 August 2019.

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