

## HIGHLIGHTS

Threat of famine persists, according to latest FSNAU assessment results.

Efforts underway to address displacement and durable solutions.

Forced evictions heighten protection risks for IDPs.

Spike in abductions hinder access on major supply routes.

Somalia declared Polio free for third consecutive year.

AWD/cholera cases decline; pockets of concern remain

## FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	3.1 m
# of people in need	6.2 m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	388,000
# of AWD/Cholera cases in 2017	77,000
# of people displaced internally by drought since November 2016	895,000
# of people in protracted internal displacement	1.1m

Source: FSNAU, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF

## FUNDING

**\$1.5 BILLION**  
requested in the revised 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

**\$923MILLION**  
Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia; \$651 million towards the 2017 HRP

(Source: FTS, 25 August 2017)

(<http://fts.unocha.org>)



Haar-Haar IDP shelter in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region (OCHA/Jordi Casafont)

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## Latest assessment results indicate threat of famine persists

### Over 3.1 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance

The Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Peter de Clercq, on 31 August, expressed concern about the continued threat of famine in Somalia, whilst praising the collective efforts that have so far prevented famine from being declared. He urged the international community to stay the course and sustain famine prevention efforts. At the launch of the latest food security and nutrition assessment results issued by the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) in Mogadishu, he called on aid agencies to keep up the good work and maintain current efforts to avert a deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

While the latest FSNAU assessments show a decrease of the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance from 6.7 million to 6.2 million people, the threat of localized famine countered by scaled-up humanitarian response is as relevant today as it was in the first months of this crisis. The *Gu* harvest will provide temporary relief for some communities in terms of food availability, but the harvest is reduced due to poor rains and access to food remains constrained. Prices will remain elevated through at least early 2018.

Malnutrition, one of the leading indicators of the crisis, has reached emergency levels in a number of locations in southern and central Somalia, primarily, though not exclusively among displaced populations. Overall, some 388,000 acutely malnourished children are in need of critical nutrition support, including life-saving treatment for more than 87,000 severely malnourished children. Nearly 895,000 internally displaced people due to drought and conflict rely almost exclusively on assistance for basic services and life support. Major AWD/Cholera and measles outbreaks are also of continued concern.

Through robust humanitarian assistance and the modest benefits from the underperforming *Gu* rains, the situation has stabilized but remains of serious concern at emergency levels. Whereas there is a modest decline in the number of people in need, there is an increase in the number of persons in the emergency-phase (IPC 4) compared to the previous assessment. When the threat of famine was announced in February, the number of people in need stood at 6.2 million.

## Heightened advocacy for durable solutions

### Efforts underway to address displacement and find durable solutions for IDPs

The Federal Government of Somalia held a three-day National Forum in Mogadishu from 28- 30 August on durable solutions for refugees, returnees and IDPs. The National Forum, which was chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, was also attended by Professor Walter Kälin, the Special Advisor on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to the

*Nearly 895,000 people displaced internally by drought since November 2016.*

Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, who was on a week long (22 to 29 August) visit to the country to review progress made since the launch of the Durable Solution Initiative (DSI) launched in December 2015. Prof. Kälin commended the Government's commitment to address and mainstream displacement and durable solutions in the National Development Plan. *"Somalia is one of the few countries in the world where solutions for IDPs are presented as a key development priority. While absolutely necessary for saving lives and providing immediate assistance, humanitarian interventions cannot achieve long term solutions. A combination of humanitarian, development, peace and state building approaches is required to achieve that objective and the National Development Plan provides a very solid basis for that,"* he noted.

Somalia is one of the epicenter of the world's largest displacement crises with more than one million people living in protracted displacement. Provisional figures from the UNHCR-led Protection & Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) indicate that some 55,000 individuals have been newly internally displaced in August, of whom 24,000 by conflict and 31,000 are drought-related displacements. Both of these represent a decrease compared to July, when PRMN monitored over 130,000 (68,000 due to drought) new internal displacements. The majority of the drought-induced displacements for August, originated from Bakool (10,000) and Bay (12,000) regions, with destination for the majority being Baidoa (16,000); while over 90 per cent of the conflict-related displacements originate in Lower Shabelle - primarily from Marka district as a result of ongoing conflict in Marka town.

Total drought related displacements monitored by PRMN between November 2016 to 28 August 2017 approximates 895,000 people. Conflict-related displacements for 2017 is estimated at 154,000 people.

During his mission, Prof. Kälin met with different stakeholders including displaced people and the federal and regional authorities in Kismayo, Dollow town, Baidoa and Geddo regions, as well as Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. He held discussions on the multi-sectoral interventions required to find long term solutions for the displaced population and the affected communities, including issues of land tenure security, protection and urban development. The ongoing displacements have heightened vulnerabilities and exposed IDPs to increased protection risks. Protection partners report that IDP settlements in Afgooye, Baidoa and Gaalkacyo remain overcrowded and under-regulated, exposing women and girls specifically to gender-based violence related risks and negative coping strategies. The displaced families are in need of safe and secure settlements to ensure protection and sufficient privacy and dignity.

## Conflict-related violations

*Non-state armed actors occupied a health facility, confiscated humanitarian supplies and temporarily detained two health workers in Leego town.*

### **Military withdrawals and conflict continue to expose civilians to reprisals**

Spikes in armed conflict and active hostilities in parts of Bakool, Galgaduud, Juba and Lower Shabelle regions continued to cause new waves of displacements and human rights violations. According to local authorities, more than 2,000 people were displaced from Leego in Lower Shabelle to areas in Wanla Weyne, Afgooye corridor and Mogadishu, following the take-over of the town by non-state armed actors on 4 August after the withdrawal of state and regional forces. While some commercial transporters can still conditionally access the Mogadishu-Baidoa-Dollow main supply route, it remains inaccessible to humanitarians. The non-state armed actors occupied the town's health facility, confiscated humanitarian supplies and equipment, and arrested and temporarily detained two humanitarian workers who were running a health facility in the town. Thousands of people were also displaced from parts of Lower Shabelle including parts of the Marka due to clan conflict; and areas in Golweyne and Janale in Marka, and Bariire in Agooye due to the ongoing military operations. Notably, more than 10,000 people fled from Danow, Majabto and Masahallah villages in Golweyne to nearby villages in Marka and Qoryooley districts, while some moved as far as Afgooye. Heavy fighting in Abal village in Xudur in Bakool also led to the displacement of over 120 people, while in Buhoodle district in the north, nearly 2,000 people were displaced on 19 August due to inter-clan conflict.

### **Upsurge in forced evictions heightens protection risks**

Protection partners report that more than 90,000 people have been directly affected by evictions between January and July 2017. Of these, more than 5,000 were evicted in

*More than 90,000 people have been directly affected by evictions between January and July 2017.*

Baidoa during the first week of August alone, and there are fears of more evictions particularly from privately owned land on which more than 90 per cent of the over 200,000 IDPs in Baidoa region reside. In Mogadishu, over 3,000 IDPs and the urban poor were evicted from the former national printing house in Wardhiigleey district, according to IDP leaders. In Sool region, about 1,960 drought-displaced people were forcibly relocated from areas around Ainabo town by the authorities to a settlement in Ainabo town. Additionally, 108 people were evicted from an old boarding school in Las Caanod town to allow for renovations. Forced evictions have resulted in increased disruption of humanitarian investments, loss of shelter, and increased exposure to exploitation and abuse of IDPs. The displaced people do not have alternative land for relocation and many have moved into already overcrowded settlements or are roaming the streets. Negative coping strategies have been observed, including violations of basic rights of children, notably access to education and hazardous forms of child labour. Cases of gender-based violence remain underreported due to cultural norms and possible social stigmatization of survivors. Access to support services and justice for survivors remains limited due to societal constraints and a lack of capacity of actors involved. The Protection cluster and humanitarian organizations have initiated dialogue with authorities in the affected areas and those at risk, to mitigate the effects of the evictions on an already vulnerable population.

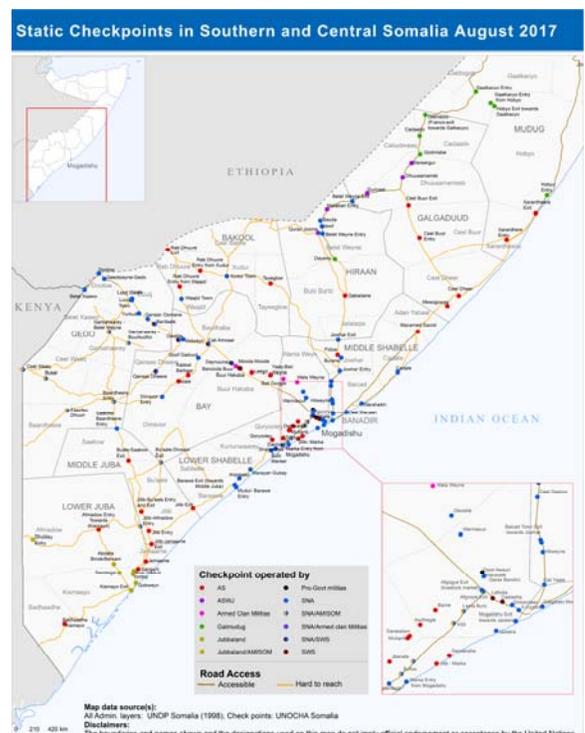
## Access Update

### Spike in abductions

*Some 25 humanitarian workers have been abducted between January and August; 19 of whom were released following successful negotiations by clan elders. Six remain in detention.*

Movement of civilians and essential humanitarian and commercial supplies continued to be negatively impacted by the blockades imposed by non-state armed actors in parts of Bakool, Bay, Gedo, Hiraan and Lower Shabelle regions. Although local authorities continued to carry out road clearance operations including removal of illegal checkpoints, extortion at checkpoints and attacks and violations against civilians plying main access routes in southern and central Somalia including vehicle jacking, abduction and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks continued to hinder movements along these routes. On 7 August, non-state armed actors reportedly car-jacked four civilian vehicles and abducted the passengers in Gahan Gur grazing area in Bagherzadeh district in Lower Juba. Eight of the abducted passengers were released unharmed following negotiations by clan elders, while four drivers remain in detention. On 19 August, seven family members fleeing military operations in Bariire in Afgooye were all killed by a road side IED attack. Similar incidents were reported along the Mogadishu-Baidoa-Dollow main supply route and the Mogadishu– Afgooye-Wanla Eye – Baidoa – Dollow route. Two civilian public service vehicles were ambushed by armed actors on 22 and 23 August, at Bocorow village in Afgooye and Sherey village in Wanla Weyne, respectively resulting in four deaths and several injuries.

The number of humanitarian workers abducted by non-state armed actors for ransom is on the increase, with the majority seized along the main access roads. Between January and August, 25 humanitarian workers were abducted; 19 were released following successful negotiations by clan elders, six remain in detention.



Humanitarian organizations continue to advocate with the authorities to secure the main supply routes and are appealing to all parties to the conflict to recognize humanitarians and their right to provide neutral and impartial assistance to all people in need; and to facilitate the safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personal.

## Health partners record progress; more resources needed for measles response

### Somalia declared Polio free for the third year

Somalia was on 13 August declared Polio free by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the third consecutive year owing to the preventive measures by the Ministry of Health and health partners. The last case of polio was recorded in 2014 in Hobyo district, Mudug region. The outbreak that erupted in the Horn of Africa 3 years ago paralyzed close to 200 children, with Somalia accounting for more than 90 per cent of these cases.

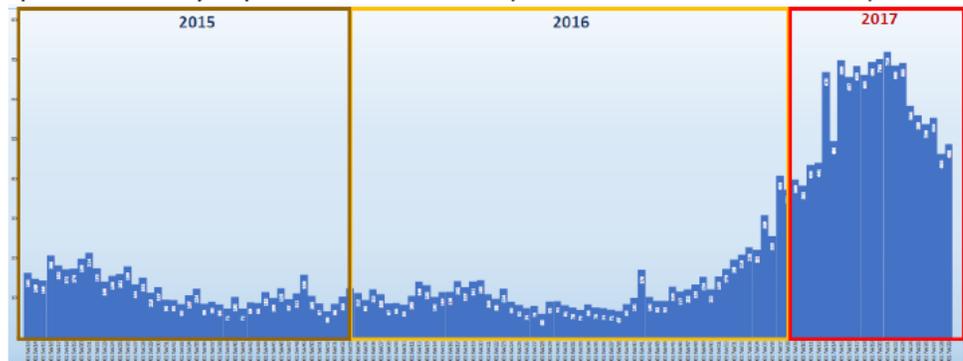
WHO applauded Somalia's efforts in combating the crippling and highly infectious virus, but emphasized the need for continued attention, investment and coordinated efforts by all partners to sustain the programme. Somalia remains vulnerable to importation of the virus from Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, the only countries where polio is still being recorded, according to WHO.

Targeted vaccination campaigns and strengthening of routine immunizations services and infrastructure continue to be required to improve immunity against polio. The Ministry of Health has established a regular immunization campaign for children under the age of five. According to WHO, other innovative approaches adopted to reach every child under age five with vaccines include the development of tools to map and track nomadic movements to reach children on the move. Additionally, locally recruited polio volunteers have helped identify cases and administer polio vaccines in and around some of the inaccessible areas. Insecurity and inaccessibility are key challenges for humanitarian partners operating in the country, particularly in the southern and central Somalia.

### Over USD 14.4 million needed for measles vaccination in November 2017

Measles transmission continues to be a challenge. The cumulative number of measles cases recorded in 2017 has reached almost 16,000 with approximately 400 cases/week being reported in August. This is nearly three times the entire 2016 caseload (5,657 cases), and exceeds suspected cases in 2015 (7,498 cases) and 2014 (10,279 cases).

**Epi-Curve of Weekly Suspected Measles in Somalia (from 2015 Week 13 – 2017 Week 30)**



Suspected measles cases have been reported from all regions of Somalia, other than the Bakool region of South zone. Banadir, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle, Mudug and Togdheer regions are reporting the highest number of suspected measles cases. More than 80 per cent of those affected by the current outbreak are children under age 10. The rise in measles cases is largely due to due to low vaccination rates, compounded by drought-related mass displacement and overcrowding.

Efforts are focusing on the clinical management of complications alongside preparation and planning for the nationwide measles immunization campaign to begin in November/December. Some \$1 million required to support the campaign has been secured

*WHO recommends continued targeted vaccination campaigns and strengthening of routine immunizations services and infrastructure to sustain gains made through the polio campaign.*

*Almost 16,000 cases of measles have been reported since January. This is nearly three times the entire 2016 caseload.*

from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund. The proposed campaign targets an estimated 4.2 million children between the ages of 6 months and 10 years.

Meanwhile, new cases of AWD/cholera and related deaths have continued to decrease due, in part, to preventative humanitarian response, including efforts to improve water, sanitation and hygiene and oral cholera vaccination campaigns conducted in recent months. Numbers currently being reported are similar to levels prior to the outbreak. To date, health partners report approximately 77,000 cases including 1,115 related deaths (Case Fatality Rate 1.4 per cent) in 52 districts across 13 regions of the country.

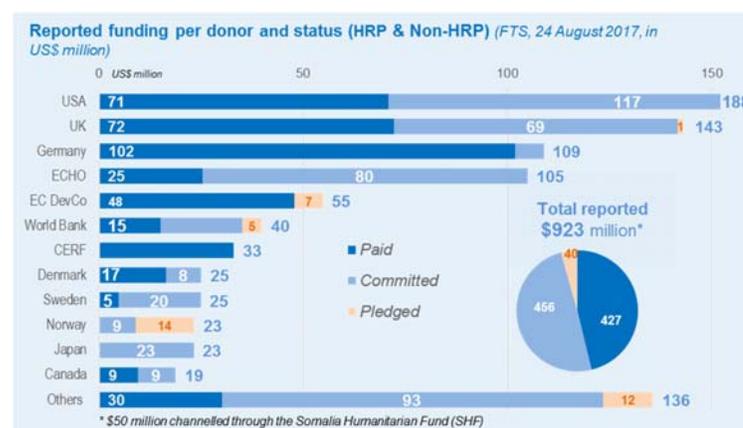
## Funding update

### Additional resources are required to prevent famine in the most vulnerable areas over the coming months

Donors and humanitarian organizations moved quickly in the first half of 2017 to prevent famine in Somalia. This year's contributions of more than US\$923 million for humanitarian response reflects an unprecedented and early show of solidarity in line with commitments made as part of the Grand Bargain at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, and has enabled humanitarian partners to significantly step up response. While large-scale famine has been averted to date, some communities in southern and central Somalia remain at risk of famine and further efforts are required to ensure that some of the most vulnerable areas do not slip into famine in the coming months.

As of 24 August, \$923 million has been made available for humanitarian response within and outside of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), reflecting more than 61 per cent of estimated humanitarian requirements for 2017. The funding includes \$651 million reported

against the HRP for 2017, which is 43 per cent funded, and \$272 million for activities outside of the appeal, which are geared primarily towards famine prevention in support of HRP-priorities.<sup>1</sup> The majority of the reported funding (95 per cent) has already been made available (paid or



committed). Another \$40 million is reported as pledges. In addition, more than \$100 million in upcoming contributions have been signaled but not yet formally reported through the OCHA-managed Financial Tracking System (FTS). Given the scale of needs, and the current expenditure rates estimated above \$100 million to reach around 3 million of the 3.2 million in crisis and emergency, additional funding is required to cover critical gaps over the coming months. This includes funding for a country-wide measles vaccination campaign to effectively stem the outbreak, and further resources required to expand reach of water, sanitation and hygiene programmes in most vulnerable areas, including IDP settlements.

### Shortfall experienced in critical clusters

Most clusters are unable to meet their response targets due to funding shortfalls.

In July, *Food Security* cluster partners reached about 75 per cent or 2.45 million people out of 3.26 million targeted for unconditional cash transfers geared towards improving access to food and safety nets; but only 11 of targeted recipients for livelihood investment and

<sup>1</sup> About 80 per cent or \$215 million of the \$272 million reported outside the HRP was channelled for multi-cluster humanitarian response activities while 17 per cent or \$47 million supported resilience and recovery activities.

*\$923 million has been made available for humanitarian response within and outside of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), reflecting more than 61 per cent of estimated humanitarian requirements for 2017.*

*WASH cluster partners scaled down services due to lack of adequate funding.*

asset activities were reached, increasing the risk of them sliding in food security crisis mode should the situation further deteriorate.

Despite a significant increase in *education* interventions, 66 per cent of the 528,000 children in need of assistance to stay in schools have not been reached. This is attributed to the lack of adequate funding – one percent of the total humanitarian funding – for education. The number of people receiving primary and/or basic *health* care dropped from 395,224 reached in May, to 306,167 or about 15 per cent below the health cluster monthly target (358,333).

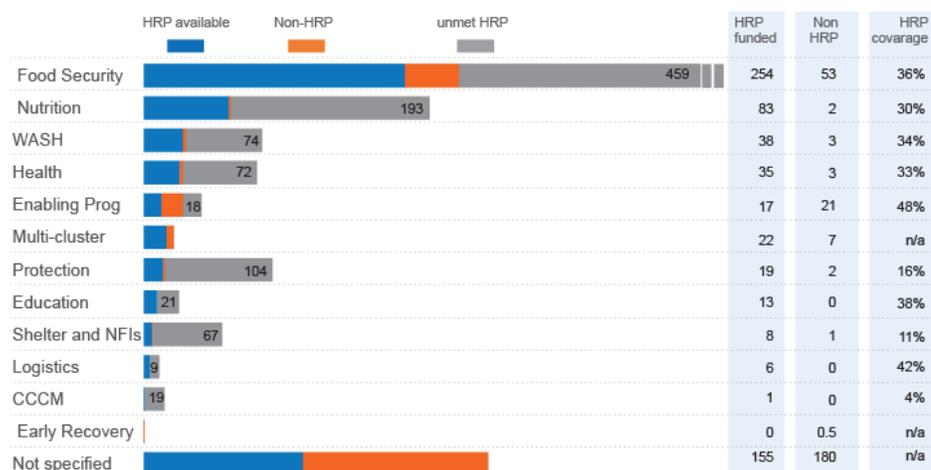
Furthermore, *WASH cluster* partners scaled down the provision of services due to lack of adequate funding, reaching only about half of 750,000 people targeted for temporary water supply and about half of 500,000 people with hygiene activities, including hygiene promotion. While the number of new AWD/cholera cases and related deaths has reduced in most parts of the country, scaling up sanitation assistance, including chlorination, hygiene promotion, and distribution of hygiene in areas affected by drought is critical. WASH funding has so far been limited to \$41 million, or 4 per cent of funding made available this year.

### Funding through the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF)

The Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has already allocated \$33 million since the beginning of the year to support priority humanitarian response activities. An additional \$12 million is currently being processed to support integrated response activities and Integrated Emergency Response Teams (IERT) in Galmudug, Lower Shabelle and Togdheer regions, and for response to measles outbreak.

If further funding is received in the coming months, the SHF will immediately prioritize funds for underfunded clusters and for targeted programming at locations with highest reported needs (depending on funding availability), prioritizing direct implementation through national and international non-governmental partners.

Reported funding by cluster (HRP and Non-HRP) (in million US\$, as of 24 August 2017)



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