

Humanitarian Bulletin

SOMALIA

1 August – 5 September 2018

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4.6M Somalis need assistance. Despite improvements, the situation remains severe. (PHOTO/UN/Eskinder Debebe).

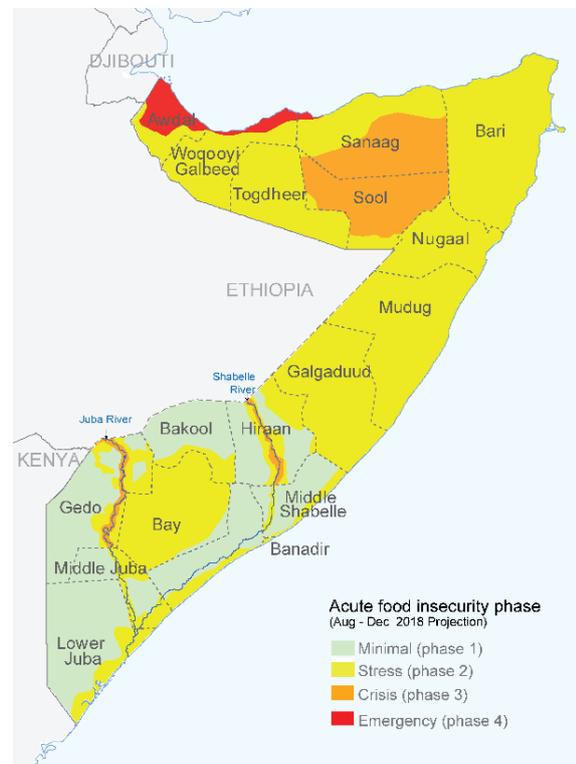
HIGHLIGHTS

- Food security improving, but nutrition levels remain critical.
- Rise in forced evictions raises concern
- Children < 5 targeted in nationwide polio campaign
- Somalia marks World Humanitarian Day
- SHF releases \$7.5million for the north

Food security improving, nutrition situation remains worrying

The results of the post-*Gu* food security and nutrition assessment by FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) confirmed that the overall food security situation in Somalia has improved. This is as a result of above-average performance of the April to June *Gu* rains and sustained humanitarian response. The results indicate that the cereal harvest is projected to be the best since 2010. For pastoralists, there has been a marked improvement in pasture, water availability and increasing herd size. The outlook for the coming *Deyr* rains was also positive with average to above average rains forecast.

However, the total number of people in need still exceeds levels prior to the onset of the drought crisis in 2016. This is driven by the increase in internal displacement that occurred during the drought as people in inaccessible, rural areas sought assistance in populated areas humanitarians could reach. The total number of internally displaced Somalis is estimated to be 2.6 million.



FIGURES

# of people in need	4.6m
# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis (IPC Phases 3 & 4)	1.5m
# of people Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	0.2m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.2m
# of people displaced internally by drought since November 2016	1.6m
# of people in protracted internal displacement	1.1m

FUNDING

\$1.5 BILLION

requested in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$575 MILLION

Total humanitarian funding received towards the 2018 HRP

Source : fts.unocha.org, 30 Aug 2018

An estimated 4.6 million people, including 2.5 million children, continue to require humanitarian assistance. Of these, 1.5 million are in crisis or emergency. Communities that lost most of their livestock during the 2016-2017 drought and those affected by conflict, as well as this year's devastating floods and cyclone, will take longer to recover. The internally displaced are the most vulnerable and in dire need of immediate and long-term assistance. Humanitarian partners have continued to provide life-saving support and alongside livelihoods interventions to people in need. Food security partners reached 1.9 million people per month between February and July.

Meanwhile, the results of 30 separate nutrition surveys between June and July have indicated that the overall nutrition situation has marginally improved due to a combination of improved food security, reduced disease outbreaks and sustained humanitarian interventions. According to FAO-FSNAU, an estimated 294,000 children are acutely

malnourished, of which nearly 55,000 are severely malnourished. The surveys show that the overall level of acute malnutrition is *serious* (median GAM of 14 per cent), which is an improvement from *critical* compared to the 2017 post-*Gu* assessment (median GAM of 17.4 per cent). Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence is *critical* (more than 4 per cent) only among Mogadishu IDPs and in Guban pastoral livelihood area in western Somaliland. Of major concern is the increasing crude death rate (CDR) of over one per cent in three out of 33 population groups surveyed, as well as the under-five mortality rate (U5MR). The situation is predicted to worsen between August and October due to the limited availability of public health and nutrition services.

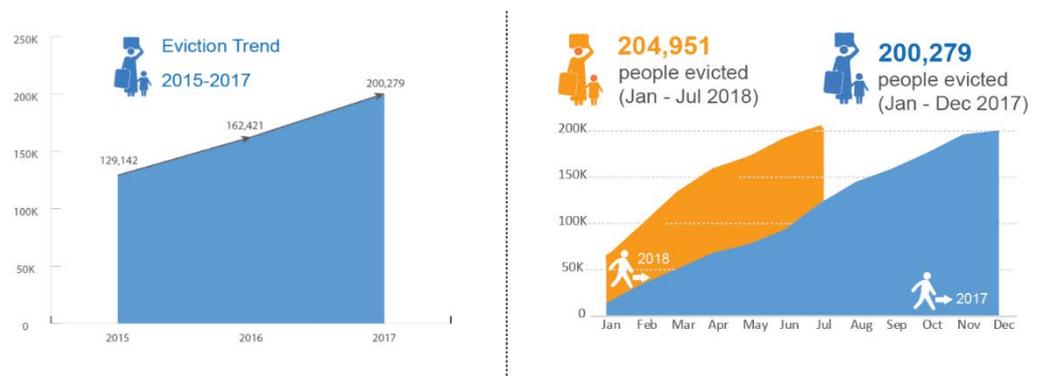
The *Gu* seasonal nutrition assessment among IDPs shows critical prevalence of GAM (more than 15 per cent) in seven out of 15 locations surveyed, as well as among rural livelihoods population groups. The seven locations include Bossaso, Gaalkacyo, Garowe and Qardho settlements in Puntland, Baidoa settlements in South West State, Doolow settlements in Jubaland and settlements in Mogadishu (Banadir region). The combination of critical GAM rates accompanied by a crude death rate of over one per cent indicate a particularly serious emergency among the IDPs in the nation's capital.

Upsurge in forced evictions raise concern

The risk of eviction continues to rise for IDPs. Statistics by the Housing Land and Property (HLP) sub-cluster of the protection cluster show that over 204,000 people have been evicted in 2018, which equates to the number of people evicted in all of 2017. Due to the high population density of IDP settlements in towns, forced evictions are predominantly an urban phenomenon. Evictions are often carried out with little or no notice and at times with the complicity of uniformed, armed security personnel enlisted by land owners.

On average, more than 155,000 people have been evicted across Somalia every year since 2015; and over 11,000 IDPs are, on average, evicted every month. Many have been subject to multiple evictions. Up to 2015, large-scale evictions mostly affected IDPs inhabiting public land and buildings, but in the past three years forced evictions have increasingly targeted IDPs hosted on private land. The number has continued to increase across 2017 and in 2018 with the increase in overall displacements caused by drought.

At the Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels, the Government of Somalia pledged to adopt national eviction guidelines by the end of 2018.



Forced evictions expose displaced populations to a series of protection concerns, including the loss of shelter and access to essential services, and violence as a result of excessive force. Four people, including two children, were reportedly killed during evictions in Mogadishu between 16 and 18 July 2018. Evictions also ruin significant investments made by humanitarian partners in the affected communities. The highly publicized eviction of at least 4,220 households in Mogadishu in December 2017, for instance, destroyed 25 out of 38 IDP settlements in the area, as well as infrastructure such as schools, WASH facilities and other community facilities.

Authorities have taken several measures to prevent evictions. At the Somalia Partnership Forum in Brussels (July 2018), the Federal Government pledged to adopt national eviction guidelines by the end of 2018. The Banadir Regional Administration (BRA) conducted an investigation, the first of its kind, into the mass forced eviction in December 2017 that sought to hold government officials accountable. The subsequent report advanced important recommendations, such as the establishment of an eviction monitoring

HLP sub-cluster partners have focused their action on response (multi-sectoral, involving emergency shelter and non-food items, the disbursement of cash, and the re-establishment of basic WASH facilities).

committee and the suspension of all forced evictions while the BRA developed appropriate legal tools and processes to manage the conversion of land from hosting IDPs to other uses. The municipality, however, lacks capacity to implement effectively and evictions have continued. In Baidoa and Gaalkacyo, municipal authorities have made efforts to allocate land for the relocation of IDPs at risk of eviction.

Addressing the causes and consequences of evictions requires humanitarian and development interventions. Partners of the HLP sub-cluster have focused their action on multi-sectoral response including emergency shelter and non-food items, the disbursement of cash, and the rapid establishment of basic WASH facilities in new areas of settlement. Simultaneously, partners have focused on preventive measures such as training to authorities and communities, the monitoring of evictions, advocacy for alternative land and the facilitation of tenure agreements between land owners and IDPs and institutional advocacy through an annual forum conducted once a year organized by the HLP working group. Resources are chronically needed for the monitoring of evictions and the provision of paralegal support for victims. HLP partners are currently conducting detailed mapping of the eviction risks among IDP communities, in consultation with the CCCM Cluster.

Children under five targeted in nationwide polio vaccination campaign

Humanitarian partners and health authorities have stepped up efforts to vaccinate every child under the age of five in Somalia against polio as part of attempts to stem the spread of the circulating Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus (cVDPV) associated with populations with low immunity levels and poor hygiene. Four cases of cVDPV have been reported this year. An unknown number of Somali children remain unvaccinated due to access challenges, creating a conducive environment in which VDPVs can thrive.

The recent detection of the cVDPV2 strain underlines the need to maintain high levels of routine polio vaccination coverage to minimize the risk of circulation. The Vaccine Derived Poliovirus (or VDPV) is a mutation of the virus, and occurs only very rarely. VDPVs can circulate and paralyze children, although they are often not as virulent as the wild poliovirus strain.

Since August 2014, there have been no reported cases of the wild poliovirus in Somalia. The Banadir region had the highest number of cases (72 out of 199) during the wild poliovirus outbreak in the Horn of Africa in 2013-2014. Health partners and authorities have, in 2018, conducted six mass vaccination campaigns after the reports of cVDPV emerged. In August, more than 660,000 children were vaccinated (out of 700,000 targeted) in a campaign conducted in 37 of Somalia's 112 districts. The campaign was concurrently conducted along the border districts in Kenya to prevent cross-border transmission. Additional campaigns are planned for September and October. Health partners continue to support local public health authorities in conducting field investigations and risk assessments to clearly assess the endemic potential of the identified cVDPV2.

Despite these efforts, insecurity, frequent population movements, and difficult-to-access areas pose challenges for vaccination teams. Health partners are now using innovative approaches to ensure comprehensive coverage, including the use of social workers for awareness creation. During the campaigns, trained independent monitors are deployed to collect, compile and analyze data and submit their findings electronically, on a daily basis, to ensure that no child is missed.

Humanitarians support displaced communities

Protection risks are on the rise across the country, due to protracted conflicts, drought, flooding and IDP evictions. These factors have led to widespread population displacements, resulting in psychosocial distress, widespread sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment of children by armed groups and family separations.

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Although psychosocial needs remain high, the available services are not adequate to address the diverse needs of children and their caregivers.



Children participate in recreational activities at UNICEF - SWDC supported Child friendly space in Mogadishu

Psychosocial distress, including the loss of a sense of safety, security and dignity, are reported amongst those exposed to high levels of stress and traumatic experience. Those put in extreme situations of vulnerability have experienced the loss of or separation from a family member, violence, sexual abuse, often involving armed forces or groups, destitution and displacement. Although psychosocial needs remain high, the available services are wholly inadequate to address the diverse needs of children and their caregivers.

Child protection partners have made efforts to provide community-based support, specialized and non-specialized services based on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) intervention pyramid. The support aims to facilitate the engagement of children, caregivers and families by restoring, strengthening and mobilizing family and community systems to reduce and prevent harm. It is meant to strengthen resilience and to enable communities to recover from the impact of conflict, drought and floods, as well as to improve the core conditions that enable children and their families to survive and thrive. This also enables a holistic approach to strengthening the innate capacity of children, caregivers and communities to care for their wellbeing and protect themselves. Between January and June, 25,196 children (11,213 girls and 13,983 boys) and 488 caregivers benefited from psychosocial support through community and school-based activities for children and their families, child-friendly spaces, dedicated children's clubs, parents' support sessions and psychological first aid and community exercises.

Child-Friendly Space in Shabelle

The Shabelle IDP settlement on the outskirts of Garowe in Puntland is home to more than 16,000 conflict-displaced families. Most parents at the settlement are casual laborers who are forced to leave their children unattended to as they seek work in town. Following a fire that left three unattended children dead and three others injured last year, the Tadamun Social Society (TASS), a local NGO, opened a children's centre in the settlement. Child-friendly spaces provide a protected environment in which children can play, socialize, learn and express themselves as they rebuild their fragile lives. At the settlement, three TASS staff take care of the children during their parents' absence. Apart from providing safety, the space helps to minimize the possible abduction of children by armed groups or child traffickers. Some children who have been separated from their parents are also provided with a safe haven until they are reunited with their families.



IDP children at Shabelle child friendly space

Child-friendly spaces provide a protected environment where children can play, socialize, learn and express themselves as they rebuild their fragile lives.

Feature: From a nomad to UN humanitarian officer

Mohamud Mohamed Burale has seen the course of his life change dramatically: having risen steadily from a humble beginning to become a humanitarian affairs officer working for the United Nations, he is now in charge of Gedo region in Jubaland state for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Burale attributes his drive to the level of suffering he witnessed early on in life; this has shaped him into the humanitarian he is today, and he is determined to help restore their dignity.



Burale grew up as a public-spirited child. Warmth and wit pepper his speech, especially when estimating his actual age. Neither his parents nor other relatives recall the date when he was born, but there is a consensus that it was sometime in 1985. He is at peace with this and he puts his age at 33. As to where he was born, he says: "I was told that it was somewhere in the rural area between Doolow, Garbahaarey and Luuq."

He grew up in a predominantly pastoralist community with no formal education. All children attended madrasa; Burale joined at the age of four. When he turned seven, he joined his peers in tending to his family's camels. This was the beginning of his journey as a nomad. Burale and the other herders would spend days and months away from home, crossing villages and towns in search of water and pasture. He recalls spending many nights in strangers' homes. Pastoralists have an open-door policy and welcome anyone into their homes without question. Hosts would provide them with food and a place to sleep until the herders and their animals were ready to move. Burale's focus and self-discipline can be traced back to this; the nomadic lifestyle.

When he turned 14, Burale was confronted with a difficult choice: he could either continue in the nomadic practices of his family or break with tradition and pursue the uncharted path of formal education. He opted for the latter. "The opportunity was a springboard to my new life," he says. In 1998, he moved in with his aunt in Luuq and was immediately enrolled in primary school. He opted for private classes to avoid studying with younger children. Three years later, with some basic education under his belt, he moved once again. This time he went to Mogadishu, where he enrolled in a secondary school in 2001. While in secondary school, he took an interest in media and later signed up for a journalism course.

It was during his time in Mogadishu that Burale began to work with local communities. He founded a youth organization, which advocated for peaceful co-existence among communities in Jubaland. In November 2011, he was recruited by OCHA as a humanitarian affairs officer, covering the Lower and Middle Juba, and Gedo regions.

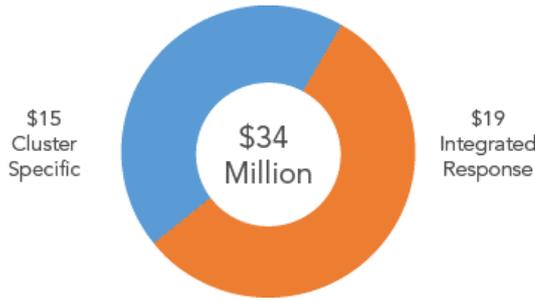
Growing up at the height of the conflict in Somalia, Burale describes a life punctuated with immense suffering, family separation and displacement. He recalls harrowing stories of people attempting to cross the border to Ethiopia and Kenya to escape conflict, atrocities at home and seeking assistance through aid. "Many people did not make it. Some were eaten alive by wild animals while fleeing. Families were torn apart, women were raped and a lot of people died of starvation. These people were our neighbors, friends and relatives. It was horrendous," he recalls. Burale attributes his professional drive to the level of suffering he witnessed early on in life; this has shaped him into the humanitarian he is today and he is determined to continue helping to restore the dignity of those who suffer the most.

SHF releases \$7.5million for northern Somalia

The integrated interventions have been strategically selected to improve food security, nutrition, health and WASH outcomes.

The Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has allocated an additional \$7.5 million from its Reserve for interventions in the areas facing the most worrying food insecurity situation in the north of Somalia. While most of the country experienced above average *Gu* rainfall, the regions of Bari, Nugaal, Sool and Sanaag received below-average rains and children in these regions are experiencing high rates of malnutrition. The new SHF grant prioritizes life-saving responses to communities affected by the cyclone Sagar and IDPs, and is also meant to rebuild livelihoods of communities that have lost up to 70 per cent of their livestock due to four consecutive seasons of below-normal rains. The interventions will be implemented by 13 SHF non-governmental partners, whose projects were selected through a competitive, inclusive and transparent process.

Since the beginning of the year, SHF has allocated \$34 million, of which \$19 million supports integrated responses and \$15 million has been channeled to urgent cluster specific activities.

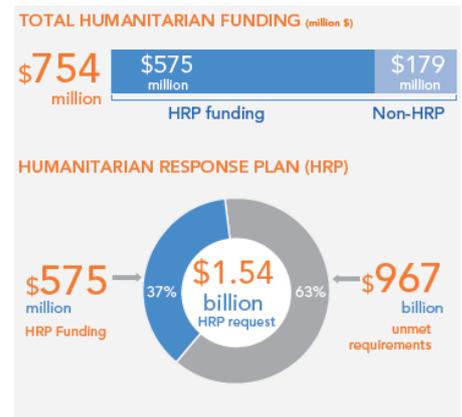


Some \$6.3 million of the \$7.5 million will support an integrated response, partly through mobile teams, while the remaining funds will be used to provide sustainable access to safe water for locations with chronic water shortages in Sool and Sanaag. This includes drilling and equipment of deep strategic boreholes.

The integrated interventions have been strategically selected to improve food security, nutrition, health and WASH outcomes. Education facilities will also be used as key entry points for service delivery to the most vulnerable. Livelihoods of pastoralists will be restored through restocking and provision of animal health services, while cash interventions will target women-headed households and families with children discharged from the therapeutic feeding centres. Protection risks will also be addressed through community psychosocial support, provision of emergency shelter/NFI kits and distribution of core relief items, including solar lamps. Since the beginning of the year, the Fund has allocated \$34 million, of which \$19 million has supported integrated responses, while \$15 million has been channeled for urgent cluster-specific activities.

More funding needed to boost response

The humanitarian operation in Somalia remains critically underfunded. Donors have contributed or pledged \$754 million this year, including \$575 million towards the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and about \$179 million for activities outside the appeal. While the generous donor support and engagement has enabled aid agencies to save lives, the funding shortfall is hampering the delivery of vital services and the restoration of Education, Health, Nutrition and WASH facilities destroyed by floods and cyclone Sagar. Additional funding and commitments from donors will ensure that humanitarian partners are able to sustain response in the coming months.



Minister for Humanitarian Affairs vowed to take action to reduce the threats facing aid workers by putting in place strong policies that protect the well-being of civilians, aid and health workers.

Somalia marks World Humanitarian Day



UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, at WHD event in Baidoa

On 19 August, Somalia joined the rest of the world in marking the World Humanitarian Day and to highlight the contributions of humanitarians and to call for meaningful action to ensure their safety as they work to save lives. Events organized in Baidoa, Belet Weyne, Kismayo, Hargeisa and Garowe, were attended by government, UN and NGOs staff. In Mogadishu, Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Hamza Said Hamza, vowed to take action to reduce the threats facing aid workers by putting in place strong policies that protect the well-being of civilians, aid and health workers. In Baidoa, South West State, UN Women Executive Director, Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka called for increased protection of women and children who are among the most vulnerable in humanitarian emergencies.

For further information, please contact:

Tapiwa Gomo, Head of Communication, gomo@un.org, Tel. +252 616 548 007. Antonette Miday, Public Information Officer, miday@un.org, Tel. +254-731 043 156. Mursal Ali Ahmed | Public Information Analyst, mursalali@un.org, Tel: +252619150457/ 252615679998. Ause Abdelhaq | Communication Assistant, ause@un.org, Tel: 254 715743354. OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/somalia | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int