In Numbers

7,357 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 14 m cash-based transfers made

USD 118.7 m six months (October 2019-March 2020) net funding requirements

2.38 m people assisted in September 2019

Operational Updates

Most parts of Somalia remained dry during the Hagaa season except areas in the north-western and southern parts of the country that received seasonal Karaan/Hagaa rains. Livestock body conditions are deteriorating (as expected by the end of the dry season), and water availability is unevenly distributed across the country. As a result, limited livestock migration towards areas with pasture and water is taking place.

The poor 2019 Gu harvest has caused local cereal prices in the south to increase. Consequently, there is notable increase in the food Monthly Expenditure Basket (MEB) in the southern regions.

In early October, moderate rains are expected in northern areas as well as parts of the south and central regions bordering Ethiopia. The expected rains combined with already high-water levels in River Shabelle increase the risk of flooding in riverine areas. However, if the Deyr rains perform poorly, the food security situation will deteriorate further, with 2.1 million people expected to continue facing critical levels of hunger (Integrated Phase Classification [IPC] 3 and 4) between October and December 2019. WFP continues to monitor the situation closely.

In September, WFP assisted 2.38 million women, men and children in the communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity throughout the country. Over half of the people reached received cash-based transfers worth nearly USD 14 million. In addition, 624,400 pregnant and nursing women, and children aged 6-59 months received preventative and curative nutrition assistance, while another 235,900 people received support through livelihoods programmes.
School Feeding Programme:
To support government capacity strengthening for school feeding, the System Approach to Better Education Results (SABER) exercise was initiated in September in Mogadishu,Somaliland and Puntland.
SABER is a government-led process that helps to build effective school feeding policies and systems. High level meetings with government officials were convened in those locations, following which the ministries in Somaliland and Puntland formed task force teams. Using an evidence-based approach, the task force teams will analyse existing school feeding policies and implementation to identify strengths and gaps. This will help foster policy dialogue among stakeholders and therefore assist the government in developing road maps for strengthening the school feeding policy environment, implementation as well as other capacity augmentation activities.

Social Protection:
In September 2019, the government of Somalia launched the first Somalia Social Protection Policy. This policy is a stepping stone towards reducing poverty and vulnerability for over half of the population living in extreme poverty in Somalia.

Monitoring
In September, WFP completed a follow-up survey on its food for assets (FFA) activities through mobile data collection. The survey sampled 615 households across 12 regions within Somalia. The objective was to find out the food security situation of beneficiaries who receive conditional assistance from WFP while engaging in creating assets for improved livelihoods. Compared to the baseline (four months earlier) the results indicate positive impacts of WFP's sustained humanitarian assistance. There was increased ability to meet food and other essential needs without engaging in coping strategies that deplete assets and reduce future productivity (emergency coping strategies) among the assessed households. Out of the assessed 615 households, only 9.3 percent applied emergency coping strategies compared to 21 percent at baseline.

Funding
WFP requires USD 118.7 million in the next six months (October 2019 to March 2020) to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Donors
ICSP: USA, United Kingdom, China, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, European Commission (ECHO), Japan, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and UN CERF.