

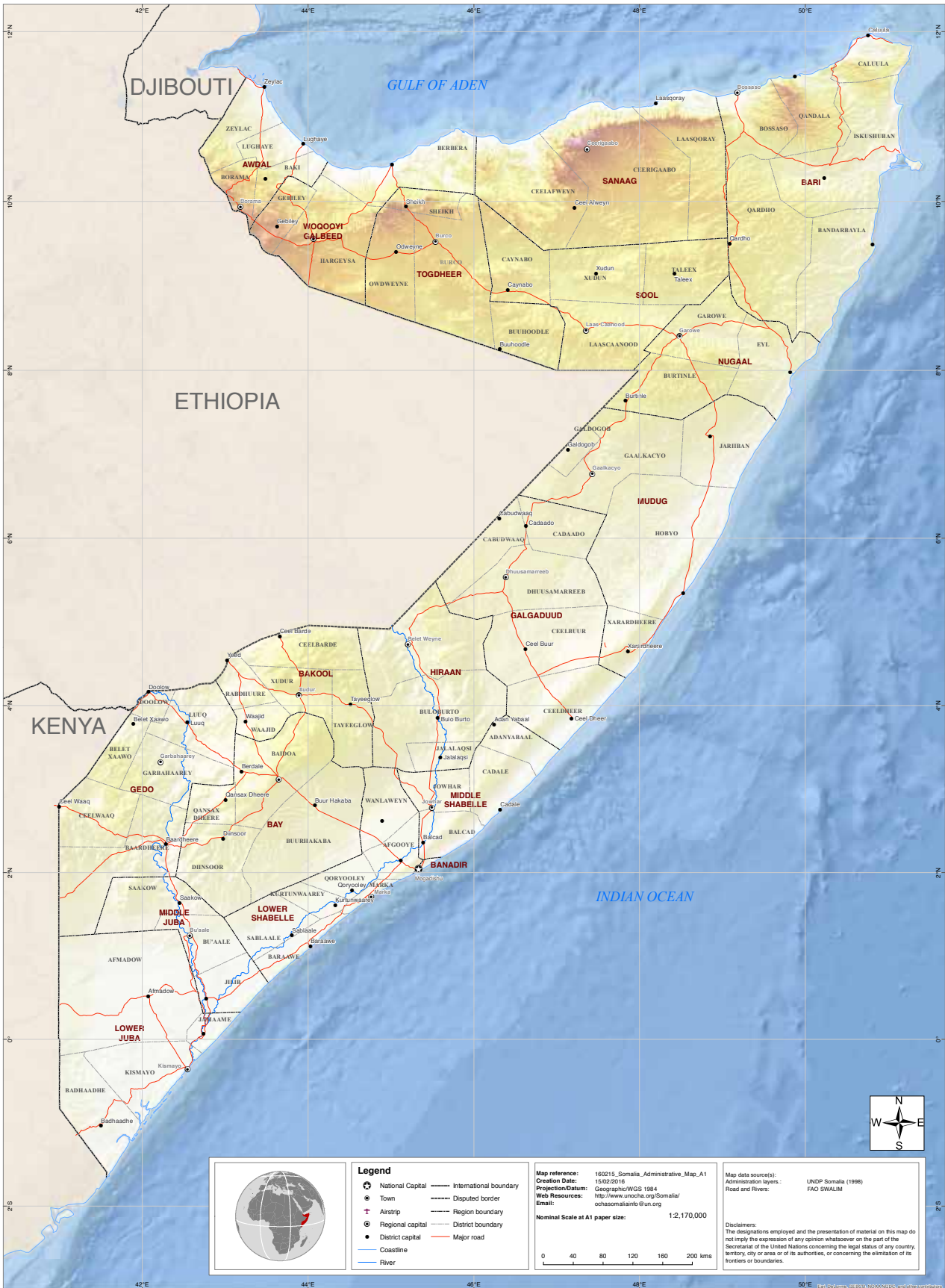


SOMALIA

**ANNUAL REPORT
2017**

unicef 
for every child

SOMALIA ADMINISTRATIVE MAP



- Legend**
- National Capital
 - Town
 - Airstrip
 - Regional capital
 - District capital
 - Coastline
 - River
 - International boundary
 - Disputed border
 - Region boundary
 - District boundary
 - Major road

Map reference: 160215_Somalia_Administrative_Map_A1
 Creation Date: 15/02/2016
 Projection/Datum: Geographic/UTM 38Q
 Web Resources: <http://www.unocha.org/Somalia/>
 Email: ochasomalainfo@un.org

Nominal Scale at A1 paper size: 1:2,170,000

0 40 80 120 160 200 kms

Map data source(s): UNDP Somalia (1998)
 Administration layers: FAO SWALIM

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SOMALIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Foreword

The devastating 2017 drought was felt throughout Somalia, and UNICEF scaled up its operations to mitigate the worst effects. As both the Gu (April/May) and the Deyr (November/December) rains failed, we saw animals die, crops fail and a huge exodus of people from their homes to makeshift camps in desperate search of assistance.

The drought led to a major outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea/ cholera, while measles cases soared in the overcrowded camps. Children already weak from hunger succumbed to sickness and over a million became malnourished. Wherever I travelled I heard heartbreaking stories of families that had lost everything.

And yet, despite the desperate situation and dire predictions, a famine was averted. The federal government and member states took the lead in coordinating the response and working closely with us. Donors stepped up quickly with substantial funding, and the aid community moved fast, with UN agencies such as UNICEF and WFP working closely together.

At UNICEF, thanks to unprecedented levels of funding from our donors, including UNICEF National Committees, we scaled up operations early in the year across all sectors. By the end of 2017 we had treated 270,000 children suffering from life-threatening malnutrition, provided 1.3 million people with emergency health services, 1.8 million with safe water and nearly 19,000 families with monthly cash transfers. Thousands of children affected by the drought were given an education, many for the first time, and we provided critical support for children who had been separated from their families, subject to violence or who had previously been with armed groups.

Unfortunately, the drought continues and the authorities, UNICEF and its partners are maintaining the emergency response at the same level to ensure that the Somali people are fully supported and progress is not lost.

We also continued our development work, which included strengthening health systems in Puntland and finalizing water systems for four towns in Somaliland. We supported the government's report on progress on the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as the launch of the drafting of the Child Rights Bill.

The drought brought new urgency to our resilience work, bringing together humanitarian and development programming. We launched a new joint programme with the WFP to enhance the access of individuals, households and communities to quality basic nutrition, health, water and sanitation services and their capacity to plan, manage and monitor recurrent shocks and stresses. This is critical work aimed at preventing a repeat of the humanitarian crisis we witnessed in 2017.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a flourish.

Steven Lauwerier
Representative, UNICEF Somalia

Table of Contents



Emergency Response



Health



Nutrition



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Education



Child Protection



Cross sectoral

Emergency Response

Situation



1 million people internally displaced in 2017, including over **700,000** children



6.2 million people (half of the population), including **3.4 million** children, required humanitarian assistance and protection



1.2 million children acutely malnourished

Progress



1.3 million women and children, including **503,183** internally displaced, provided with emergency lifesaving health services



174,355 children accessed safe and protected learning opportunities in emergency-affected environments



18,979 households provided with monthly cash transfers to support access to basic services

A Refuge from the Drought

Hundreds of thousands of people – the vast majority of whom are women and children – have been forced by the drought to leave their homes in a desperate search for food and water.

Many of them come to the sprawling settlement known as KM13 on the outskirts of Mogadishu. UNICEF supports a health and nutrition centre called Sablale just outside one of the settlements for the displaced families.

Sahra and her one-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Sabirin, who is suffering from severe acute malnutrition, recently visited the health centre. Sahra is 30 years old and pregnant with her ninth child. She left her husband back in their village in Qorioley district in Lower Shabelle, where they raised animals and crops, and brought her eight children to KM13.

“Due to drought we lost all of our cattle and weren’t able to harvest anything because the rains have failed for the last two seasons. We had to sell our last goats to pay for transport to Mogadishu,” she said. “We decided to join other families who were travelling to the camp.”

Many of the children at the Sablale camp, home to over 2,000 people, are malnourished and sick. Local families say 80 children have died since it was established two months ago. Nearly 500 people arrived in May at Sablale, which is named after the area many of them came from.

Habiba Mohamed Adan, a 30-year-old mother and her eight-month-old baby, Fadumo Osman Hassan, are also at the camp. Fadumo was sick and needed medication so they came to the centre, which is also supported by the local NGO SOYDA.

Like many other families affected by the drought, they lost their animals and the harvest failed. Habiba had to leave her husband behind in their village in Sablale district. He has disabilities and couldn’t make the journey.

After two days of walking she had covered 35 kilometres and was only halfway to the camp when she ran out of money. Residents in the village where she stopped collected funds to help her complete the journey.

“Some families stayed behind because they were expecting the rains to start,” she said. “There are new families joining the camp every day and others are on their way from the village I came from.”

“Since we arrived, we have been given food and water. We hope to get more help while we are here in the camp. Once the rains begin we’ll be able to go back to our village and start our lives again.”



Habiba and her baby at the health centre that provides health and nutrition services for families displaced by the drought.

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Emergency achievements in 2017

In 2017, a deteriorating food security and nutrition situation plunged Somalia into a crisis. Some 1.2 million children were acutely malnourished and there were disease outbreaks such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera and measles.

More than 1 million people were displaced in 2017, and the problem was exacerbated by forced evictions from camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). In one incident in December in Banadir, more than 5,000 households were evicted from multiple IDP settlements.

In response, UNICEF Somalia raised the largest amount of donor funding ever received, enabling a quick scale-up of a huge emergency response to help stave off the looming famine. The results boosted UNICEF Somalia's credibility, leading to sustained levels of both emergency funding and large-scale, multi-year development funding to support longer-term development and resilience efforts. In total, the office received over US\$300 million.

UNICEF's priorities were to provide lifesaving services to address critical malnutrition and excess mortality, effectively respond to mounting protection threats and support resilience building and early recovery. UNICEF maintained critical service provision in highest-need areas, procuring lifesaving core supplies and continually looking to expand partnerships and coverage in hard-to-access areas.

Lifesaving programme integration prioritized nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health services, complemented by child protection and education in emergencies. UNICEF maintained key leadership roles in support of humanitarian coordination as well as active participation in other crucial strategic forums. Humanitarian interventions were closely coordinated with relevant ministries, disaster management agencies and clusters. Where possible, UNICEF responded jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP).

As part of the Humanitarian Country Team, UNICEF participated in the Humanitarian Heads of Agencies meetings and the Inter-Cluster Working Group, which lead strategic and cross-sectoral coordination of humanitarian programmes. UNICEF was also an active member of the Civil-Military Working Group and Access Task Force. UNICEF continued to lead the WASH and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection Working Group, and co-lead the Education Cluster. The operational capacity of the UNICEF-led Clusters was significant, with a network of over 140 partners, including sub-regional coordinators in over 15 regions. This provided access to information, coordination and interventions in hard-to-reach and inaccessible areas. UNICEF and the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters were active members of the interagency Drought Operation Coordination Centres (DOCC) in Mogadishu, Baidoa and Garowe.

UNICEF carried out a joint intervention with WFP, delivering cash assistance for non-food needs through the SCOPE platform, a beneficiary information management platform designed by WFP.

UNICEF reached 18,979 households with monthly cash assistance over six months, including 2,993 households in Wajid, 2,887 households in Hudur and 13,099 households in Baidoa district.

A UNICEF-WFP partnership to assist returnee households from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya ended in mid-2017, with UNICEF providing an unconditional cash-based assistance package to 4,189 households to help them resettle.

Health



Situation



5.7 million people required basic health services



Over **79,000** cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera. Over **23,000** cases of measles



1 in 8 Somali children dies before the age of 5



1 woman dies every **3** hours from pregnancy-related causes



1 in 3 women gives birth in public health facilities

Progress



3.19 million people provided with health service coverage under the Essential Package of Health Services



1.3 million women and children received lifesaving emergency health services



2.1 million children received polio vaccines



2.4 million long-lasting, insecticide-treated mosquito nets distributed



43,000 cases of AWD/cholera were treated in 71 UNICEF-supported facilities



Over **193,000** babies delivered in health centres

Drought, displacement and disease

Two-year-old Absalah lets out a loud squeal just like any child his age when getting a jab in the arm. His exasperation is met by his mother's comforting words: "Alright, alright," she says smiling. "It is good for you. And it will keep you healthy."

Scenes like this have been repeated in many camps for displaced persons in central and southern Somalia. Under the blazing sun, at the vaccination posts set up in various camps, mothers and sometimes fathers wait patiently in line to have their little ones protected against deadly diseases. In addition to a shot, the children also get vitamin A supplement and a deworming tablet – chewed by older children and crushed and mixed with water for easier intake by the younger ones.

"We lost everything. All our animals are dead," says Absalah's mother, Nuna. "We walked for seven days to come to Baidoa. We need food and water."

The drought has brought outbreaks of diseases including AWD/cholera and measles. It also triggered widespread displacement and left more than half of the population destitute and in need of humanitarian assistance. In hope of finding aid, desperate families are crowding into towns like Baidoa and Galkayo.

The overcrowded camps around Baidoa see huge influxes of people every month. They offer almost no sanitation facilities and limited access to clean water. It is a perfect breeding ground for outbreaks such as diarrhoea and measles.

"Every day, there are new displaced families arriving in camps in Baidoa. Our facility is overwhelmed and our staff are not prepared to provide services to a population of such a size," says Isak Ali Subug, Health Minister of South West State, at the measles vaccination launch in Baidoa.



Absalah, 2, is immunized against measles with his mother, Nuna, looking on. Baidoa, Bay Region.
© UNICEF Somalia/Kun Li

With the help of UNICEF, WHO and partners, the governments administering Baidoa and South Galkayo reached some 45,000 children with measles vaccine in April and many more in subsequent months.

"Measles kills children, particularly those suffering from malnutrition. This is one tragic lesson we learned from the 2011 famine," says Jayne Mbakaya, UNICEF Programme Manager. "The only way to prevent it from spreading is to make sure all children are vaccinated. And we must do it now to save lives."

Health Achievements in 2017

In 2017, through the rapid expansion of integrated lifesaving activities, UNICEF reached over 1.3 million women and children under five with lifesaving health interventions, including over half a million IDPs, through 175 health facilities, 133 integrated mobile units and 36 rapid response teams across Somalia.

A five-fold increase of AWD/cholera cases was observed from 2016, with 78,853 suspected cases and 1,119 deaths recorded. The case fatality rate was 1.4 per cent. In response, UNICEF supported 70 cholera treatment centres/units, providing essential supplies and on-the-job training for health workers in case management, prevention and community awareness. A total of 42,771 AWD/cholera patients were treated in UNICEF-assisted cholera treatment facilities. In addition, essential AWD/cholera drugs and supplies for more than 40,000 patients were prepositioned in known high-risk outbreak areas in preparation for an expected resurgence of AWD/cholera in the coming months.

Two rounds of oral cholera vaccination (OCV) campaigns were conducted in Banadir, Belet Weyne and Kismayo, reaching 453,920 people. And 866,357 people were reached with AWD/cholera information, education and communication materials. More than 23,000 suspected cases of measles were reported in 2017, representing more than a six-fold increase compared to 2016, with 84 per cent of these children under ten years of age. Most measles cases came from Banadir, Togdheer, Mudug, Lower Shabelle, Bari and Bay regions. In response, UNICEF vaccinated over 602,000 children aged 6-59 months in 35 hotspots.

Overall, while there has been some progress made in reducing under-five mortality in Somalia, the rate of annual reduction (0.4 per cent) has been low and insufficient to achieve the target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One out of every eight Somali children dies before his

or her fifth birthday. The leading causes of under-five deaths are pneumonia, diarrhoea, neonatal disorders and measles.

Somalia is the fourth worst country in the world for neonatal deaths, with 1 out of every 26 children dying in the first 28 days. The maternal mortality ratio remains at 732 per 100,000 live births in 2015. Access to maternal health services remains low, with approximately one-third of births attended by skilled birth attendants.

The UNICEF-supported Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) includes child immunization; reproductive, maternal and neonatal health; nutrition packages; malaria treatment, first aid and care of the critically ill and injured; and management of common illnesses and HIV through support to an increasing number of facilities and communities.

The EPHS was rolled out in 47 districts in 10 regions through 18 implementing partners. Comprehensive obstetric care services were available in 11 hospitals, and 135 health centres offer basic obstetric care around the clock. A quarter of the population – 3.4 million people – had access to EPHS services.

Infant deliveries in institutions increased from over 77,000 in 2014 to nearly 130,000 in 2016 and over 193,476 in 2017 in 135 obstetric and newborn care facilities. Almost 30 per cent of babies were born in a facility. The number of infants who received their first pentavalent vaccine – a combination of five vaccines in one against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), hepatitis B and haemophilus influenza type B – increased to over 416,898.

UNICEF supported a large proportion of primary health care services, including the provision of incentives, essential medicines and supplies, vaccines, cold chain and other equipment. UNICEF also supported the introduction of the district health management information system

to improve Health Management Information System tools for Mother and Child Health clinics and Health Posts.

Although Somalia has been polio free since August 2014, the isolation of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus from two environmental samplings in Banadir region led to mass vaccination campaigns in the south and central regions, targeting over 700,000 children under-five with oral polio vaccine.

Since 2002, UNICEF has been the principal recipient of HIV and malaria grants for Somalia from the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In 2017, the malaria programme distributed over 2.4 million long-lasting, insecticide-treated bed nets. Over 32,800 people were treated for malaria and over 600 health workers were trained in malaria case management. Prevalence rates in Somaliland and Puntland are now below 1 per cent. The majority of malaria cases (around 60 per cent) were reported in the south and central regions

Based on the 2016 HIV Sentinel Surveillance Report, HIV prevalence among pregnant women and patients with sexually transmitted infections was recorded at 0.48 per cent in Somaliland, 0.29 per cent in Puntland and 0.07 per cent in south and central regions, with an overall incidence of 0.24 per cent. Testing for HIV among pregnant women and tuberculosis patients has been scaled up. Over 2,640 people are currently on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and the survival rate of people on ART is 80 per cent after a year.

UNICEF, the Federal Government of Somalia, the Federal Ministry of Health, Federal Member States with partners and other UN agencies strengthened the capacity of the health authorities and supported policy and strategic work, including progress on the National Development Plan through the Pillar Working Group and health coordination mechanisms at the national and regional levels.



Nutrition

Situation



1.2 million children suffered from acute malnutrition



17.4% prevalence of acute malnutrition, exceeding WHO emergency threshold of **15%**



1 in 6 children aged **6 to 23** months ate fewer than the recommended four food groups/day



65% of those in acute/emergency food insecurity are IDPs

Progress



271,000 children given lifesaving nutrition treatment for severe acute malnutrition at 800 therapeutic sites and 62 nutrition stabilization centres



320,031 children aged given two doses of vitamin A supplement



285,171 children aged 12-59 months de-wormed



592,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women given multiple micronutrient supplements

A lifesaving centre at the epicentre of the famine

Hundreds of children's lives have been saved by a modest nutrition centre in the middle of dusty Baidoa town in southern Somalia. In the centre, worried mothers sit quietly on mats, babies strapped on their backs, while toddlers play with cups of water or chew on sachets of therapeutic peanut paste.

Squashed between other mothers, Buley Ali Mursal perches on the low concrete bench. Her independent four-year-old, Faylow, confidently walks around while two-year-old Adam tries to hide between his mother's legs. She brought the children here from their village 20 kilometres away after they began to look weak and listless.

"We didn't have any harvest at all this year for ourselves or to sell. The children are just eating maize," said Buley, who is here with her children for their third appointment. "Otherwise we just have these sachets for the children. I was so worried I didn't think they would become healthy without help so we came here. Now they are getting much better."

Abdirahim Moalim Mohamed, programme coordinator of the local NGO that runs the centre with UNICEF support, says over 160 children are currently being treated for life-threatening malnutrition. This morning they admitted 15 children into the programme. The children are measured and weighed, given a health check and any necessary medication and vaccinations and a supply of therapeutic peanut paste (also known as ready-to-use therapeutic food or RUTF). The NGO runs three other mobile clinics covering 15 settlements for the displaced around Baidoa. The World Food Programme also provides supplies for families when their children are discharged.

Some of the highest levels of malnutrition in the country are in the surrounding camps for the internally displaced. Ten-month-old Binti is being weighed in a plastic bucket hung from the scales.

Her mother, Habiba, and five siblings moved to a makeshift settlement from their village a month ago.

"All our goats and cows died and so did the crops, so we had to move," said Habiba. Her husband makes a small amount of money loading trucks and she fetches firewood. Food is scarce.

"I saw Binti was looking very weak so we came here and now her health has improved over the past month," said Habiba. "There are many children around our camp who are suffering in the same way."

Anisa is three years old but is being carried by her mother Hawad and doesn't look like she can even walk. She weighs just over six kilogrammes. Hawad said the little girl became weak after getting measles. The doctor said Anisa's condition meant she would be referred to the inpatient Stabilization Centre at the nearby hospital.



Adan Ali Mursal, accompanied by his mother, Buley Ali, is screened for severe acute malnutrition. Baidoa, Bay Region.
© UNICEF Somalia/Athanas Makundi

Nutrition Achievements 2017

Based on early warning signs, the nutrition programme rolled out a 45-day emergency response scale-up plan targeting the most vulnerable and socially marginalized populations. To fast-track the response, existing partnerships provided a platform for rapid programme expansion, increasing outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) sites from 578 in February to over 800.

UNICEF worked with the WFP to develop a joint situation analysis and integrate moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatments. In the absence of a partner with adequate capacity, UNICEF Somalia triggered the direct implementation of services for IDPs in Dollow in the south, enrolling 782 children with SAM. In 2017, 271,000 children received lifesaving services and 93 per cent recovered. Monthly results and field monitoring allowed for quick programme adjustment as required. The August 2017 report of the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit showed the mortality rate among children under five years of age remained below the emergency threshold, which indicates that the lifesaving response was effective.

UNICEF's nutrition programme supply-chain management delivered timely, quarterly supply planning and distribution. SAM treatment centres received sufficient nutrition supplies, with over 98 per cent of facilities showing no stock-out of ready-to-use therapeutic food.

Bottleneck analysis

UNICEF, with the Ministry of Health, the nutrition cluster and the WFP, completed the integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) Bottleneck Analysis (BNA) to improve effective coverage of MAM and SAM management. BNA results showed that while the geographic coverage of services was satisfactory (over 70 per cent), only 60 per cent of service providers are trained on SAM management.

High-impact curative services

UNICEF and partners continued to support the utilization of high-impact curative, promotional and promotive services along the continuum of care. More than 320,000 children aged 6-59 months each received two doses of vitamin A supplements through routine service provision, and 285,171 children aged 12-59 months were de-wormed. Multiple micronutrient supplements to prevent and treat anaemia were delivered to 591,572 pregnant or breastfeeding women, and 245,914 received iron folate.

Over 283,373 pregnant or breastfeeding women received at least one counselling session on individual infant and young child feeding (IYCF), while 99,265 children delivered in health facilities were put to the breast within the first hour of birth. UNICEF completed the adaptation of the generic IYCF materials to the Somali context. Subsequently, certified IYCF trainers gave cascade training to 386 community health workers and facility health workers who deliver IYCF services at the community and facility level.

Breastfeeding policy

The policy environment for implementing the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes continued to be strengthened. The code was drafted and the interim breastfeeding policy was signed by the federal Ministry of Health and states.

Scaling-Up Nutrition

UNICEF played a leading role in providing both technical and financial support to facilitate the government's political commitment to the global Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. In October 2017, the vice-president of Somaliland announced that Somaliland had become a member of the SUN. In parallel, Somalia's SUN secretariat finalized the nutrition chapter of the new National Development Plan (NDP), with a focus on multi-sectoral approaches to address the nutritional needs of children and women.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Situation



4.4 million people needed water, sanitation and hygiene services



34% of the population has access to sanitation facilities.



53% have access to safe water.



50% of people in rural areas practise open defecation



24% of children under five suffer from diarrhoea at any one time

Progress



1.38 million people provided with the means to practice good hygiene and household water treatment



830,213 people given sustained access to safe water



298,264 people helped to access improved sanitation services



1.8 million people in drought/ cholera-affected areas, including IDPs, given access to temporary safe water

A village taps into clean water

Seventy-four-year-old Mariam Omar Farah couldn't hide her excitement when she heard her town in western Somaliland would, for the first time, receive piped, clean water. Mariam lives in a shack with eight family members, including grandchildren, 100 metres from the main reservoir tank of the new project.

When she was told, she immediately sat up and said: "This is one of the best pieces of news I have ever had. I have lived in Wajaale for my whole life and I have struggled to get water just like those before me."

Mariam is among some 40,000 people in Wajaale who will benefit from a water service project developed through a public/private partnership funded by the European Union and UNICEF. Wajaale was selected as one of four towns in Somaliland for the project. A UNICEF survey found that just over half the households in Somaliland had access to safe drinking water.

"For so long this expanding town lacked clean piped water," said the mayor of Wajaale, Hashi Mohamud Abdi. "We had previously made plans to get water here but it never happened. When I was a child in the 1960s I heard my parents and older people always talking and dreaming of getting clean water here. Today we succeeded and our dream came true."

For the next two months, residents will draw water from the main tank. Meanwhile, pipes are being laid to public kiosks with taps where the public will be charged for each jerrycan. For those who can afford it, water will be piped to private homes that will be fitted with water meters.

Mahboob Ahmed Bajwa, UNICEF's chief of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), said the piped water would have great benefits for the town. "With the drought, there has been a huge increase in people suffering from waterborne diseases in Somaliland," he said. "The successful

completion of this pipeline will have huge health benefits."

The local rain-fed water pan is about a kilometre from the town, but the water is contaminated by human and animal faeces and has caused disease outbreaks. During the dry season the water dries up and people and water vendors must travel to a seasonal river 15 kilometres away. The good quality water being distributed in Wajaale is pumped from a borehole at a village 24 kilometres away. While those living far from kiosks will continue to rely on water sellers, the price of water is expected to drop sharply.

The water company is called Caafi, a Somali word meaning "good health." Shares in the company can be purchased by the private sector and it is expected to reinvest some of the profits from the expansion of the water supply, install the distribution network, construct its own offices and support the Water Users' Association.



Wajaale town is now connected to a borehole in Bator some 20 kilometres away

© UNICEF Somalia/ Jamal Abdi Sarman

Achievements in providing access to clean water and proper sanitation

The severe drought caused a decline in access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene practices, especially in IDP settlements – all threatening children’s health. UNICEF provided vouchers to over 1.8 million people to give them temporary access to safe water with water trucks, water source disinfection/chlorination and support for operating and maintaining water sources. UNICEF also supported the construction or rehabilitation of 154 sustainable water sources, reaching 830,213 people. UNICEF constructed or de-sludged latrines in IDP sites and cholera treatment facilities, benefiting 298,882 people.

In response to the AWD/cholera outbreak, UNICEF scaled up its interventions, including water treatment and supply, as well as hygiene promotion in hotspots to contain the outbreak reaching 1,381,596 people. UNICEF also supported hygiene promotion through door-to-door campaigns and dissemination of hygiene and sanitation messages through the media. UNICEF provided WASH services in multiple towns hosting the newly displaced, serving over 162,000 IDPs in Doolow, Luuq, Baidoa, Marka, Bossaso, Garowe, Burco, Gaalkacyo and Buuhoodle.

Open defecation rates in Somalia stand at 60 per cent in rural areas and at 39 per cent at the national level. However, the drought led to a slowing down of the momentum for an open-defecation-free Somalia as communities prioritized access to water over sanitation and hygiene. Overall 98 communities joined the program, 45 attained self-declared, open-defecation-free (ODF) status while 37 communities were verified and certified as ODF. In Gabiley region of Somaliland, significant health outcomes were observed in communities with ODF status. Despite the spread of AWD/cholera

cases, there were no reported cases of AWD in ODF villages in Gabiley region. Community members linked the lack of AWD cases with their ODF status.

Since 2011, with support from UNICEF, an estimated 1.96 million people have gained access to sustained safe water through the development or rehabilitation of community water points.

Schools were used as an integrated service-delivery platform to provide safe drinking water, WASH, hygiene promotion and community-managed school feeding. UNICEF Somalia piloted emergency cash grants to achieve these results and directly supported 94,129 students from the most vulnerable communities. This enhanced community-level coping mechanisms by empowering communities to lead emergency responses.

UNICEF Somalia supported the construction of sub-surface dams in the north as well as rainwater harvesting. These water structures obstruct the flow of surface runoff and the flow of groundwater in seasonal rivers, storing water below ground level. Through shallow wells equipped with solar pumps, water is extracted to meet drinking water needs and the needs of livestock. These structures are currently used to store seasonally available water for use during dry periods.

In 2017, UNICEF Somalia supported the installation of 40 solar-powered water supply systems – 26 in the central and southern regions and seven each in Somaliland and Puntland. These helped to minimize the high cost of operating and maintaining the supply systems and to some extent have helped reduce their carbon footprint.

UNICEF constructed and rehabilitated water supply systems in 73 schools, benefitting 26,000 children and 150 health facilities, including cholera treatment centres and nutrition centres, benefiting 53,000 people.



Education

Situation



3 million children, out of **4.9 million**, estimated to be out of school



32% of children are in school and only **44%** of them are girls



50% of school children drop out by grade 5



25% of women aged 15 to 24 are literate

Progress



65,786 more children (45% girls) were enrolled in formal and non-formal primary education in 2017



118,514 children (46% girls) in crisis received emergency education support



52,344 children (46% girls) had access to Alternative Basic Education Centres



503 Community Education Committees and 529 Child-to-Child Clubs empowered



3,419 teachers (16% women) trained and received incentives



1,540 at-risk, out-of-school youth (62% girls) completed vocational and life skills training

Child-to-Child club brings hope for a better future to out-of-school children

Mohamed Ali Sheikh, 11, is one of the 200 students enrolled at Aflah School in a camp for the displaced persons on the outskirts of Mogadishu.

“I arrived here a year ago with my family,” says Mohamed. “We escaped from our remote village because we had nothing left to eat. There was also constant fighting between AMISOM and Al Shabaab. So my parents decided to leave.”

Once arrived in the KM 13 area of Mogadishu, Mohamed’s family settled in a camp and the children were enrolled in the camp school. Mohamed’s leadership skills were soon recognized by his schoolmates and teachers, and he was elected to head the school’s Child-to-Child club.



Mohamed speaks to his classmates as the head of the Child-to-Child club in his school. KM 13 area, Mogadishu.

© UNICEF Somalia/HornConnect

One of the biggest tasks for Mohamed and his club members was to spread awareness of education and encourage more children to join their school.

“We reach out to the camp’s children, inform them about our school. We tell them how important it is to be a student, to carry books and pens,” explains Mohamed about his job.

Since the start of the awareness campaign three months ago, Mohamed and his fellow students have managed to convince nine children to be enrolled as fulltime students.

“At first, we ask the children to visit our school and see what’s going on there. Next day, we would find them standing there, ready to join us. That’s how we do it,” he says. “Our message is very simple: ‘please join our school, it is free’. For each child joining us, it’s a big victory for us.”

From time to time, Mohamed and his team encounter refusals. “Some parents can be difficult - they prefer their children to stay home, work and earn money to help with the family,” says Mohamed. When this happens he uses his own experience to try to convince the parents.

“Where I came from, there were no schools. Boys like me herd goats every day, that’s the most important job for us,” says Mohamed. “But now, things are different. I am in school and learning. I can afford to have a dream.”

Mohamed’s dream is to become a teacher one day so that he can help other children, including those from his home village, to also realize their dreams.

With the help of children like Mohamed and his Child-to-Child club members, UNICEF and partners will continue to reach more children with education, especially those affected by the ongoing drought and conflict.

Current Situation

After more than two decades of conflict, a generation of Somali children have lost the opportunity for formal education and other benefits of a stable childhood. Somalia has one of the world's lowest enrolment rates for primary school-aged children – only 32 per cent of children are in school. In rural households only 18 per cent of children are in school, and in nomadic communities the enrolment rate is less than 10 per cent. The drought forced around 9 per cent of enrolled children out of school. Many communities in areas threatened by Al Shabaab fled to urban areas, adding to the already high caseload of IDPs.

Children in Somalia who do attend primary school tend to start at a later age due to a lack of money, geographical access, inadequate infrastructure, shortages of trained teachers, weak quality-assurance systems and insufficient domestic financing for education. More children of primary age attend traditional Quranic Schools than public schools.

Less than a quarter of children achieve minimum learning competencies for literacy and numeracy by Grade 4. High attrition rates at the primary school level, exceeding 50 per cent by Grade 5, illustrate the challenges stemming from low quality teaching and learning and weak service provision, particularly for the most socially excluded. Educational inequities are stark, with the gross enrolment ratio rate for pastoralist children under 4 per cent and under 17 per cent for IDP children. Only 23 per cent of children from the poorest quintile (including urban poor) are enrolled in education, compared to nearly 60 per cent from the richest quintile.

Currently close to 2 million children are affected by conflict, displacement or drought and continue to be underserved or neglected by formal education services and humanitarian assistance.

Fewer than 50 per cent of girls attend primary school, and only 25 per cent of women aged 15 to 24 are literate. Participation and literacy rates are only slightly better for boys overall. The low availability of sanitation facilities for girls, lack of female teachers, safety concerns and social norms that favour the education of boys inhibit parents from enrolling their daughters in school.

Achievements in 2017

In 2017, an additional 65,786 children and adolescents (46 per cent girls) were enrolled in formal and non-formal primary education pathways and over 54,000 received teaching and learning materials (including textbooks). More than 118,000 accessed education in contexts of emergency and were supported with learning materials. UNICEF, through its strategy of localizing humanitarian assistance, accounted for over 65 per cent of all education cluster results in the country during 2017, ensuring that young people were able to learn in safe and protected environments.

Over 503 Community Education Committees (CEC) were supported and 374 Child-to-Child Clubs were empowered to advocate for education and enrolment campaigns.

Those accessing formal and non-formal education services included some 52,000 out-of-school children and adolescents from rural and pastoralist communities who attended Alternative Basic Education Centres.

UNICEF also supported the completion of Education Sector Strategic Plans (ESSPs) for Somaliland and the federal government of Somalia. Over 3,400 teachers (25 per cent female) were trained on learner-centred pedagogy and psycho-social support and received incentives to remain in school and ensure children could access learning opportunities in emergency and non-emergency settings across Somalia.

Child Protection



Situation



4,160 children affected by grave violations



Over **76%** of survivors of recorded gender-based violence are IDPs



1,585 children recruited by armed groups – 95% in Southern and Central Somalia, mainly by Al-Shabaab

Progress



89,334 people accessed protection services



4,633 children and women who either experienced or were at risk of sexual violence received support



1,234 children (including 241 girls) formerly associated with armed forces/groups supported

A home away from home

The bright smiles that could light up a room and the colour-coordinated purple head scarfs that they both happen to be wearing leave one convinced that Sahro and young Sabiriin are mother and daughter.

“I was sent by my parents to come to Kismayo to work,” says Sabiriin, 9, who, despite her shyness, speaks in a clear voice. “A relative promised my parents that she would look after me. But as soon as we got off the truck in the town before Kismayo, she disappeared.”

She was brought to the shelter run by a UNICEF local partner, SEDHURO by bystanders. When Sabiriin arrived she was immediately registered and provided with counselling to help her settle in. While the staff at SEDHURO started a tracing process to try to unite her with her family, she

was put in a temporary home, where she met her foster mother, Sahro.

“In my eyes, a child is a child, no matter who her real mother is,” says Sahro. “For me, she is just like any of my own children. I welcomed her from the day she was brought to my house.”

Foster mothers like Sahro are supported with monetary and material incentives. They also receive training on child care and the prevention of violence against children.

“Supporting unaccompanied and separated children is one key element of UNICEF’s child protection work, as they are the most vulnerable to violence, abuse and exploitation during population displacement,” says Jean Lokenga, UNICEF chief of child protection.

With a network of NGO partners, UNICEF supported 4,275 separated and unaccompanied children (1,693 girls) with family tracing, care and support services in 2017. Around 4,600 survivors of gender-based violence were also supported with medical and legal services, a third of them girls.

Nine months after being separated from her family, the staff at the shelter reunited Sabiriin with her mother. However, they will continue to monitor her as her village is among those affected by the ongoing drought.



Foster mother Sahro Ismail Musa and Sabiriin Jama Warsame, 9. Kismayo, Lower Juba Region.

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Current situation

In 2017, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) documented 5,071 grave violations allegedly committed by armed groups/forces, of which 3,700 children (620 girls) were victims of recruitment (42 per cent), abduction (32 per cent) and killing and maiming (18 per cent). An Al-Shabaab forced-recruitment drive in Bay contributed to increased IDP movement in September, including as many as 500 unaccompanied children fleeing conscription.

With the onset of drought in Somalia and in response to the deteriorating safety and security environment, UNICEF provided protection services to 89,334 people (19,092 boys, 20,951 girls, 18,490 men, and 30,801 women) by scaling up existing development programmes and launching nine short-term emergency projects to meet surging needs.

Some 4,633 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) – 1,504 girls, 193 boys, 2,727 women, 209 men – were provided with access to medical assistance and psychosocial support. Another 4,275 separated and unaccompanied children (1,693 girls) received family tracing, care and support services; 1,234 children (241 girls) associated with armed forces/groups received reintegration support; and 79,192 people (15,324 boys, 17,513 girls, 18,281 men and 28,074 women) benefitted from messages aimed at preventing family separation and GBV.

Approximately 40 per cent of the children affected by the Al Shabaab forced-recruitment drive received services, including medical and psychosocial support. On the policy front, following advocacy from the CTFMR, the Ministry of Defence signed a General Command Order on 21 August to prevent child recruitment and other grave violations against children during armed conflict.

Building on work in 2016 to secure the release of children associated with Al-Shabab in Puntland,

40 children, all boys, were handed over to a UNICEF partner in Garowe, Puntland, for access to interim care and rehabilitation services. However, all the children carry sentences of at least 10 years' imprisonment for their association with Al-Shabaab. The effective reintegration of children and their family reunification can only happen when the children are pardoned or complete their sentences.

UNICEF Somalia, with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia, continues to play a pivotal role in leading advocacy efforts for children in armed conflict in line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. The Country Taskforce on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNSOM, sent advocacy letters each quarter to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) on human rights violations, including child rights violations allegedly committed by troops from AMISOM-contributing countries. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave child-rights violations was strengthened, resulting in timely collection and reporting of information on violations reported against children, affecting 4,160 children (652 girls, 3,508 boys).

UNICEF Somalia launched a preparedness project for children on the move in Puntland and Somaliland, with an emphasis on action research, case management and systems strengthening.

UNICEF Somalia organized a workshop in Addis Abba in October with Somali government representatives from ministries in charge of justice and social affairs from Somaliland, Puntland and Federal Government of Somalia to discuss progress and challenges on access to justice for children and bottlenecks on birth registration. Government officials committed to strengthen access to justice and birth registration in the 2018 annual workplan, in particular in the policy and legal framework.

Cross Sectoral



SIDA UU KU FAAFO DAACUUNKU

SIDA LOOGA HORTAGO DAACUUNKA

KA DHIG BIYAHA KUWO BEDQABA

DIYAARI CUNTO BEDQABTA

MEYDH GACMAHAAGA

Hadalka maada qof ayga shakiisa Qaasiga dhacaya ee al-Minka ODS, kaalinta uga caawiso qaybta caafsi, Dawladda iyo xiriirka bulshada.

Communications for Development

Building on work begun in 2016 in partnership with Africa's Voices Foundation (AVF) and MedialNK, UNICEF broadcast interactive programmes on 27 radio stations, reaching an estimated 70 per cent of the population. Topics included immunization, maternal and neonatal health, water, sanitation and hygiene, malaria, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, child marriage, girls' access to education and juvenile justice. Through an innovative feedback and analysis process, UNICEF Somalia received over 250,000 text messages from around 52,000 people. Around 43 per cent of the respondents were women, and most were 10 to 29 years old. Close to 20 per cent of those reached were IDPs, 41 per cent were in areas with high cholera prevalence, and 65 per cent in areas with high GAM rates. AVF produced several short analytical products giving insights on behaviours and key themes.

In addition, more than 2,600 radio and television spots were broadcast across 10 radio and five TV stations covering 2.5 million people and over 40 radio talk shows and dramas were aired. In addition, 17,000 posters, 15,000 flyers and 25,000 cholera guides reached approximately 866,000 people in health facilities, schools and nutrition centres. In Somaliland, 273 regional and district social mobilizers supported community mobilization and house-to-house visits.

Training was given to 108 federal and regional medical officers, surveillance officers and community mobilizers, and 496 hygiene trainers, who subsequently reached approximately 1 million people. Additional cascade training was given to 1,121 mobilizers and 280 religious leaders.

Resilience

A new joint WFP and UNICEF resilience programme on combating malnutrition was launched. The programme will provide access to quality basic nutrition, health and WASH

services and improve communities' capacity to plan, manage and monitor recurrent shocks in 15 districts in Benadir and Gedo. It includes the integration of community workers for treatment of MAM and SAM, with complementary WASH and health services, strong government capacity building and planning, and use of ONA/SCOPE technology for beneficiary management and monitoring. UNICEF, WFP and FAO finalized an agreement known as Joint Resilience Action to ensure that families are healthy, well-nourished and resilient by making food security and nutrition the core building blocks of resilience and focusing on the family and community.

Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLG) and Decentralized Service Delivery

UNICEF supported bottom-up planning exercises in 17 districts across Somaliland and Puntland, which led to the articulation of District Development Frameworks that set out each district's vision and development priorities for the next five years. In Puntland, almost 6,000 people attended the consultations, 60 per cent of whom were women.

UNICEF supported the development of civic education resources and partnered with civil society organizations to make community members aware of their civic rights and responsibilities and prepare them for engagement with local authorities. Some 90,000 people, including 2,000 school children, were reached through civic education campaigns on radio and television, and through theatre performances, school debates and social media.

Ten district councils were assisted in carrying out their devolved service delivery functions through service delivery models (SDM). As a result, 61,000 students in 272 primary schools and 43 health facility users benefitted from local government investments in infrastructure extensions and maintenance, regular electricity

and water supply, improved hygiene and security. Almost 50 per cent of SDM funds in the target districts now come from local sources, demonstrating a high level of ownership,

Social Protection

UNICEF continued work with WFP supporting the federal government in the development of social protection policy and systems, key activities for developing a strong enabling environment for the delivery of safety nets. This remains a priority for UNICEF, recognising that child-sensitive social protection is key to enabling poverty reduction and resilience building for vulnerable Somali households.

Gender equality

Somalia is ranked last among the 54 African states in terms of gender equality. Supporting the collection and reporting of sex disaggregated data was an important area of focus in 2017.

UNICEF also engages in distinct gender-focused interventions, such as programmes on GBV and female genital mutilation/cutting. UNICEF supported 82,492 beneficiaries with GBV-related prevention and response services including community members who participated in prevention and community mobilization activities and participants in an interactive, norm-changing radio programme. Menstrual hygiene management kits were delivered through the emergency response, as were improved water and sanitation facilities in health centres and schools.

Public advocacy and external communications

Communication and advocacy work focused on the devastating effects of the drought and UNICEF's massive response. Several international media visits were arranged including Al Jazeera, AFP, AP, the Guardian, the New York Times, VoA, Xinhua and TF1 as well as Somali media.

Over 20 press releases were issued generating wide coverage along with blogs and reports in various outlets including the Huffington Post and Daily Maverick. An innovative social media video on water collection was viewed over 12 million times as social media continued to expand with 30,000 followers on Twitter and 110,000 on Facebook. The Digital Reporting Interns project continued with former participants tweeting on various subjects and sending reports on evictions from IDP camps. Three trainings for journalists on child rights took place in Mogadishu, Garowe and Hargeisa and a perception survey commissioned by Communication via mobile phones showed UNICEF being the most recognised UN agency.

Advocacy material was produced in Somali to support work on implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including a child-friendly version with cartoons, four drama videos with English subtitles and a CRC focused Facebook page. Events focused on child rights included a child takeover of a Puntland Government meeting in Puntland for World Children's Day and coverage of the launch of the Child Rights Bill drafting process.

Supply management

UNICEF Somalia's total procurements in 2017 was estimated at US\$70.8 million including a local procurement component of US\$8,917,419 and procurement services of goods and services worth US\$5,382,868 for GAVI.

UNICEF Somalia held regular consultations with government partners across all sectors. In Puntland, the Supply and Logistics team worked with the Ministry of Health to procure and install a temperature-controlled solar-powered warehouse unit at a cost of \$300,000, and also launched a €23,499,682 Health and Infrastructure Project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support the strengthening of health systems. UNICEF awarded contracts for the Educate-A-Child (EAC) project for

the rehabilitation and construction of 43 schools worth \$881,232 and \$781,560 in the Central and Southern regions and Somaliland respectively.

UNICEF Somalia continued its collaboration with key government partners. Activities conducted included assessing logistics systems and their environment and conducting Logistic System Assessment Tool assessments to identify issues and opportunities and from these a series of workshops and exchange activities were organized.



Puntland's Vice President, Abdihakim Haji Omar Amay (left), and UNICEF Representative Steven Lauwerier at the inauguration of the warehouse.

© UNICEF Somalia/Kun Li

UNICEF and Puntland authorities open new solar-powered warehouse

UNICEF and the Ministry of Health of Puntland State opened a temperature-controlled warehouse unit powered by solar energy to store pharmaceuticals and nutrition supplies. The unit was procured by UNICEF for the Ministry of Health to help strengthen the health supply chain in Puntland.

Puntland's Vice President, Abdihakim Haji Omar Amay, and UNICEF Representative, Steven Lauwerier, opened the facility – the first that UNICEF has used for the supply chain – with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by representatives from partner organizations and the local community.

The warehouse will be used to store temperature-sensitive nutrition supplies (such as therapeutic peanut paste) and pharmaceutical products previously stored in a warehouse that was not temperature controlled. It will be jointly managed by UNICEF and the Health Ministry and UNICEF will also support the installation of a Logistics Management Information System to record transactions and deliveries of the supplies.

“We are working together with the Puntland authorities to ensure essential supplies are always available through efficient practices, which leads to a reduction in costs, stock-outs and wastage and improved performance,” said Mr Lauwerier. “We will continue to support the Ministry to build more units like this, which will contribute to ensuring the health of children today and Puntland's future tomorrow.”

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About UNICEF Somalia

UNICEF has been working in Somalia since 1972 when its first office opened in Mogadishu. Today UNICEF has 300 staff working in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garowe, Hargeisa and also Nairobi. Together with more than 100 international and national NGOs and community-based organizations, UNICEF delivers services in Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education and Child Protection, and responds to emergencies and supports peacebuilding and development.

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