Somalia

Somalia has endured a complex socio-political environment for 20 years, alongside extreme poverty, food insecurity, conflict and instability. Despite a 25 per cent drop since 2009 in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (largely as a result of above-average 2010 rains), an estimated 2 million people – a staggering 27 per cent of the entire population – continue to require humanitarian assistance. Only 29 per cent have access to clean water. Somali women and children caught up in the country’s reduced circumstances are at increased risk of disease and undernutrition, routinely experience violations of their human rights and face limited access to essentials for a healthy life: health care, education, adequate food and safe drinking water.

The South Central Zone of Somalia is the epicentre of the crisis. The conflict here generates some of the highest numbers of forcefully displaced persons in the world. More than 80 per cent of those in need of humanitarian assistance in the country live here. The UN estimates there are roughly 1.46 million internally displaced persons in Somalia – 19 per cent of the country’s population.

UNICEF works with more than 100 partners, including the Government of Somalia, other UN agencies, NGOs and local communities to provide emergency relief in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. The organization is the largest provider of water, education, primary health care and nutrition services in the country. Results achieved for children thus far are a testimony to the dedication of partners and national staff as they seize opportunities within Somalia’s volatile context to reach out and assist vulnerable people.

UNICEF has existing practices in the Somalia country programme, ensuring that the most disadvantaged persons are identified. This includes internally displaced persons, pastoralists, the urban poor, girls, and children caught up in armed conflict.

To make significant strides in stabilizing the welfare of women and children in Somalia, particularly their nutritional and health status, access to safe water, and education and protection, UNICEF is requesting US$60,698,000 to carry out its planned activities. UNICEF has aligned its request with the 2011 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) requirements. In 2011, UNICEF programming will focus on meeting the needs and reducing the vulnerabilities of children and women who are among the more than 2 million people displaced or affected by conflict. Work will touch on nearly every area of humanitarian intervention: essential health care, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection services, with UNICEF leading the nutrition and WASH clusters and co-leading the education cluster with Save the Children. Emergency preparedness and risk reduction measures are an integral part of the planned humanitarian action, alongside national capacity development, where possible.

UNICEF must maintain the capacity to scale up planned response quickly in 2011, given the fragility of the country’s situation and indications that the number of people in need could rapidly increase during the coming months. Somali children, both boys and girls, are affected by the volatile environment, which impacts access to and delivery of services, as well as by a complicated aid environment, including limited and unpredictable funding flows with decreasing flexibility to reach those in need during windows of opportunity.

Where humanitarian operations are still possible, building capacity to make communities more resilient continues. During August 2010, anti-government elements banned the operation of some international NGOs in areas under their control, which affected the welfare of thousands of women and children in the nutrition, livelihoods and education sectors, including children in need of life-saving treatment for undernutrition. Given the already overstretched capacity of local NGO partners, the quality of emergency services in some locations remains a concern.

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Somalia also has one of the lowest primary school enrolment rates in the world, with only 22 per cent of children receiving primary education in the South Central Zone. There is a high prevalence of child protection
violations, including recruitment and use of children and young people in armed conflict.

Women and children lack nourishment due to persistent shortages of food (resulting from conflict, displacement, droughts and flooding), low-quality diets, poor feeding practices and inadequate home management practices. In the South Central Zone, 1 in 22 children under age 5 is acutely malnourished and is at high risk of death.

In addition, throughout the country, more than 50 per cent of deaths in children under age 5 are caused by respiratory infections, malaria and diarrhoea, the latter caused by lack of access to safe water and poor food and domestic hygiene. Routine immunization coverage is among the lowest in the world.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

In 2010, UNICEF estimated that US$66,020,900 was needed to fund its humanitarian work in Somalia. As of October 2010, a total of US$36,509,777 – or 55 per cent of the request – had been received. Approximately 1.5 million children under age 5 and 1.3 million women of childbearing age were reached at least once during the nationwide Child Health Days campaign with an essential package of life-saving health and nutrition services. This included children and women in all districts of Mogadishu and in the Afgoye Corridor, despite security challenges.

The country has remained polio-free since March 2007, a significant achievement. Through support to facilities across the country, an estimated 2.5 million people had access to basic primary health care, and 260 maternal and child health clinics received supplies that included essential drugs, vaccines, renewable materials and basic equipment.

UNICEF, along with more than 60 national and international partners, is implementing approximately 90 per cent of the overall nutrition response in Somalia, reaching 111,376 acutely malnourished children from January to October 2010. This includes 44,033 children with moderate acute malnutrition through 350 supplementary feeding programmes; 67,343 children with severe acute malnutrition through 318 outpatient therapeutic programmes and 31 stabilization centres; and 19,000 pregnant and lactating women. From July 2010 to October 2010, UNICEF opened 70 supplementary feeding programmes through partners to ensure the continuation of nutrition services in the South Central Zone following the World Food Programme’s suspension in this area.

Together with more than 30 national and international partners, UNICEF provided access to safe water to 1.2 million people in emergency-affected areas through sustained operation and maintenance of water supplies, including chlorination. Work continues on the construction and rehabilitation of 62 water sources, serving about 162,000 people. Hygiene education is being provided to the 250,000 beneficiaries of water and sanitation projects,
and emergency/temporary water trucking was provided to 10,000 people in drought-affected communities.

With more than 100 national and international partners, UNICEF supported the enrolment of some 92,000 emergency-affected or displaced children in school or 30 per cent of children out of school in emergency-affected areas, including 36,000 girls. More than 3,600 teachers (720 women) received training in pedagogy, life skills, child rights, psychosocial care and support and emergency education.

UNICEF’s protection programmes mobilized 189 internally displaced persons and vulnerable host communities to prevent and respond to child protection violations, and more than 770 gender-based violence cases were documented and referred to services. Through a network of 20 local human rights monitoring organizations, more than 640 individual cases of grave child rights violations were documented and 60 per cent of the children were referred to services, including advocacy action at the community level. A UNICEF-led community initiative, which targets children and youth at risk of recruitment as well as ex-child combatants in Galguduud, Merka and Mogadishu, was launched.

In response to conflict and floods in the South Central Zone, 5,554 households (with a total of 33,324 people) out of an estimated 170,000 households in need received shelter and non-food items.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION: BUILDING RESILIENCE

Merka, a town situated 90 kilometres south of Mogadishu, was serving a population of 60,000 people by shallow wells. A perennial water shortage compounded by surface contamination, which was resulting in chronic outbreaks of diarrhoea and cholera, was taking a high toll on young child mortality and morbidity.

As a key player in the Merka Water Project, a public-private partnership, UNICEF recommended drilling boreholes, piping water into the town and supplying it through water kiosks. Challenges to the project included implementing it in phases due to its considerable cost. Also, because Merka is frequently engulfed in conflict, it was only accessible to UNICEF staff for short periods of time. However, because part of the work involved building the capacity of local actors, the project continued even when the location was inaccessible to UNICEF staff. Now completed, the new water supply system currently benefits 31,500 residents.

Given the volatile political and security environment, UNICEF had to renegotiate with new authorities repeatedly during the project cycle to gain and maintain support for the project, while at the same time establish a sustainable way for the communities to manage and operate their new water system. Because of its public-private partnership approach, which brought together communities, businessmen, local authorities and other stakeholders, the effort led to the formation of the Merka Water Board for management. Despite chronic insecurity, the board’s work continues, ensuring a safe and sustained water supply to residents.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2011

UNICEF is the largest service provider in key sectors in Somalia and leads the nutrition, education and WASH clusters and the child protection sub-cluster. UNICEF will continue to work with the Government of Somalia, UN agencies and non-governmental partners in 2011 to meet the pressing needs of children and women who are among the 2 million people displaced or otherwise affected by conflict.

NUTRITION (US$18,149,000)

- In 2011, UNICEF will continue to target supplementary feeding programmes in areas of the South Central Zone classified by Somalia’s Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit as having highly critical or critical nutrition vulnerability (where World Food Programmes are currently unable to operate) through improved and sustained access to and utilization of integrated quality nutrition services targeting 174,600 children and 22,000 pregnant and lactating women.

- At least 70 per cent (54,600) of an estimated caseload of 78,000 children with severe acute malnutrition will be reached.

- At least 52 per cent (120,000) of an estimated caseload of 230,000 children with moderate acute malnutrition will be reached.

- About 25 per cent (22,000) of an estimated 84,000 acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women will be treated.

HEALTH (US$16,668,000)

In 2011, the overall goal will be to strengthen access to essential primary health-care services for up to 1.5 million children and 1.3 million women of childbearing age.

- 90 per cent of children under age 5 and 70 per cent of women of childbearing age in target areas will receive high-impact and basic life-saving packages of health
and nutrition interventions through Child Health Days.

- 250 maternal child health clinics (125 in the South Central Zone, 47 in the North East Zone and 78 in the North West Zone) will have sufficient essential drugs, vaccines, basic equipment and training. Outreach health services will also be strengthened for life-saving interventions to address common neonatal and childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, reaching an estimated 2.5 million women and children.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US$12,359,000)

UNICEF will ensure that 1.6 million internally displaced and disaster-affected people have increased and sustained access to safe water, appropriate sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion in 2011.

- 274,000 men and women and 224,000 children will access safe water through rehabilitation and construction of new water supplies.
- 32,000 men and women and 26,000 children will have access to sanitation facilities, and 1.2 million people will practice minimum hygiene practices.
- 720,000 men and women and 589,000 children will continue to access safe water and sanitation through operation and maintenance of facilities, including chlorination.
- Emergency supplies, including gender-specific hygiene items, will be provided to 5,000 households (30,000 people total) and will be pre-positioned in the North East and South Central Zones.
- Communities and local authorities in 10 districts will be trained on the basic level of disaster preparedness, including early warning and early response systems.
- The UNICEF-led WASH cluster will ensure coordinated preparedness and delivery of emergency assistance, as well as link with partners to develop a longer-term and sustainable WASH strategy.

CHILD PROTECTION (US$5,537,000)

Through community mobilization, psychosocial care and support services, and advocacy and other emergency protection initiatives, a targeted 200,000 children from some of the most vulnerable communities affected by conflict and displacement, primarily from the South Central Zone, will benefit from an enhanced protective environment as the overall goal in 2011. Intensified fighting in southern and central Somalia has further exacerbated existing protection risks for civilians and made the need for a comprehensive emergency child protection response greater than ever.

- At least 200 vulnerable communities in the South Central Zone (with an estimated child population of 180,000) and displaced communities in the north of the country will be mobilized to prevent and address child protection in emergency issues.
- At least 100,000 children in crisis-affected areas will be directly reached with school-based and community-based psychosocial care and support services.
- Grave child rights violations will be monitored and reported and as many as possible addressed through referral to services and advocacy actions at the community level.
- At least 1,000 children who are either at risk or were formerly involved with armed forces and groups will be supported with the provision of community-based rehabilitation services, including skills training, non-formal education, psychosocial care and family tracing.
- High-level advocacy with parties to the conflict (depending on access) will lead to the signing of concrete and time-bound action plans for the prevention and immediate and unconditional release of children unlawfully recruited or used in the conflict. This affects several thousand children reportedly used in the conflict.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By sector</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>Total per sector (all beneficiaries)</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
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<td>87,300</td>
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<td>2,800,000</td>
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<td>WASH</td>
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<td>361,060</td>
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<td>5,537,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>61,400(^{10})</td>
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<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and non-food items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster coordination</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1,553,020</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,469,780</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA: SOMALIA

EDUCATION (US$6,371,000)

In 2011, UNICEF will ensure that more than 61,000 school-age children – including youth and other excluded children affected by conflict, displacement or emergency – will have increased access to quality and equitable educational opportunities, in order to mitigate the psychosocial impact of conflict and provide a sense of normalcy, stability and structure during times of crisis.

- Teaching, learning and recreational materials, including textbooks, will be provided to 200 functional schools/centres for 60,000 children and youths.
- Training related to emergency education curricula will be delivered to 1,500 teachers and 60,000 children, youth and other excluded children who are not in school due to displacement or conflict. The training will focus on appropriate life-saving and life-sustaining information related to health, nutrition, hygiene, psychosocial care issues, mine risk awareness, early marriage and risk of child recruitment in emergency affected areas.
- Improved capacity to plan, manage and mobilize resources for school enrolment for children, youth and other excluded children in emergency affected areas will be provided to 1,400 community education committee members (980 men and 420 women), 150 school administrators and other education actors (105 men and 45 women).
- As co-lead of the education cluster, UNICEF will work with partners to ensure a coordinated and integrated emergency education response, with a focus on conflict and disaster-affected communities.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (US$804,000)

The overall goal for 2011 is to improve living conditions for up to 8,000 households (48,000 people) affected and/or temporarily displaced by the rapid onset of conflict or flooding through the provision of shelter and non-food items.

UNICEF will pre-position supplies in Mogadishu, Galkayo, Mandera, Hargeisa and Bossaso to meet the immediate needs of those displaced by emergency.

CLUSTER COORDINATION (US$810,000)

To enable an effective and efficient coordinated response to improve the prospects of people affected by emergencies, all cluster coordination costs (national and sub-national) need to be adequately funded. These costs include a team for coordination and information management, along with administrative and operational support, to undertake a number of key actions and outputs. These include coordinating the collective response to maximize synergy and minimize duplication of efforts; identifying priority needs of affected communities based on experience and the results of rapid impact assessments; and developing a common strategic operational framework and response strategy that meets priority needs. In addition, UNICEF, as cluster lead, expects to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism that tracks progress and identifies gaps in the type of services being provided and in their geographical scope, and also articulates impact and outcomes through periodic progress reports. Information will be disseminated in a timely way and used in decision-making and planning.

3. The Somalia Inter-Agency Standing Committee estimates that 1.46 million people are currently displaced.
4. This includes 17 per cent girls and 27 per cent boys, according to the Survey of Primary Education in Somalia 2006–2007. The Primary Education Survey represents a significant achievement for the education sector of Somalia. The cooperation between three ministries of education, UNICEF, the Department for International Development and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as demonstrated in the instigation and continued development of the Primary Education Survey process, reflects a commitment and dedication to the children of Somalia.
7. Out of a planned 100,000 children.
8. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees leads the shelter cluster and implements a large part of the shelter response. UNICEF’s role is to fill the gaps in the response and to implement actions in some areas of the South Central Zone, where access has been challenging using local partners.
9. Total number of beneficiaries may not equal the sum of beneficiaries per sector, due to overlap in services provided to individuals.
10. This number includes the total number of girl and boys who are newly enrolled (60,000) – it costs approximately US$110 to educate one child in Somalia during one year. UNICEF will continue to support more than 400,000 existing children in schools, including education facilities.