About UNICEF Somalia

UNICEF has been working in Somalia since 1972 when its first office opened in Mogadishu. Today UNICEF has over 300 staff working in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Dollow, Garowe, Hargeisa and also Nairobi, Kenya. Together with 200 international and national NGOs and community-based organizations, UNICEF delivers services in Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education and Child Protection, and responds to emergencies and supports peace building and development.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Foreword</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Child Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Social Policy, Equity and Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Donor Funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the first time in decades, a child born in Somalia today has the chance to become part of a generation who may experience peace, and stability. With this would come a string of opportunities that would benefit Somali communities and families across the country: from education; to health care; better nutrition to clean water; empowerment to protection. In sum, a range of prospects and potential that Somali children have long been denied.

It is true, the challenges facing children in Somalia remain formidable. The country suffers a humanitarian crisis that is both complex and painfully enduring. Without ongoing timely action, the threat of famine can rapidly reappear, since coping mechanisms have been severely weakened over the past years. But Somalis have also shown an impressive ability to navigate such hardships, and to find resilience in the face of disease outbreaks and nutrition crises. It is amid such resolve, that agencies such as UNICEF , with partners, worked around the clock in 2018 to support Somali women and children.

By way of just a few examples:

* lifesaving health services reached more than one million people, including more than 320,000 young children;
* one million people were given temporary access to safe drinking water;
* nutrition services were provided to 200,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

These are enormous numbers of people reached, though it’s critical to remember that each one of them wears the face of a child, or a mother seeking to keep that child safe. Each one represents a child for whom hope now stands tall against hazard.

At the same time, in 2018 more than 100,000 children, nearly half of them girls, studied in a safe learning environment. Many did so for the first time in their lives. There are few more satisfying moments than seeing a girl go to school for the first time; or a mother’s face when she is able to vaccinate her child; or access clean water. These are the images UNICEF carries with it; images seen from the ‘frontline’, as UNICEF made an ambitious move to work ever closer with Somali women and children. While UNICEF has long maintained a large field presence in Somalia, 2018 was the year UNICEF Somalia Country Office re-opened in Mogadishu, after more than 25 years of operating remotely from Nairobi, Kenya. Such progress bodes immensely well for 2019 and our work for children and women.

Of course, amid the progress, amid a feeling that this may be the moment for expanded progress, UNICEF and partners continue to address grave issues. Girls and young women face threats - such as gender-based violence and female genital mutilation - which risk their own health, and undermine the next generation. Boys remain threatened by recruitment by armed forces and groups. And 70 per cent of children are out of school. Again, “70 per cent” risks being yet another statistic. But say it slowly. Almost three in four children in Somalia are out of school, away from the safety school provides and the priceless opportunity it offers. All of which amplifies the criticality of continuing 2018’s progress in health, water, sanitation, protection, nutrition, and most certainly education.

The past year also saw a number of vital economic achievements, including the first development strategy for Somalia by the World Bank. Efforts in building resilience of the Somali communities against future shocks and crisis also received a substantial boost through a joint programme of WFP and UNICEF. Beyond their powerful monetary value, these are significant, for Somalia stands at a crossroads. This is the time to invest in longer-term sustainable development programming.

And so to the year ahead, UNICEF will strengthen our strong foothold across the country. We will work with every partner who has the same tenacity and belief in the people of Somalia, as we collectively strive to build the capacity of Somali families and communities to provide the services and access to opportunities that all children deserve.

We thank each and every donor, partner and supporter for their efforts in Somalia this past year, and look forward to working together – to working for the children and women of Somalia – in 2019.

Steven Lauwerier, UNICEF Somalia Representative
## HEALTH

### SITUATION:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 in 12 women die due to pregnancy related causes</td>
<td>1 in 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 in 42 children die between the ages of 5 and 14</td>
<td>1 in 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,700 cases of cholera</td>
<td>6,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,000 cases of measles in 2018</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
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### PROGRESS:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than one million people, including more than 320,000 children under 5, received health services</td>
<td>More than 1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 4.4 million children vaccinated against measles</td>
<td>More than 4.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 535,000 women received at least one antenatal visit</td>
<td>More than 535,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost a quarter of a million (234,742) patients screened for malaria</td>
<td>Almost a quarter of a million</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Measles vaccination campaign reaches children affected by drought

One by one, four sisters, all under the age of eight, bravely marched up to the nurse’s desk at the Bay Regional Hospital in Baidoa. As each was given a jab in the arm to protect them against measles - the four girls - Naima, 7; Muna, 6; Sumaya, 3; and Rahma, 2 - kept their fear in check. Drops of vitamin A then followed, squeezed into their mouths to help boost their immunity. Nearby, their mother, Fatima Adan, stood and received each one of them with a gentle, reassuring hug.

All parents want to protect their children. In Somalia the perils are life-threatening. And thus, it was with immense satisfaction that Fatima left the hospital with her newly safeguarded daughters.

The girls were among 2.7 million children aged 6 months to 10 years who were vaccinated against measles from March 2018 in the central and southern regions of Somalia. The criticality of these vaccination campaigns was amplified by the drought affecting parts of the country. More than two years of severe drought has led to widespread child malnutrition, and a lack of access to clean water and sanitation, creating ideal conditions for infectious disease outbreaks.

Similar campaigns were also conducted in the northern parts of the country, bringing the total number of children who were vaccinated against measles to a staggering 4.4 million in 2018.

Each one of these millions has their own story. On the outskirts of Baidoa, eight-month-old Zakaria Ibrahim was brought by his mother, Hamida, to a mobile vaccination post set up on the edge of their camp. Zakaria, his parents and five siblings had been living in the camp for the displaced for the past nine months. “We left our home because of hunger and conflict. All of our crops failed and our animals died,” said Hamida. “From time to time, we got some help from kind neighbours.”

And consistently, from UNICEF and partners.

Achievements in 2018

- UNICEF vaccination interventions reached **470,000 children under 1 year of age** with one-dose pentavalent vaccines, protecting them from common childhood diseases, including influenza, meningitis, pneumonia, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis B and diphtheria.
- As part of the emergency efforts in response to a countrywide measles outbreak, UNICEF and partners supported a measles campaign that vaccinated **4.4 million children** aged 6 months to 10 years.
- **10 rounds** of nationwide polio vaccinations were carried out.
- More than **4,000** cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera were treated in UNICEF-supported health facilities.
- As a Global Fund Principal Recipient for malaria and HIV in Somalia, **234,000 patients** were screened for malaria.
- **132,000** long-lasting insecticide-treated nets were distributed to pregnant women.

- **88 per cent** of all public health facilities now regularly report into a new web-based health management information system.
- Through the Global Fund, UNICEF supported the revitalization of the Female Health Workers programme, with refresher training and outreach support to **200 workers** and **10 supervisors** in 2018.
- UNICEF and partners in 2018 trained:
  - **760** community health workers on Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM);
  - **2,897** health workers and community mobilisers in communication for development.
## NUTRITION

### SITUATION:

- **1.2 million** children malnourished in 2018
- **232,000** of them suffering from severe acute malnutrition

### PROGRESS:

- **1.2 million** children received one dose of Vitamin A
- **200,000** children received lifesaving treatment for severe acute malnutrition
- **95.7%** recovery rate
- More than **385,000** pregnant women received iron folate for anaemia prevention
There is often a saying in emergency contexts, that those
who receive life-saving treatment are ‘one of the lucky ones’.
However, in 2018, as UNICEF and partners far exceeded
their targets of reaching children suffering severe acute
malnutrition, the ‘lucky ones’ were in the hundreds of
thousands.

One such boy is two-year-old Zakariya Abdullahi, who was
among the 200,000 children who received treatment for
severe acute malnutrition from UNICEF and partners in 2018.
For days, baby Zakariya had high fever and had been losing
weight rapidly. His family, living in a camp for displaced
persons (IDPs) on the outskirts of Mogadishu, struggled
to make ends meet. The only thing they had to eat was a
bit of milk and porridge every day. In short, all the signs of
a pointless, avoidable death. “I lost hope when I saw his
condition deteriorating,” recalled his mother, Fatuma. “I
thought he would never get better.”

Fatuma is close to the mark. Malnourished and under-
vaccinated children are susceptible to contracting infectious
diseases. These children are nine times more likely to die of
killer diseases such as measles and acute watery diarrhoea /
cholera, than healthy children.

After four consecutive poor rainy seasons that brought
Somalia once again to the brink of famine, the country
then saw near-record rainfall, and with it, flooding and
displacement affecting hundreds of thousands. The rains
signaled the end of the drought in some areas of the
country, but they also sharpened the risks faced by acutely
malnourished children, and particularly those who have been
displaced.

Thus, when Fatuma heard about the clinic supported
by UNICEF in her camp – a clinic that offers free health
and nutrition treatment for children and women – she
immediately took Zakariya there. After being examined by
the doctors, the brave but dangerously unwell little boy
was immediately admitted into the outpatient therapeutic
feeding programme for children suffering from severe acute
malnutrition.

After spending two months in the treatment programme,
which included feeding with high-energy ready-to-use
therapeutic food (RUTF) and nutrition education for mothers,
Zakariya recovered.

In 2018, UNICEF and partners reached 94 per cent of the
national SAM burden, and exceeded the UNICEF annual
target (173,000 children under-5) by 28 per cent. These are
no small feats. Indeed, they are lifesaving efforts for tiny feet.
And they came about due to coordinated, strategic, tireless
efforts, and generous donor support.

By way of example: an estimated 3,000 metric tons of
lifesaving supplies, including a staggering 231,415 cartons of
RUTF, were procured to ensure the timely replenishment of
supplies in nutrition sites; more than 900 community health
workers engaged in the delivery of community nutrition
prevention and promotion services; more than 385,000
pregnant women received iron folate for the prevention of
anaemia; and 87,000 children between 6-23 months were
provided with micronutrient powder boosted complementary
feeding. Their sum total: tens of thousands of lives saved.

“I never thought he would be able to recover from such a
bad state,” said Zakariya’s mother, Fatuma. “They treated
his fever at the beginning. They then gave him RUTF and that
really saved him!”
Achievements in 2018

- Despite overall improvements in the food security situation, humanitarian needs remained acute in 2018 and global acute malnutrition persisted above the 15 per cent WHO “critical” threshold, particularly in IDP communities.
- UNICEF and partners delivered lifesaving care and treatment to more than 200,000 children (45 per cent boys and 55 per cent girls) suffering from severe acute malnutrition.
- UNICEF procured and delivered over 3,000 metric tons of supplies, including more than 230,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food.
- 1.6 million children received one dose of Vitamin A.
- UNICEF, working in alignment with partner WFP, started a pilot programme to treat moderately acute malnourished children in very hard to reach sites where UNICEF has services though WFP did not. In doing so the most vulnerable children were reached before they became severely ill.
- The nutrition programme met and exceeded the global humanitarian standards with 95.7 per cent of children admitted cured, and only 0.4 per cent deaths, with 2.8 per cent default rates.

- More than 900 community health workers were engaged in delivery of nutrition prevention and promotion services.
- 385,315 pregnant women received iron folate for the prevention of anaemia, and 87,000 children received micronutrient supplements.
- UNICEF led the revision of the guidelines for Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition, and a pool of 35 master trainers from ministries of health and academia were trained.
- UNICEF provided technical and financial support to Ministries of Health to develop a costed capacity development strategy.
- Striving to promote gender equality and reduce gender related disparities in service provision, 40 per cent of all community health workers trained in infant and young child feeding in emergencies were male.
### EDUCATION

#### SITUATION:

- **3 million** children out of **4.9 million**, are out of school
- Only **44%** of the children enrolled in schools are girls
- Less than **1 in 5** children in rural households are in school
- **64** schools were attacked and **21** forced to close in 2018

#### PROGRESS:

- More than **100,000** children, **45 per cent** of whom are girls, were reached with education in emergencies interventions
- Nearly **200,000** children had access to formal or non-formal early learning
- **19,615** out-of-school pastoralist children were enrolled in alternative basic education centres
- **239** classrooms constructed
- More than **900** Community Education Committee (CEC) members supported to increase school enrolment and improve education quality
Sihaam’s story – overcoming loss through education

Sihaam Said Dahir, 9, is a student at a UNICEF-supported school for children from the internally displaced persons camps in Afgooye corridor, Lower Shabelle Region.

“...No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Education is the great engine of personal development.” – Nelson Mandela

What then to say in the face of 70 per cent of children in Somalia being out of school? Or how in 2018 climatic shocks and conflict continued to threaten more than three million out-of-school children? Or that Somalia has one of the world’s lowest gross enrolment rates for primary school-aged children?

How about a month on month enrolment almost doubling (from 50,700 to 99,000) in 2018; and 955 primary school teachers from hundreds of schools being provided monthly incentives and training on psycho-social support and care, pedagogical support and lifesaving skills; and 100,000 children, nearly half of them girls, studying in a safe learning environment, for the first time.

To put a face to a name, meet nine-year-old Sihaam Said Dahir. One of five children in her family, Sihaam lost her father to fighting in southern Somalia. Sihaam’s mother was compelled to move with the children to the Mogadishu area, where she hoped they might find a refuge in one of the many camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). But refuge is one thing, an education – a chance – is something quite different.

Upon arrival Sihaam was still grief-stricken by the loss of her father. She was quiet and shy. She was, most likely, still in shock. Sihaam spent all day helping her mother with household chores, but also noticed that many children in her neighbourhood were going to UNICEF-supported schools.

“One morning, I asked Mum if she could allow me to go to school like other children,” recalls Sihaam. “Because I also wanted to learn. Mum smiled back to me and gave me the permission to enroll.” Sihaam was thrilled, because up until then, she had never been inside a classroom.

And just as Mr Mandela pronounced, it is the classroom that has transformed Sihaam. Today, sitting comfortably among her fellow classmates, she is happy, content and eager to participate, whether it is raising her hand to answer a question or offering to join the school club to help bring hygiene messages to families in her community.

“Suddenly, I felt the sadness hovering over me since my father’s death was being lifted off,” she says, in a school like so many others UNICEF supports for IDP children, across Somalia. All these schools are equipped with safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and provided with teaching, learning and recreational materials.

To end where we began: paraphrasing Mr Mandela: Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine, the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor … One can’t help but think Sihaam would passionately agree.

Achievements in 2018

- More than 100,000 children (45 per cent girls) received a combination of Education in Emergencies interventions, including access to safe learning environments that are equipped with safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.
- In Somaliland, 26,000 children affected by Cyclone Sagar were provided with access to safe and protected learning environments in 136 schools.
- Close to 20,000 out-of-school pastoralist children accessed flexible alternative pathways to basic education though 96 established Alternative Basic Education centres.
- More than 900 Community Education Committee members benefited from support to advocate for the importance of education in the community.
- In Puntland, more than 3,200 school children (40 per cent girls) benefitted from the construction and rehabilitation of 33 permanent school classrooms with 47 WASH facilities.
- With UNICEF support a new primary grade 1-4 curriculum, with textbooks, was launched.
CHILD PROTECTION

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<th>SITUATION:</th>
<th>PROGRESS:</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>98%</em> of Somali women aged between 15 and 49 have undergone FGM</td>
<td>Almost <em>50,000</em> children accessed protection services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>2,300</em> children (2,228 boys and 72 girls) were recruited by armed groups and forces in 2018</td>
<td>More than <em>9,100</em> survivors of GBV had access to legal, medical, psychosocial support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>4,880</em> children (4,100 boys and 780 girls) were affected by grave violations as reported in the draft SG Annual report</td>
<td><em>1,446</em> children affected by armed conflict received reintegration support</td>
</tr>
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Journey to the house of peace

A survivor of rape, Amina found refuge and support at the Elman Peace Centre. She is also learning vocational skills and hoping to support herself and her daughter once she graduates.

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No one doubts the potential of an educated, healthy Somali child population to transform the country. And yet, if abused and neglected; if harmed and recruited, then it is so much more than the individual child who is affected. It is their country, its hopes, its security and prosperity.

All of which can make one shudder at the stories that abound. Stories of violence, recruitment, FGM, abuse. Stories of violations of children. But UNICEF is working to change the narrative.

Here is but one such story.

Amina, a child, was raped by two men. She became pregnant. The “shame” (Amina’s words) was too great. She fled to Mogadishu. As she carried a new life, she felt her life was just beginning. She thought about finding a place to give birth and then abandoning the baby.

But in an IDP camp in Mogadishu she met girls who were going to a centre in town where they were taught vocational skills. “I told them my story and they suggested that I should go with them, so I did.”

The centre Amina visited was supported by UNICEF and implemented by a local NGO partner. It offers a range of services for children and women affected by violence, including gender-based violence. When Amina told the staff her story, she and her baby were brought to a safe house to stay.

“They took me in, they counselled me, helped me to start a new life. I began to feel hopeful and decided to keep the baby.”

Her baby, now 9 months old, has become the source of hope for Amina. She took vocational training courses at the centre, hoping that the skills she is learning will lead to a better life for her and her baby.

“I am learning a lot. I want to open a beauty salon one day. I will use that money to raise my daughter,” says Amina, with a smile.

Just as education, empowerment, health, safe water and vocational training are key elements for children such as Amina to contribute, child protection remains a critical ingredient for rebuilding Somalia.

With this firmly in mind, in 2018, UNICEF provided more than 9,000 survivors of gender-based violence with legal, medical, psychosocial services to help them recover and move on with their lives. UNICEF will continue to do so, while relentlessly seeking to stop the abuse from happening in the first place.

* To protect her identity, her name was changed for this article.

Achievements in 2018

- Child recruitment remained a major concern as the Country Taskforce on the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism reported that 2,300 children (2,228 boys and 72 girls) were recruited in 2018, against 2,127 children (2,087 boys & 40 girls) in 2017. Grave violations against children increased: a total of 4,798 incidents were reported, against 1,823 incidents in 2017 and 1,434 in 2016.

- Almost 50,000 children (26,540 girls and more than 23,000 boys) accessed protection services, including more than 10,000 who were unaccompanied, had been separated from their families or displaced.

- 9,138 survivors of gender-based violence (3,099 girls, 4,458 women and 1,581 boys) received legal, medical, psychosocial support and material assistance.

- 1,466 children affected by armed conflict (1,127 boys and 339 girls) had psychosocial support, vocational training or formal education, as well as family reunification.

- In 2018, Somalia signed the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

- In May 2018, the cabinet of ministers adopted the Sexual Offences Bill to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence.

- Five new Somali universities opened departments of social work.

- Local advocates for child protection engaged 23,000 men and almost 22,000 women on how to address negative social norms sustaining female genital mutilation/cutting, early marriage and other harmful traditional practices.

- About 235,000 children were added to the civil registration system through routine birth registration and immunization campaigns.

- In August 2018, the President of Puntland pardoned 34 boys who had been arrested, prosecuted and sentenced for their association with Al-Shabaab. The pardons are the result of sustained advocacy by UNICEF, the UN and the international community. The children were successfully reunited with their parents.
### WATER, SANITATION and HYGIENE (WASH)

<table>
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<th>SITUATION:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>![Water Icon] 40% of the population has</td>
<td>More than one million people affected by emergencies had access to safe</td>
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<tr>
<td>access to safe water sources</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Sanitation Icon] 16% of the population has</td>
<td>More than 800,000 people acquired permanent access to safe water</td>
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<tr>
<td>improved sanitation facilities within 10 metres</td>
<td>More than 92,000 people obtained access to improved sanitation through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of their dwelling</td>
<td>community lead sanitation programmes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>![Clock Icon] 50% of households take more</td>
<td>About 150,000 people reached with access to emergency sanitation facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>than 30 minutes to collect water</td>
<td>More than 800,000 people were reached with WASH messages</td>
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Journey to the house of peace

When Halimo’s house in Belet Weyne, Hiraan region, was destroyed by flooding, she, her husband and their four children grabbed whatever belongings they could and moved into a makeshift camp on higher ground. Such stories are not uncommon around the world, but it’s only when meeting someone such as Halimo that the gravity of it rings home. Losing your home. Suddenly being unable to be sure you can care for your children. The horror hit Halimo in a second.

The camp soon swelled with hundreds of families all displaced by the disaster. With a desperate shortage of clean water and sanitation facilities, Halima feared that her children might contract diarrhea, or even cholera.

“There weren’t enough latrines,” recalled Halimo. “The water we had was not clean.”

Simple words. Deathly real. Such rains spread diseases that can be fatal for malnourished children with exhausted, fragile immune systems.

Halimo’s hometown was among the worst-hit after the Shabelle, the longest river in Somalia, burst its banks following weeks of heavy rain in April and May last year. Having survived the severe drought in 2017, Halimo and her family found themselves once again in the middle of a crisis. They were not alone.

The floods affected an estimated 830,000 people, of whom 290,000 were displaced. They also destroyed farmland, infrastructure and roads, and disrupted and destroyed livelihoods. Then came disease outbreaks, especially in the worst-hit areas along the Juba and Shabelle rivers.

Halimo’s fears came to reality when her four-year-old son fell sick with acute watery diarrhoea (AWD). Her husband was away on work; the road to the hospital was cut off by floods. All she could do was to feed her son a homemade oral rehydration solution, though that was not working. Then one day she heard on the radio a programme on how to prepare oral rehydration salt (ORS) at home.

She immediately applied what she just learned and made ORS for her child.

The radio message, produced by a UNICEF partner, was among many lifesaving interventions UNICEF provided to children and families affected by the 2018 floods. Through a network of partners on the ground, UNICEF reached hundreds of thousands of people in flood-affected areas with emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, which included safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene kits consisting of water treatment tablets, jerrycans and soap. Hygiene, health and nutrition messages were produced and disseminated to keep children safe from malnutrition and water-borne diseases.

Just like so many Somalis, Halimo had shown bravery and resilience in the face of catastrophe. When she finally brought the boy to the doctors, she was told that what she did had saved his life.

It is a scene mirrored across the country. Somalis doing incredible deeds against the odds. And with UNICEF always there to support.

Achievements in 2018

- UNICEF supported more than one million people affected by emergencies to have safe water, through trucking and rehabilitation of water sources and systems.
- The Baidoa Town 25-year Master Plan to enhance access to WASH services for both host communities and vulnerable IDP populations.
- New WASH policy and strategic plan final draft developed
- Some 150,000 people, including IDPs and vulnerable host communities, were reached with improved sanitation, and more than half a million through hygiene promotion activities.
- A total 53 communities out of the 131 triggered were certified as open-defecation free in 2018. 800,000 people were reached with key WASH messages targeting safe water, latrine use and handwashing.
- UNICEF initiated the inclusion of Menstrual Hygiene Management kits as part of the standard WASH hygiene kit, with more than 12,000 kits distributed.
- Institutional Sanitation and hygiene promotion was implemented in 38 schools and 39 health facilities through the construction of gender-sensitive sanitation facilities.
Local power lifts education in Somaliland

Coming from a poor, rural family in Somaliland, Annisa Ahmed Mohamed Huseen is mature, confident and full of hopes and dreams for the future.

“I want to be a doctor. I want to have a good future for myself and my family,” says the eighth-grader. “I like coming to school because I am getting a quality education and the teachers are good. Only through education, I can realize my dream.”

What Annisa hasn’t yet realised, is that there are many people working hard to ensure that her big dreams, and that of all children in Somaliland and beyond, will one day be a reality.

Under the United Nations’ Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLG), local governments in Somaliland are supported and empowered to provide better services for their communities. For example, in Annisa’s home of Berbera, some 40 schools are being given increased support from their local governments. This includes salaries for 112 guards and cleaners and incentives for hundreds of teachers in rural areas. Annisa’s school now has six cleaners and two watchmen.

“We take pride in keeping our school clean,” says head teacher of Annisa’s school, Foozi Bashe Abdilahi. “We have created a child-friendly space in our school that is conducive to learning.”

Berbera’s local government is also overseeing the rehabilitation and extension of classrooms, ensuring water points and toilets are functioning through routine school maintenance. Moreover, since 2014, the city’s education budget has quadrupled, and enrolments increased by 30 per cent.
Local power lifts education in Somaliland

“Most of the classrooms used to be full of boys,” says Jimcale Abdilahi Jama, Berbera District Council’s Director of Social Affairs. “Girls were left at home to do the housework and help their mothers. We have been carrying out community awareness-raising, and as a result, more girls are enrolling in schools. We have also reached out to children from very poor families and orphans to ensure they also have a chance to go to school.”

Under the JPLG, functions, roles and responsibilities of the various tiers of government have been aligned with the Somaliland decentralization policy, making it easy for the authorities to work together to provide services – such as education – to their communities.

Which is good news for Annisa and her dreams.

JPLG is comprised of five UN agencies - ILO, UNCDF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT and UNICEF. Together with partners, the Government of Somaliland and donors, it works to strengthen the role and capacity of local governments to deliver services to citizens in Somaliland.

Achievements in 2018

- As part of the JPLG, and working together with UN-Habitat, UNCDF, UNDP and ILO, UNICEF supported village-level community consultations, including outreach to women and youth groups with, in some cases, up to 60 per cent female participation.
- In four districts of Somaliland, district authorities fulfilled their devolved education and health functions benefiting 49,000 pupils from 247 primary schools and users of 56 health facilities.
- A key outcome was the commitment of the Somaliland Ministries of Education and Health to increase their contributions to decentralized service delivery by more than 400 per cent from the previous year.
- With the Ministry of Interior of Puntland, a stakeholder consultation workshop brought together 63 representatives from district, state and civic society organizations to develop a Puntland civic education strategy.
- Leveraging close collaboration with WFP, UNICEF is strategically positioning itself within a growing network of stakeholders to advance a child-friendly social protection agenda. Both UN agencies are supporting the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on the drafting of the National Social Protection policy.
- UNICEF delivered unconditional cash transfers to almost 19,000 families as part of the humanitarian response, and it is currently working on a transition from humanitarian cash transfer to social safety nets.
DONOR SUPPORT

Bilateral

Belgium | Canada | China | Denmark | EU/ECHO | Finland | Germany | Italy |
Japan | Kuwait | Netherlands | Norway | Sweden | Switzerland | UK | USA

UN and Intergovernmental

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
European Union
European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)
Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF)
Somalia Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF)
The GAVI Fund
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)
Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

Private Donors and Foundations

Educate a Child
Nutrition International

UNICEF National Committees

Australia
Belgium
Denmark
Germany
Japan
Slovenia
Sweden
UK
USA
Consolidated Funds from UNICEF National Committees