

HIGHLIGHTS

- Aid workers respond swiftly to newly displaced people from Xudur in southern Somalia, but concerns remain about high malnutrition rates and shelter in the rainy season.
- The start of the wet season brings relief, but also challenges. Humanitarian partners focus on pre-positioning aid supplies in key locations.
- Sexual violence is pervasive in Somalia. A new report highlights the extent of the problem.

FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	1.05m
# of people in stress	1.67m
# of acutely malnourished children under five	215,000
Source: www.fsnau.org (February-June projection)	
# of internally displaced people	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1m
Source: UNHCR	

Consolidated Appeal

FUNDING

1.3 billion

requested for 2013 (US\$)

13.8% (184m)

(reported as of 12 April 2013)

Source: Financial Tracking Service <http://fts.unocha.org>



A Somali woman receives medical treatment at a settlement for displaced people in Gaalkacyo, Puntland. Credit: UN/Fouad Juez

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Fresh displacement triggers new needs

People leave Xudur immediately after pull-out of troops

The fluidity of the security situation in southern Somalia was underscored in March, when 2,500 people fled Xudur in Bakool region after Ethiopian troops withdrew on 17 March. Al Shabaab quickly filled the vacuum and regained control of the town for the first time in a year. Al Shabaab had surrounded Xudur since it was taken by Ethiopian and Government-aligned forces in March 2012, and had imposed an economic blockade. Humanitarian partners had only been able to deliver limited humanitarian assistance, mostly through air delivery.

Humanitarian response reaching 5,800 people underway in Ceel Barde

The majority of those who fled from Xudur walked towards Ceel Barde, about 90 km to the north on the Somalia border with Ethiopia. The journey by foot takes about three days and five persons reportedly died from dehydration en route. With the arrival of 2,500 people from Xudur, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Ceel Barde increased to close to 5,800, which includes protracted displaced people in the location and vulnerable host communities. Response in key areas, such as health, food security, nutrition, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene, began immediately.



A rapid assessment in Ceel Barde early April found high rates of malnutrition both among the displaced people from Xudur and the host communities. Credit: OCHA/Jean-Se Munie

Key gaps reported include urgent emergency shelter. Malnutrition levels are also of concern following a rapid assessment conducted by nutrition partners in early April. The assessment showed high malnutrition rates among the assessed children, both among residents in Ceel Barde and the newly displaced. Though this was a rapid assessment, the situation is worrying according to nutrition partners. However, the mounted response, which needs to be maintained, is likely to curtail any deterioration of the situation. Heavy rains, coupled with a lack of sanitation facilities and proper shelters and a compromised hygiene situation during the lean period, could also lead to disease outbreaks, which would worsen the nutrition situation. Flights and trucks with emergency supplies including food assistance have been sent to support the response, arriving in March and April.

BASELINE

Population (UNDP, 2005)	7.5m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1 per day (UNDP/World Bank 2002)	43%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
Under-five mortality (FSNAU 2013)	0.68/10,000 /day
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2013)	14.3%
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

CLUSTERS

Lead/Co-lead organization

Education	UNICEF SC-Alliance
Food security	FAO/WFP WOCCA/RAWA
Health	WHO Merlin
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF CAFDARO
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Oxfam GB

Insecurity impacts planting and access to aid

Humanitarian access restrictions remain

Despite overall security improvements, the continuing instability in parts of Somalia and access restrictions for humanitarian workers remain major obstacles to aid delivery. Humanitarian partners report that the livelihood programmes in Bakool and Bay in southern Somalia may be affected by insecurity in the Bakool region. This could impact on the planting and harvest season if the situation deteriorates. Bay is one of the regions considered as a bread basket for Somalia.

On 18 March, at least 10 people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack in the Somali capital, in one of the bloodiest attacks in Mogadishu in recent months.

Preparedness key ahead of seasonal rains

Start of rainy season brings relief, but also challenges

Rains began in late March in many parts of Somalia easing the dry weather conditions that caused water shortages, particularly in the northern regions of Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer, and parts of the Gedo region in the South in the first quarter. The moderate to heavy downpour marked an early start to the April-June *Gu* rainy season, with Gaalkacyo, Eyl, Laas Caanood in Mudug, Nugaal and Bari, respectively, and Jowhar and Baardheere districts in southern Somalia recording significant rains according to the UN-led Somalia Water and Land Information Management Unit.

Somalia has two distinct rainy seasons: the *Gu*, long rains that support the main cropping season and the *Deyr* short rains, which usually fall from October to December. Despite the respite the two rainy seasons bring, they also render many roads impassable due to lack of maintenance, and impede access to those most in need of humanitarian assistance. The rains also impact negatively on the displaced due to lack of proper shelter and exposure to water-borne diseases and malaria.

There are an estimated 1.1 million people displaced in Somalia, with the vast majority living in difficult conditions. In southern Somalia, including Ceel Barde, and parts of the central regions and Somaliland, the nutrition situation is likely to remain critical due to the lack of or limited health infrastructure, poor feeding practices and outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and measles during the rainy season.

Relief items pre-positioned in key locations to ensure rapid response

To ensure a rapid response to emergencies during the rainy season, aid workers have scaled up activities and pre-positioned emergency supplies in strategic locations. The rains raise the risk of disease outbreaks, while flooding is a major concern.

Nutrition partners flew in supplies to six locations in the southern and central regions, including 39,500 cartons of plumpy nut, 1,000 cartons of supplementary foods, 19 nutrition kits containing equipment for measuring weight and height for children under 5 years of age. In addition, 450 cartons of emergency food rations, and routine medicines were also delivered to partners and warehouses throughout the country. The plumpy nut is targeted for 39,500 children for about three months, the supplementary plumpy will cater for at least 1,000 children for a month and the kits will be distributed to 19 outpatient therapeutic programmes. To curb acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), nutrition partners also increased early screening for malnutrition and treatment.

Food security partners pre-positioned humanitarian assistance for several months in key locations. In March, at the start of the *Gu* agricultural season and rains, the cluster started distributing seeds ahead of the planting season and vaccinated animals. More than 210,000 people in over 120 villages across 11 districts are targeted to be given seeds and farm tools, while 1.8 million people were targeted with livestock vaccinations to protect their animals from disease outbreaks such as the Rift Valley Fever. Cluster partners are also exploring how to respond during the lean season in high-risk areas, when households have little food until the next harvest in July and August.

Swift health response controls diarrhoea outbreak

At least six people died in March and 367 others were admitted to cholera treatment centres following an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea in Belet Weyne in central Somalia's Hiraaan region. Aid workers joined efforts to respond to the outbreak, which is now reported to be under control. Hygiene promotion activities such as dissemination of hygiene messages are ongoing reaching at least 31,000 people in Belet Weyne. Other activities include water chlorination, distribution of aqua tabs and hand-washing campaigns.

Human rights violations of great concern

Violence against women and girls is pervasive in Somalia

The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on sexual violence in conflict, Zainab Bangura, visited Mogadishu in early April. She expressed serious concern about the reports of rape in Somalia and specifically about the high number of rapes targeting displaced women and girls. The SRSG said that there were at least 1,700 victims of rape in Somalia last year. The extent of sexual violations was also highlighted in March by Human Rights Watch. A report issued on 27 March, which was based on over a year's research in Mogadishu, stated that most of the violations against already vulnerable displaced people were perpetrated by various militias and security forces, often affiliated with the Government and gatekeepers. The report recommended that the Federal Government of Somalia takes all necessary measures to ensure sufficient, competent and trained police to protect the people and that protection agencies step up efforts to support the Government in this endeavour. The Somali President in a statement welcomed the HRW report and reiterated his commitment to the restoration of civil security and protection of human rights, highlighting that the Government will hold to account those found violating human rights.

The HWR report can be found at: <http://bit.ly/YAkZMH>

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Relocation plans for displaced continue

Work underway to relocate displaced people from settlements in the capital

In March, the Government confirmed that displaced people in Mogadishu, who will be moved under its planned relocation exercise announced in January, will be allowed to stay for two to three years in the sites on the outskirts of the capital. UN agencies and NGOs are helping the Government ensure that the rights of the displaced communities are respected and that the lives of people improve. The Government encourages displaced people to consider returning to their areas of origin irrespective of the relocation process. A basic profiling, which captures the essential household information, will be done before the move, followed by a more in-depth profiling capturing the preferences of the displaced regarding durable solutions. Those who wish to return to home areas will be helped to do so and those who choose not to return will be integrated into the host communities. During the month, the Mogadishu relocation taskforce, comprising authorities and humanitarian partners, finalised plans to commence mine clearance, site surveying and preparation. Partners are also working to ensure the displaced people receive vital information on the relocation process to safeguard their rights and wellbeing.

Somaliland authorities allocate land for displaced people

Humanitarian actors in Somaliland are helping to improve the living conditions for 2,000 families in the displaced persons settlements of Mohamed Mooge and Naasa Hablood in Hargeysa. In March, Somaliland authorities reconfirmed the allocation of land for about 1,950 households from the Mohamed Mooge settlement. Following the start of the rainy season, the displaced will receive plastic sheets and other household items. Shelter partners will construct 350 permanent housing units for displaced persons in existing Ayaha IV settlement in addition to 340 units already constructed in Ayaha II settlements.

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Cross-border movements decrease in March

Drop in number of people returning from Ethiopia and Kenya

In March, fewer people crossed the border into Somalia from Ethiopia and Kenya in comparison to January and February. In all, 1,900 movements were tracked in March from the two countries by the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), while 4,400 and 7,900 occurred in February and January respectively. The March figures reflect a downward trend of cross-border movements since January (which included an uptick due to a directive announcement by the Government of Kenya that refugees had to be registered in camps the previous month), most likely due to seasonal migration, as people return to tend to land ahead of the rainy season, which is now upon us. Furthermore, bad road conditions due to the rains also reduce movements at this time of year.

Timely funding crucial to consolidate gains

Humanitarian funding needed to build up resilience

At the start of the second quarter, 14 per cent of the \$1.3 billion request for the 2013 Somalia Consolidated Appeal had been received. The recent improvements in the humanitarian situation are fragile and funds are needed to consolidate the gains made. If humanitarian assistance can be sustained, the number of people in crisis is expected to rise only marginally between April and June, the period when rains increase the risk of disease and food stocks run low. Disbursement from the CHF in late 2012 was delayed to allow time to implement enhanced risk management procedures now required by OCHA Geneva before the disbursement of funds. This resulted in some activities, for instance in food security, meant to be implemented last year will be completed this year instead.

Humanitarian partners have flagged that resource mobilization is critical this year, especially for resilience programming. Support for the resilience programming in the humanitarian strategy for 2013-2015 is an investment that will help build up Somalis' ability to cope with drought and other shocks, prevent future humanitarian catastrophes and move from crisis towards a sustainable situation. Humanitarian funding is captured through the online Financial Tracking Service. However, in instances in which partners delay reporting, a skewed picture can result.

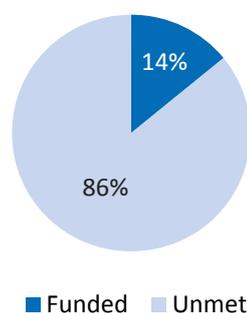
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New products on the OCHA Somalia website:
 Humanitarian Dashboard
<http://bit.ly/XnABjq>
 Humanitarian Snapshot
<http://bit.ly/XVO12M>
 Key Messages
<http://bit.ly/146Kc2p>
 Photo gallery:
<http://smu.gs/10d8dh6>
 Press release
<http://bit.ly/16yL12n>

Somalia Consolidated Appeal 2013

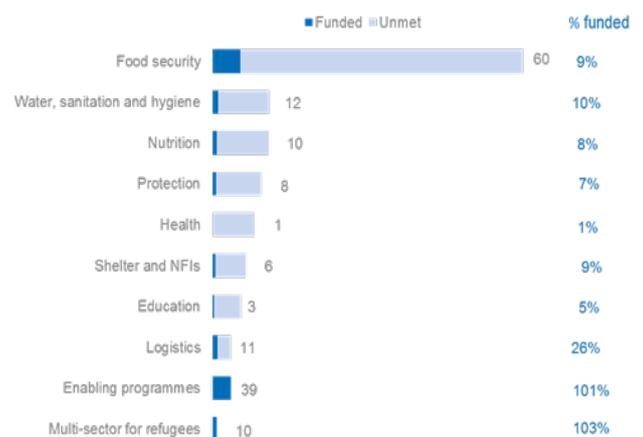
US\$ 1.3 billion

requested



Source: Financial Tracking Service

Funding by cluster (in million US\$)



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