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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Measles and Polio vaccination campaign launched in Banadir region
- Investing in resilience for drought-prone communities
- Shortage of funding hinders life-saving response
- Somalia Government and UN calls for protection of aid workers
- Nearly a million Somalis displaced this year

### FIGURES

# of people in need	5.2m
# of people targeted	3m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.0m
# of internally displaced persons	2.6m

### FUNDING

#### \$1.05 BILLION

Requested in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

#### \$567 MILLION

Funding received for the 2020 HRP (56 per cent funded).

Source <http://fts.unocha.org>, 1 September 2020



Celebration of World Humanitarian Day in Baidoa in 2019

## Measles and polio vaccination campaign completed in Banadir region

On 30, August, a polio and measles immunization campaign that seeks to vaccinate close to 460,000 under-five children against the deadly diseases was launched in Mogadishu. The campaign continued until 3 September.

The campaign is being conducted by the Ministry of Health with technical support from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners. It also provided vitamin A supplements and de-worming tablets to children all amid a COVID-19 pandemic.



A vaccinator giving polio vaccine to under-five child in Mogadishu. Photo: WHO

Dr Mamunur Malik, WHO Somalia Representative, emphasized to Somali communities that every adult has a responsibility to help Somali children live healthy lives. *“I would like to encourage parents, caregivers and all adults in Banadir region and surrounding areas to make the most of this opportunity and visit vaccination sites to ensure every child under age 5 is vaccinated against polio and measles, and that every child receives additional supplements to keep them healthy. As caregivers, we all have an obligation to ensure our children live healthy and productive lives,”* said Dr Malik.

According to WHO, 744 children in Banadir have reportedly been infected with measles since the beginning of the year, which accounts for around half the total number of cases in the country. Three cases of poliovirus were also recorded in Banadir region. Measles is a highly contagious respiratory infection that causes high fever and rash; it spreads easily in densely populated areas. It commonly affects children who have not been vaccinated. Children who are malnourished are at greater risk. Complications of measles include severe and prolonged diarrhea, pneumonia, blindness, encephalitis and death.

The campaign targeted more than 450,000 under-five children against the deadly diseases.

“As the COVID-19 response continues, it is critical that immunization drives are sustained at the same time,” says Penelope Campbell, Chief of Health, UNICEF Somalia. “Measles and polio are vaccine-preventable diseases and through this campaign, we can stop the further spread of these outbreaks and save the lives of countless children.”

During the campaign, 407,956 children between 6 months and five years (92 per cent of the target) received measles vaccine while 459,456 (93 per cent of the target) were vaccinated against polio. A total of 224 District Field Assistants supervised more than 3,000 vaccinators in the field in addition to the monitors from the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF. Vaccinators and supervisors were following COVID-19 guidelines during the campaign implementation.

The campaign aims to stem the transmission of measles infection and reduce the likelihood of future measles outbreaks in Somalia. Adding polio vaccine to the campaign will also help to bolster protection against polio virus type 1 and 3 among Somali children. A total of 17 positive polio cases were so far reported in the country in 2020. More than 600 teams with skilled community vaccinators, frontline health workers and social mobilizers implemented the campaign.

## Investing in resilience for drought-prone communities

A Swiss Development Cooperation-funded resilience programme targeting nearly 22,000 people intended to enhance community's resistance to shocks was launched in Baidoa by South West State authorities and partners. The basic objective of the programme is to minimize the adverse effects of drought on the production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources thereby ultimately leading to the drought proofing of the affected areas. The



South West State officials at the launch of the event in Baidoa. Photo/ SWS MoHADM

program aims at improving the overall capacity of households to implement effective disaster risk management and positive coping strategies to mitigate the immediate effect of exposure to shock by improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections of the communities. The programme is implemented by Somali Resilience programme (SomRep) Consortium. Members of SomReP include Action Against Hunger (AAH), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), CARE Somalia, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Oxfam Somalia and World Vision Somalia.

South West State Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, Honorable Abdinaser Abdi Arush, who spoke at the launch of the event in Baidoa stated the need to build community resilience to withstand climatic shocks by fighting poverty which remains to be a key barrier to people's recovery.

To boost productivity, of existing livelihoods, the programme will increase access to drought-tolerant inputs, veterinary services and improved animal feed.

Agencies implementing this programme will empower producers to overcome existing constraints of limited skills and agricultural inputs, unfair trading practices, limited agronomic capacity, transaction cost, and infrastructure barriers such as limited irrigation and water. To boost productivity of existing livelihoods, the programme will increase access to drought-tolerant inputs, veterinary services and improved animal feed. Improved productivity will create new opportunities with enterprises which spring up as a result of value added to an agricultural product. The programme is expected to generate income from agricultural value chains beyond production, and prepare women and youth with capacities to take up new strategies by equipping them with skills, networks and strategies through savings groups, vocational training, business and life skills training.

Somalia is one of the most complex humanitarian crises in the world. The long-standing insecurity and protracted humanitarian crises have hindered resilience-building efforts, leaving the population highly vulnerable to shocks, particularly women and girls, older people, people with different types of disabilities and single-headed households.

The overlap of conflict and climatic disasters has repeatedly displaced hundreds of thousands of people in recent years, with vulnerable groups disproportionately affected.

## Loss of employment and the struggle to meet needs during the COVID-19 pandemic - the story of Halima

Halima Hassan Ahmed 43, is a head of household of her family of eight children in Mogadishu. Farming was her only source of income for the past 30 years before she fled Lower Shabelle in 2018 due to recurrent droughts displacing thousands of families. Together with her eight children she lives in Elberde IDP settlement in Mogadishu's Kahda district in Banadir region. For the past three years, Halima has worked as a casual laborer earning US\$3 a day to support her family's daily basic needs. This stopped in March when the first case of COVID-19 was announced in Mogadishu. Nowhere to go, she resorted to send her children to beg.

Halima used to work as a casual laborer earning US\$3 a day to support her family's daily basic needs.

Movement restrictions imposed by authorities made their situation worse. "I had to remain in the IDP site in the first few months of the pandemic because I could not go to the city to wash clothes for the families living in the town. They feared contracting the virus. This is because IDP settlements are seen COVID-19 hotspots." She added.

The plight of families, including Halima's family, was reported to a RAHO NGO and Halima was among 60 selected beneficiaries for food distribution. Her family received a complete food package composed of 25 kg of rice, 25 kg of wheat flour, 10 kg of pasta, 3 liters of vegetable oil and 2.5kg of powder milk.



Halima is receiving the food assistance. Photo: RAHO NGO

## Shortage of funding hinders live-saving response

Response to the ongoing floods continue to be hampered by suboptimal funding. To support priority needs, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Advisory Board has

**US\$1.01bn** total requirements of plan

Figure 1 Data as of 7 September 2020

To support priority needs, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) Advisory Board has endorsed a US\$9 million Reserve Allocation to the flood-affected areas.

endorsed a US\$9 million Reserve Allocation to the worst affected areas. SHF also continues to support COVID-19-related reprogramming requests from its partners. Thus far, 14 partners have reprogrammed \$76,000 and requested no cost extensions thereby ensuring the continuity of ongoing responses in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security alongside the adoption of COVID-19 prevention techniques in line with cluster and Ministry of Health guidelines and standards. The activities include targeted trainings, COVID-19-related messaging and awareness raising sessions, purchase of PPE equipment for staff, construction of emergency latrines and installation of WASH facilities to ensure access to safe water in IDP settlements. In addition, SHF partners have adopted mobile money transfers instead of vouchers in food security and WASH projects with cash for work components.

Despite generous donor contributions, humanitarian needs in Somalia remain worryingly high. By 1 September 2020, \$567 million had been received against activities in the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Key clusters such as health (23 per cent) and protection (15 per cent) – crucial to the prevention of disease outbreak and gender-based violence respectively that have been known to rise due to compromised living conditions-are critically underfunded.

### Somalia Humanitarian Fund to launch After-Action Review survey.

In its ongoing efforts to strengthen transparent and open dialogue with its stakeholders, SHF will launch an After-Action Review through a survey to gauge their satisfaction with the First Standard Allocation held in March 2020. The survey will assess the process and support provided to SHF partners during the allocation process and use the received feedback to improve the Fund's performance in future allocations. The 2020 First Standard Allocation prioritized lifesaving humanitarian response to underserved and hard-to access areas through direct implementation by the best placed responders where possible. The Fund plans to conduct these surveys periodically.

## Somalia Government and UN call for the protection of aid workers in commemoration of World Humanitarian Day

Somalia marked world humanitarian day on 19 August. Activities were conducted virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions and the ban on social gatherings. Contents including videos, pictures/banners and web story has been share digitally. The hashtag #RealLifeHeroes was amplified across all UN agencies, government authorities and humanitarian organizations. Appreciation and recognition has been made to aid workers for their continued support and tireless efforts to serve humanity.

The United Nations and with Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) have called for protection of aid-workers who provide life-saving assistance to the vulnerable people in the country. In a joint press statement, FGS and the UN has shared their concerns on the insecurity and the poor infrastructure in the country that hampers the delivery of aid assistance to the people in need. Somalia is considered as one of the world's most dangerous environment.

This year, World Humanitarian Day came at a time Somalia is facing triple threat of COVID-19 pandemic, flooding and the desert locust infestation that have further exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities in Somalia.

The best way to pay tribute to humanitarian workers is to fund what they do and advocate for their safety.

Each year, World Humanitarian Day focuses on a theme, bringing together partners from across the humanitarian system to advocate for the survival, well-being, and dignity of people affected by crises, and for the safety and security of aid workers.

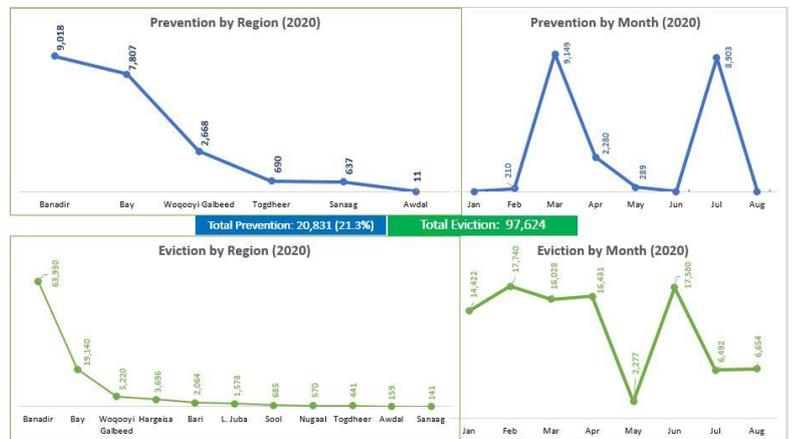
## Nearly a million Somalis displaced this year

Between January and August 2020, more than 885,000 people were displaced, largely due to floods and conflict. This is nearly 70 per cent higher than figures recorded for the same period in 2019. According to the UNHCR/NRC-led Protection Return and Monitoring Network (PRMN), more than 627,872 people were newly displaced by floods in 2020. Armed conflict and insecurity have also uprooted an estimated 175,194 people from their homes.

Evictions, sometimes forced with little or no warning, also continues to be reported with an estimated 97,624 displaced persons affected between January and August this year. Of these, some 63,930 people were evicted in Mogadishu alone. This is lower than the figures recorded in the first half of the year due to prevention steps taken by the humanitarian partners. A total of 20,831 evictions were prevented between February and May 2020.

A total of 20,831 evictions were prevented between February and May 2020

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 1,800 persons with standard household kits comprising of plastic sheets, blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats and kitchen sets. As part of advocacy aimed to mitigate the impact of displacement in the context of COVID-19, the Protection Cluster with the support of partners has developed a moratorium on eviction in April 2020 and shared with Federal Government of Somalia and member states to enforce the moratorium.



Eviction and prevention in 2020

Somalia is a home to 2.6 million IDPs living in over 2,300 IDP sites in urban and peri-urban areas. Over 80 per cent of the IDP sites are informal settlements on private land while 74 per cent of them are in urban areas. In addition, close to 3,000 refugees and asylum seekers live in Somalia, mostly from Yemen and Ethiopia.

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