The humanitarian crisis in Somalia continues to be driven by conflict, recurrent climatic shocks, and political and socioeconomic challenges. Access to basic services remains restricted and protection risks high. An estimated 2.6 million people are displaced. One third of Somalis (4.2 million) will require humanitarian assistance and protection in 2019. Some 1.5 million people are acutely food insecure in Emergency (IPC4) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3); and some 2 million in Stress (IPC 2). Malnutrition rates remain among the worst in the world with close to 1 million children expected to be acutely malnourished in 2019. Together with humanitarian action, a significant increase in resilience and development solutions will be critical to ultimately reduce humanitarian needs in the country.

In 2018, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) allocated more than $53 million to support integrated and cluster specific humanitarian response. This included $22 million provided through its first standard allocation to improve access to services in underserved areas, and to sustain response in internally displaced persons’ (IDP) settlements. An additional $13.3 million was allocated through multiple reserve allocations throughout the year. This included $1 million for integrated child protection and education response in flood-hit areas; $3.5 million in response to the devastation caused by the Cyclone Sagar in Awdal region of Somaliland; $7.5 million for areas most affected by the drought in the North (Bari, Nugaal, Sool and Sanaag); and $1.3 million for shelter preparedness response in Hiraan and Middle Shabelle. The Fund’s end-year allocation of $18.6 million through its second standard allocation will support continuity of critical lifesaving interventions coming to a close in priority areas, but also help address emerging response gaps in underserved and hard-to-reach areas across the country. Early donor contributions and commitments in 2019 will be essential to sustain response.