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- More resources needed to boost humanitarian response.
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Humanitarian partners are supporting youth to venture into fishing business to help diversify livelihoods. (PHOTO/FAO - Somalia)

FIGURES

# of people in need	5.4m
# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis (IPC Phases 3 &4)	2.m
# of people Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	0.5m
# 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

Resilience building key to ending need

The latest projection by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) indicates an improving food security situation in areas that were affected by the 2016-2017 drought. This improvement is tentative, as it is largely due to the above-average *Gu* rainy season (April-June) supported by large-scale humanitarian assistance. The above average *Gu* rains have seen Somalia emerge from a severe drought. However, humanitarian needs remain critical. Some 5.4 million people require assistance. Most areas of the country are currently in Stress (IPC Phase 2), with some in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) – mainly IDP populations with limited access to tenable livelihoods. The risk of deterioration remains, should aid not be sustained, particularly for the IDPs who largely depend on it.

Four consecutive poor rainy seasons had pushed the country to the verge of famine last year. The collaborative efforts of aid agencies and authorities, alongside timely and historic levels of support from donors, staved off famine. Relief from the drought came in the form of above average *Gu* rains. The rains were not without negative impacts as severe flooding resulted in scores of deaths and affected over 830,000 people through crop and asset losses and temporary displacement.



It is cost effective to drill boreholes than truck water.

Climatic shocks have been a recurrent problem; their frequency, intensity and severity have increased since the turn of the millennium, due to climate change. This calls for the further scaling-up of household and infrastructure resilience approaches that are consistent with development programming. In the absence of these, Somalia will continue to seek immediate external assistance to save lives, with too little going towards longer-term investments needed to build resilience and to break the cycle of recurrent crises. During the famine prevention efforts of 2017, the Federal Government of Somalia, with support from the United Nations, European Union and World Bank, embarked on a process to create a Resilience and Recovery Framework (RRF) that would not only make governance and aid systems more resilient to shocks, but would also implement activities aimed at making generations of future Somalis famine-proof.

FUNDING

\$1.5 BILLION

requested in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$569 MILLION

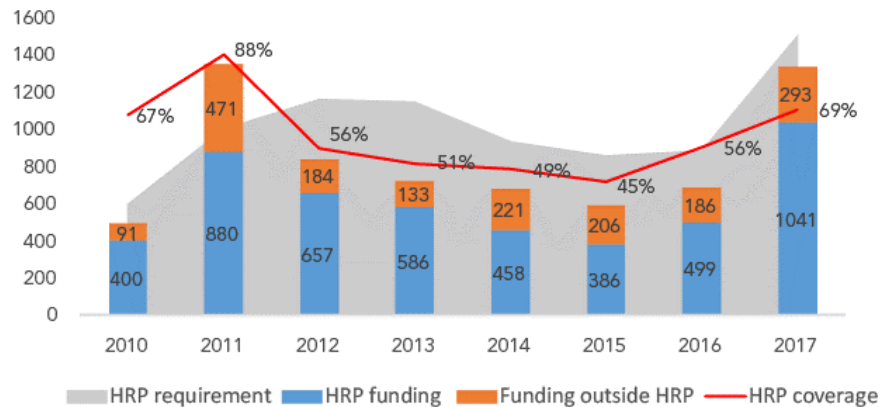
Total humanitarian funding received towards the 2018 HRP

(Source : <http://fts.unocha.org>, 30 July, 2018)

The frequency, intensity and severity of climatic shocks have increased since the turn of the millennium.

The improvements in food security provide a window of opportunity for aid agencies to strengthen their focus on the New Way of Working and to achieve agreed-upon collective outcomes. Somalia is at a critical juncture, where it has made progress on the political and governance fronts, and now it is imperative that these gains translate into sustainable development. The foundations for enhancing resilience to foster recovery, avoid future calamities and address the root causes of recurrent problems were laid down as far back as 2012. However, infrastructure resilience remains a huge gap. The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) estimates that in Somalia, for every \$100 spent on humanitarian responses, only \$0.08 goes to disaster risk reduction.

Somalia Humanitarian Funding, 2010 - 2017 (million US\$)



According to Overseas Development Institute, in Somalia, for every \$100 spent on humanitarian responses, only \$0.08 goes to disaster risk reduction.

Despite limited resources, where humanitarian and development partners have worked together, immediate and long-term resilience solutions have proven to be achievable and cost-effective. For example, in areas where humanitarians are responding to severe water shortages, such as Baidoa in South West State, development partners have drilled boreholes. Overall, WASH partners have consistently argued that the cost of providing 20,000 people with water through trucking for a year is \$2.8 million. This is equivalent to the amount needed to set up a water distribution network to provide for the same population for over 15 years, with regular maintenance.

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Recent studies have also shown that early humanitarian action is more cost-effective.

Recent studies have also shown that when early humanitarian action is combined with resilience building, hundreds of millions of dollars in life-saving aid can be saved and then channeled towards strengthening further resilience programmes, such as livelihood support. Only when this paradigm shift takes shape, supported with adequate funding in support of long-term goals, will Somalia extricate itself from its protracted vulnerability to climatic shocks.

Achievements in the first half of 2018

With flooding in southern and central areas of the country, a devastating cyclone in the north, the escalation of regional conflicts, particularly in the disputed Sool region, a significant upsurge in the displacement crisis and continued evictions compounded the humanitarian situation in the first six months of the year. Despite a challenging first six months of the year, major advancements have been made by humanitarian partners. Nearly two million people are receiving food assistance, and over 755,000 are assisted with temporary access to safe water every month. Health services have been provided to more than 1.6 million people between January and June, nearly half a million of whom are in flood-affected areas. While cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), cholera and measles continue to be reported, their frequencies are significantly lower than in 2017, mainly as a result of immunization campaigns conducted in 2017 and 2018. Routine vaccinations for tuberculosis, tetanus and measles are also underway. In June alone, nutrition treatment was provided to 124,000 new cases of severe acute malnutrition. Another 166,000

Major diseases are under control due to immunization campaigns conducted in 2017 and 2018.

beneficiaries were reached with infant and young child feeding counselling. Over 1.2 million children under the age of five are projected to be malnourished in 2018. Read more on cluster responses in the June Humanitarian Dashboard: <https://bit.ly/2vbOaZp>.

Brussels hosts Somalia Partnership Forum



The forum was attended by the President of Somalia, Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed 'Farmaajo' and representatives from 58 countries and six international organizations.

Representatives from 58 countries and six international organizations met in Brussels on 16 and 17 July for the second Somalia Partnership Forum (SPF). The inaugural SPF was held in Mogadishu in December 2017. Hosted by the European Union and Sweden, the latest meeting discussed Somalia's politics, security and economy. International partners commended the

Federal Government of Somalia for the progress made with regards to political reforms, security, economic development, and recovery and humanitarian action. However, the meeting also emphasized the need for further progress and sustained international support for Somalia. Participants agreed to take stock of outcomes over the next three months, ahead of the next SPF in six months' time. While much of what was discussed was a continuation of previous efforts, the introduction of the Resilience and Recovery Framework (RRF), which was launched since the previous SPF was of particular note.

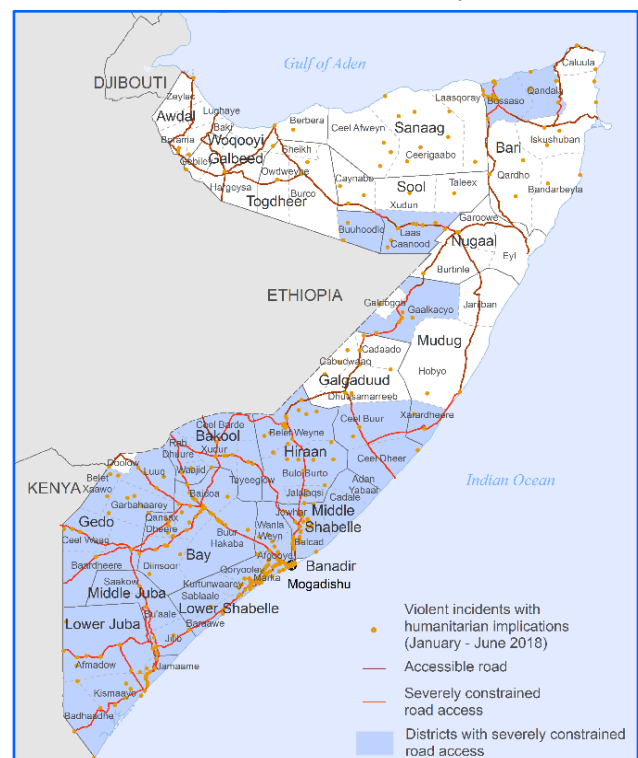
Humanitarian access challenges persist

The humanitarian operating environment in Somalia remains volatile and unpredictable.

Humanitarian organizations have continued to grapple with a number of challenges, including ensuring the safety of personnel, assets and facilities. They are also concerned about physical access impediments linked to active hostilities, economic ban, the proliferation of illegal checkpoints and other-such as extortions. Under-developed infrastructure and administrative/bureaucratic impediments are also of concern. While the number of violent incidents affecting humanitarian organizations has declined from over 90 in 2017, to 58 in the same period of 2018, nearly the same number of humanitarian personnel have been impacted.

During the first six months of 2018, four humanitarian personnel were killed, seven injured, nine abducted and 12 arrested or detained. During the same period in 2017, four

Humanitarian organizations have continued to grapple with a number of challenges, including ensuring the safety of personnel, assets and facilities.



humanitarian personnel were killed, nine injured, six arrested and detained, and 13 abducted. The number of staff expulsions by authorities has remarkably decreased when compared to the same period in 2017. At least two humanitarian workers were expelled by the authorities during the first six months of this year, compared to the seven expelled during the first half of 2017.

Eight out of the nine abducted humanitarian workers have been released.

Eight out of the nine abducted humanitarian workers have been released, while a female expatriate staff member, who was abducted on 2 May, remains held. The overall reduction in the number of violent incidents can be partly attributed to the reduced number of attacks in the Banadir region during the second quarter of the year. This has been credited to efforts made by the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), such as additional security measures and vetting access to Mogadishu.

The number of violent incidents associated with aid activities, including the looting of relief supplies, increased during the second quarter of the year, when humanitarian interventions were scaled-up in response to the effects of the April-June flooding. A similar trend was recorded in 2017, when humanitarians scaled-up drought response. Violent incidents associated with aid distribution have accounted for the majority of the 26 attacks on humanitarians during the second quarter of 2018. Humanitarian organizations have been urged to improve their aid distribution planning, ensure community participation and to address any local grievances in a transparent manner.

Restrictions on road transportation have been implemented in most areas of southern and central Somalia, for both commercial and humanitarian vehicles.

Unauthorized restrictions on road transportation have been implemented in most areas of southern and central Somalia, for commercial and humanitarian vehicles. Perpetrators, including state and non-state armed actors, have continued to hinder access for humanitarian and essential commercial commodities. Al Shabaab continues to exert pressure on the Jowhar-Mogadishu corridor through improvised explosive device (IED) attacks and the illegal taxation of vehicle owners/drivers. Trucks using the main supply routes in Hirshabelle State also continue to come under attacks from Al Shabaab. These have persisted over time, as the group enforces its economic blockade of government-controlled towns. Road access along the Mogadishu-Afgooye-Baidoa route is also severely constrained due to the mounting number of demands and extortion exercises by state-affiliated armed groups, clan militia, criminal groups and Al-Shabaab.

Engagement with authorities, to immediately halt the taxation of humanitarian supplies, is being prioritized.

According to local communities, Al-Shabaab has, in particular, continued to increase levies along stretches of the Mogadishu-Baidoa route. For example, from mid-June 2018, they ordered drivers of all private vehicles plying the Balcad-Agooye stretch along the Mogadishu-Baidoa access road to pay a registration fee of \$100 per vehicle and a daily road toll of \$3. To ensure compliance, Al-Shabaab set up a checkpoint in the Darussalam area in Daynile district in Mogadishu. Meanwhile, illegal checkpoints are being intermittently established along access roads in Galmudug State by both state-affiliated armed groups as well as clan militias and criminals. In addition to the illegal checkpoints and extortion, humanitarian organizations are also concerned about the increasing demands for arbitrary taxation by Galmudug authorities. Engagement with authorities, to immediately halt the taxation of humanitarian supplies, is being prioritized. Humanitarian organizations are urging the FGS and regional authorities to facilitate humanitarian action by reviewing taxation and by addressing the interference of regulatory measures in the implementation of humanitarian programmes.

Civilians resist forced child recruitment in Galmudug State

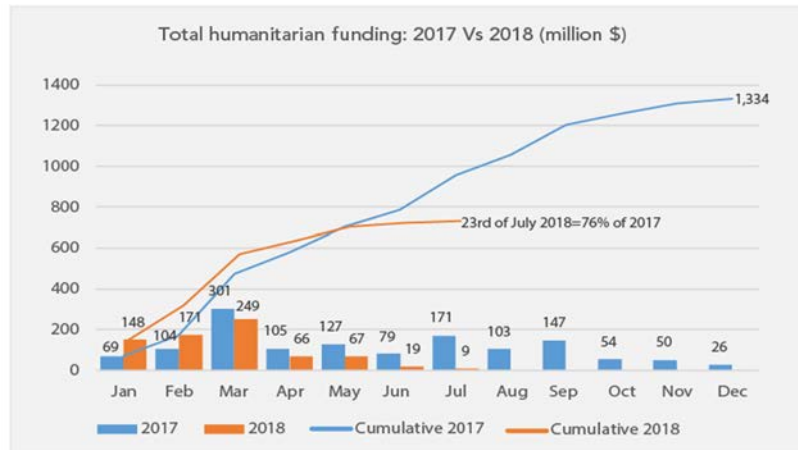
At least 15 people were killed and 16 others injured as local residents clashed with Al-Shabaab (AS) in Xarardheere, Galmudug State. An estimated 14,700 people were displaced in just five days (4-9 July), according to the Galmudug Disaster Management Agency (GADMA) and the Galmudug Commission for Refugees and IDPs (GCRI). The fighting broke out after the parents of approximately 200 youths, aged between 12 and 17, refused to surrender them to AS in a forced recruitment drive. Authorities in Galmudug have appealed to humanitarians for assistance for the conflict-displaced populations. According to humanitarian partners, this is the first time parents have taken up arms to resist AS's child recruitment. In most cases, the parents have opted to take their children out of targeted recruitment areas before the arrival of the militants. According to the Country

\$729 million has been provided for humanitarian response, \$569 million of which is through the HRP.

Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms, cases of children being forced to flee recruitment are rampant in Galmudug and South West states.

Resources needed to boost response

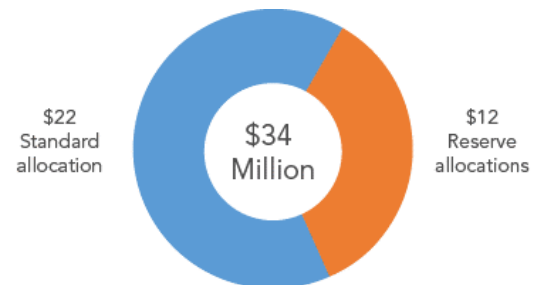
The total funding received for humanitarian response in Somalia this year has reached \$729 million as of 30 July, of which \$569 million has been channeled through the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and an additional \$160 million for activities outside the appeal. Total humanitarian funding in 2018 stands at 76 per cent of the 2017 figure, for the same period of time. While the total availability of reported resources in 2018 has been comparable to 2017, significantly fewer contributions have been received on a monthly basis since April.



This may be due to the improved food security in some parts of Somalia, which is a result of improved seasonal performance and abundant *Gu* rains. Despite the positive outlook and gains, humanitarian assistance needs to be sustained to

support the 5.4 million people who are still in need. More funding is required as the humanitarian situation in the country remains fragile due to the residual impact of drought, ongoing displacements, conflict, critical malnutrition, Cyclone Sagar and seasonal floods.

Meanwhile, since the beginning of the year, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) has allocated \$26.5 million through the first Standard Allocation (\$22 million), and Reserve allocations in response to floods (\$1 million) and the devastating impact of Cyclone Sagar in Somaliland's Awdal region (\$3.5 million). An additional \$7.5 million Reserve allocation is currently ongoing for urgent response in northern Somalia (Bari, Nugaal, Sool and Sanaag).



Humanitarian Response Plan revised

The Humanitarian Country Team in Somalia has revised the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, to reflect the changes in the humanitarian context during the first six months of the year. Meanwhile, preparations for the 2018/19 humanitarian programme cycle have started. The post-*Gu* (FSNAU) and the Joint Multi-Cluster Needs (JMCNA) assessments are underway, and are expected to be completed by the end of August. Their results will inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview and 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan. Read more in the revised 2018 Response Plan: <https://bit.ly/2JVqM7M>.

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