

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) PROFILE



National WASH Overview

- 52 per cent coverage for basic Water Supply
- 38 per cent coverage for basic sanitation
- 28 per cent people practice open defecation

UNICEF Results in 2019

- 827,117 emergency affected people provided with access to temporary safe water
- 301,866 people provided with sustainable water supply
- 23 villages declared ODF
- 53 schools and 50 health facilities provided with WASH services
- 111,856 people provided with access to emergency sanitation
- 892,566 people reached with hygiene promotion and hygiene kits distribution

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Access to safe water is low in Somalia. Per the WHO-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2019 - SDG report, access to basic water supply is only 52 per cent in Somalia, 28 per cent in rural and 83 per cent in urban areas. Field reports also suggest that 40 per cent of existing water sources are non-functional. The main reasons for the malfunctioning of water supply systems are weak water supply management models, high operational and maintenance costs, lack of supply chain of spare parts and technical limitation of service providers. Groundwater provides 80 per cent of the domestic supply, but the groundwater table is deep, 100 to 300 m, and high salinity in most parts of the country makes water quality poor. The only perennial surface water resources in Somalia are the Shebelle and Juba Rivers.

Access to sanitation facilities is again very low in Somalia. The JMP noted that only 38 per cent of people have access to basic sanitation facilities, 20 per cent rural and 61 per cent urban, with 28 per cent people defecating in open, 49 per cent in rural and 1 per cent in urban.

The institutional set up of the WASH sector largely remains under-resourced in terms of human, financial and logistics. There are serious capacity gaps in available human resources, management systems and accountability. Roles are not clear and often overlapping among different government institutions. There is no harmonized and coordinated legal, regulatory and policy frameworks in place, and the policies and acts in place remain draft form and are inconsistent with implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

- **The institutional set up remains under resourced**
- **Resources and Capacity gaps**
- **Absence of a policy framework**
- **High ground water table and salinity**
- **Only two perennial surface water resources**
- **High rate of open defecation**
- **Complete absence of urban drainage and sewage system**

IMPACT OF CONFLICT & DROUGHT ON WASH

Over the last two decades, continued droughts in Somalia have devastated the water sector. Quantities are reduced and unpredictable, quality deteriorated and pricing became unregulated to exploitative levels. Major water sources like open water wells and tube wells drilled to deeper aquifers became extremely unreliable.

Intermittent droughts and uncontrolled discharges depleted the fresh water aquifers resulting in the reduction of surface water flow and high livestock deaths, all leading to long terms damage to resilience, health, and social wellbeing. In March 2016 to March 2017, the Shebelle river dried out completely, unseen in over 30 years. The water supply and sanitation related damages include the complete drying up of boreholes, shallow wells, hand-dug wells, berkads, dams, water pans and springs. This resulted in higher water quality access costs to households.

Water shortages are usually experienced during the dry season, January to March, when the population can only rely on the two permanent rivers and the ground water supplies. Thus, leaving the population dependent on water trucking. During the baseline period of 2013-2015, Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) estimated that there were around 3,733 water points, 61 per cent, 2,261 sources, of which were reported to be perennial under normal conditions, the remaining 39 per cent dry up during the dry seasons. Because of the drought, over 80 per cent of the shallow wells dry up and the water levels of most boreholes decrease to abnormally low levels.

Conflicts in Somalia have weakened the water supply and sanitation services. In addition to direct destruction of WASH facilities by inter/intra social groups, large number of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) settlement in urban and semi urban areas are seriously stressing the existing WASH services by over pumping of the ground water, worn out of pumps, generators and distribution infrastructure.

Water Quality, Sanitation, Hygiene Practices and Cholera

Ground water quality in many areas in Somalia is either saline or acidic, and most often, the biological quality of both surface and ground water is questionable linked to higher temperatures and poor environmental sanitation. During the dry season, the rural population tends to depend more on the quantity of water available and do not worry much about water quality, thereby creating a serious public health problem. Most of the water points mapped and quality surveys conducted indicated high levels of faecal contamination in water supplies at source, point of collection and point of use. There is no national reference public health laboratory to check and monitor the quality of water. There are weaknesses in regulating and assuring water quality, and compounded by relatively poor understanding of how the water supplies become contaminated and the risks associated with the use of this water. Therefore, improvements in water quality will require combined efforts from several institutions.

The challenges related to sanitation in Somalia involve various issues, from the low level of access to sanitation facilities and services, as well as the low service coverage with poor quality of sanitation services to the lack of a legislative and institutional framework. There are many management structures with marginal responsibility for sanitation and without clear roles and responsibilities. Sanitation is generally considered as personal or community function. The confusion surrounding whether full sanitation responsibility should fall under the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Local Government or the Ministry responsible for water has not been fully addressed.

For many years, hygiene and sanitation promotion and prevention education programmes in Somalia have tended to be ad hoc, uncoordinated and isolated. The approaches used have been using cascade trainings and an emphasis on educating the Somali populations as opposed to participatory approaches building on local knowledge promoting existing positive traditional practices. The predominant form of sanitation investment of all types of aid in Somalia has been through programmes subsidizing the construction of latrines. Despite this investment there is very little evidence of impact on the increased use of latrines or improved sanitation and hygiene. The current situation is also characterized by a high degree of unsustainability and little sustained behaviour change. New community based approaches, such as Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) have shown great promise since its piloting started in 2012 in Somalia. However, because of weak government engagement, widespread displacement, recurrent emergencies and access, as well as scaling up of the CLTS remains a challenge.

Cholera is widespread in Somalia. With a total of 164,074 cases of cholera reported in Somalia from 2006 to 2015, which constitutes the largest number of cases from all the Southern and Eastern Africa countries in the same period. In 2017, a total 70,458 suspected cholera cases and 910 deaths with Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 1.3 per cent recorded from all regions of Somalia. Most of the cholera cases were from remote and hard-to-reach locations. Most of the hard-to-reach locations are controlled by the non-state actors and remain inaccessible by humanitarian actors as road access is restricted. This created a big challenge in the cholera response in Somalia and resulted continued cholera outbreaks, In the period between December 2017 and December 2019 a total of 9,487 cases including 48 deaths were reported from 6 regions .



Service Delivery Models in WASH

Community Water Supply Systems

In this model, the community will be the owner and manager of completed facilities and responsible for the operation, maintenance and management of the facilities. Communities that have demonstrated a willingness and ability to participate in the provision of services are empowered through participating in all aspects of service delivery, including planning and construction of facilities. To allow communities to manage the water supply systems locally, appropriate community maintainable technologies, that provide safe drinking water on a continuous basis and that are best suited for local conditions are used. These include dug wells and bore wells with hand pumps, mini water yards with solar pumping systems, protected springs, gravity pipe schemes and rainwater harvesting. Local technicians will be trained in the maintenance of and supply chain for spare parts, which are implemented in partnership with the private sector.

Sanitation Services

As part of the sanitation services delivery, community-based sanitation approaches, such as CLTS or the social marketing of sanitation, are used to promote open defecation free (ODF) communities and appropriate facilities. In this model, UNICEF supports communities to construct their own latrines or toilets with their own resources. There are no standardized top-down designs, people shall decide for themselves appropriate designs with technical support of the implementing partners staff. In this approach the communities are also encouraged to explore and promote the availability of construction materials and allowing private suppliers to respond to the demand. The project builds the capacity of local communities and artisans through training and the provision of tools to provide effective operation and maintenance of their latrines. Such service delivery models are being used in stable rural communities, and in IDP sites, the sanitation service delivery model is mainly focused on construction of emergency shared latrines.

Public Private Partnerships (PPP)

The PPP service delivery model is mainly used in urban and rural water supply schemes that need specialized skill on operation, maintenance and management of the water supply systems like motorized boreholes, surface water treatment plants, water supply systems with household connections and water kiosks. The support provided by UNICEF in this model is focused on hardware inputs, including the construction, extension and rehabilitation of water supply systems, and software inputs, including training on book keeping and general accounting, financial management, setting billing systems, stocks and assets control, personnel management, training on operation and maintenance of water equipment, setting concession agreements, business planning, tariff setting, water regulations and water law. As part of this initiative many of the urban water companies are now owned by local investors who operates with local business people as shareholders. More than 40 functioning PPP companies are active across the country, including in 12 towns, the largest in Bosaso, Galkayo, Baidoa and Borama. In general, these have had good results, particularly in large cities like Boroma, Bosasso and Garowe on provision of water supply. Such water supply services helped to reduce the water tariff for the beneficiaries and sustain the services for the community.



UNICEF WASH Key Programme Achievements in Somalia

Support to PPP model

Since 1997, UNICEF has been supporting the PPP model in small towns. In 2013, a four-year Improved Urban Water Service Delivery in Somaliland and funded by the EU, started in collaboration with UN Habitat and the Ministry of Water and Natural Resources. The Urban WASH project covers four urban centres in Somaliland (Erigavo, Boroma, Tog Wajaale and Buroa) and is nearing completion. Once completed, the improvements will benefit a total of 2,200,000 people. In Bossaso and with a grant of US\$ 540,000, UNICEF supported GUMCO (PPP company) in infrastructural improvements, including constructing a 10.2 km distribution pipeline to the town and the rehabilitation of the existing 1000m³ water tank to enable easy access to water for over 200,000 people, targeting mainly those in informal settlements and IDP settlements. UNICEF has also completed assessments for other small towns in the Central South Region, including Dollow, Baidoa and Merka. Below are the major urban PPP water schemes in Somalia that have received UNICEF support:

- Somaliland: Boroma, Gabiley, Erigavo, Tog wajaale, Burao and Berbera;
- Puntland: PSAWEN, Bossaso, Garowe, Gardo, Ba'adwyene, Goldogob and Galkayo; and
- Central South Region: Dollow, Merka, Baidoa and Jowhar.

Relationship with Government entities at all Levels

UNICEF's WASH programmes have been working closely with national and regional governments in Somalia and have established very good relationships at all levels. Currently, UNICEF has signed workplans with the National Ministry of Emergency and Water resources, National Ministry of Health, National Ministry of Education, Puntland State and Somaliland. UNICEF's trusted relationships or partnerships with the government line ministries and the broad range of both international and national WASH partners guarantees a wide reach within Somalia where access is permitted. The UNICEF WASH sector leadership and coordination role presents a meaningful convening power in Somalia that allows UNICEF to influence policies and strategies for better results for communities.

Joint Programmes with other UN Agencies

UNICEF Somalia is currently engaged in the Joint Programme for the Rule of Law, the Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLG), the Joint Human Rights Programme and the Joint Resilience Programme (JRP). JPLG is implemented by five UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNCDF and ILO), with funding from seven donors in 2017, including the European Commission, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UK Aid and the UN Peacebuilding Fund. The 2017 budget was approximately US\$ 20 million, of which UNICEF had a 12.5 per cent share (US\$ 2.5 million). The JPLG Phase III (2018-2022) budget is anticipated to be US\$ 130-140 million over five years, and in addition to its traditional donors, JPLG has secured funding from Switzerland, the EU and Norway, with new donors such as The Netherlands, Germany and Canada also expressing an interest. For 2018, JPLG expects to receive approximately US\$ 25 million from donors, with plans to reach a target of US \$35 million by 2021/2022. UNICEF's share of the JPLG Phase III budget is anticipated to be 12-15 per cent.

In the Joint Resilience Action, UNICEF is partnering closely with WFP and FAO for the implementation of an integrated resilience programmes in areas vulnerable for multiple hazards. The joint humanitarian response with WFP has proven to be a successful response model, with agencies operating from one site, targeting the same households and engaging donors in joint briefings. In the pre-famine response, UNICEF carried out a joint intervention with WFP, delivering cash assistance through the SCOPE platform, jointly targeting beneficiary households, with UNICEF providing monthly cash transfers for non-food needs alongside the WFP food assistance.

Strong Foot Print- Field offices and Partners

Currently, UNICEF has offices in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garowe and Hargeisa, ensuring direct contact and coordination with local authorities, implementing partners and local communities, as well as enabling strong programming and use of resources. The field offices in Somalia are manned by qualified and experienced national and international staff and are supported by the Country Office based in Mogadishu and a Support Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. The Country Office staff in Mogadishu and Nairobi support the field teams and partners with technical guidance, contractual processes, monitoring

and reporting of WASH programmes. UNICEF has also recently increased the WASH staff presence in the country to boost programming capacity, with over 18 WASH staff based in different parts of Somalia and currently supporting programme implementation across the country.

Currently, the WASH Programme has 25 active partnerships with local and international NGOs and CBOs, most are local organizations. UNICEF improved the capacity of local partners over the past many years to achieve outputs, as well as increase efficiency and increase the value for money invested in WASH programmes, at a far cheaper cost compared to INGOs. Even with restricted access, UNICEF’s local partners can implement projects in remote and hard-to-reach locations.

Top Partner for WASH Humanitarian Assessment and Response

In the context of humanitarian action, UNICEF’s WASH programmes have a long history of working in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, both natural and man-made crises in Somalia. The WASH section has considerably strengthened the emergency response capacity and coordination of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. As the cluster lead agency for WASH, the programme has invested in coordination structures that have reduced vulnerability over time. The number of national NGOs has grown and there has been a notable cultural/geographic diversification of international NGOs. The time and complexity of the humanitarian situation in Somalia, as well as UNICEF’s long engagement in the Somalia humanitarian response, has allowed UNICEF to learn over the years about adapting traditional approaches to effectively provide support to emergency affected populations, including socially excluded groups, minority groups and the hard-to-reach groups. UNICEF’s WASH programme, in collaboration with the WASH cluster secretariat, has been able to establish sub-national supply hubs across the ten regions of the Central South Regio for prepositioning emergency WASH supplies for the immediately response to any crises. At the global level, UNICEF has established permanent and dedicated capacities to support the Country Offices in humanitarian response by establishing different teams for coordination and humanitarian response.

Moving along with the transition in political process/stability of Somalia

UNICEF’s WASH programme is designed in way that is agile and flexible to adjust with the transition process in Somalia. The WASH programme’s objectives are fully in line with Somalia National Development Plan (NDP) and designed in way to work with Federal Government, as well as different regional governments in the country. While establishing strong working relationships with the National Government, the programme also supports autonomous regional WASH entities in Somaliland and Puntland.



WASH Priorities for Country Programme (2018-2020)

The objective of the WASH programme is to ensure more people have equitable access to affordable water, sanitation and hygiene services, fewer people practice open defecation and communities live in a safe and cleaner environment. UNICEF is focusing on the provision of water supply, self-sustained sanitation and hygiene behaviours and WASH in emergencies. UNICEF is investing in government capacity to develop and implement WASH-sector policies and strategies that include PPP. The programme will also reinforce the accountability between communities and water users, policymakers and service providers.

The implementation of the WASH programme is guided by selected programming principles to contribute to the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation and aspirations of the Somalia National Development Plan (2017-2019).

Enabling Environment

Major inputs from UNICEF towards enabling environmental improvements, include evidence gathering, legislation/policy formulation, budget support/capacity development, advancing management/coordination and advocating for improved partnerships. Somalia strongly needs a comprehensive house hold survey on a variety of social indicators. This is important to set the baseline for the SDG achievements in a real sense. All partners have either conducted studies or are busy developing evidence base for informed programming. UNICEF's WASH programme, with the involvement of all key stakeholders, has recently conducted a comprehensive WASH bottleneck analysis. In addition, WASH programme uses FSNAU, SMART and KAP surveys owned by the government. UNICEF actively participated in Drought Impact Need Assessment (DINA) and finalization of Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF).

Through UNICEF's extensive participation in developing the National Development Plans WASH sub-sectors were categorized among the priority sectors. The development of the WASH policy and implementation strategy finalized and submitted to Cabinet approval. A draft WASH in Schools (WinS) guideline was developed while the ODF protocol and sanitation action plan are in place and ready for dissemination. In Puntland, the hygiene and sanitation policy has been approved and parliament is reviewing the Water Act and Water Policy.

Over the last five years UNICEF has invested over US\$ 4 million on capacity development of government, civil society and private sector. Over 60 cluster partner representatives and government officials were trained on WASH in emergencies, and over 722 community water user committees were trained on the management of water points. A modified CLTS approach for IDP camps and urban settings has also been rolled-out. Direct budgetary

support is being provided to Federal Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the Federal Ministry of Health and their chapters at Federal Member State level. In 2020, UNICEF intends to sign individual work plans with all Federal Member State level line ministries for direct budgetary support to Government entities for the implementation of activities in WASH.

While UNICEF leads the WASH cluster in Somalia, UNICEF is also a UN lead for the Social and Human Development Pillar (PWG-7) of the NDP coordination framework. PWG-7 has WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education and Youth sectors. Recently, UNICEF was helping the cluster platform to join the PWG coordination. The objective is to improve the government's active involvement in both the cluster coordination and the PWG. This is intentional link to humanitarian-development interventions and investments, as well as avoid any duplication. UNICEF is in the lead at both platforms.

Currently, more than 24 partners are directly implementing UNICEF's WASH programmes in the three major Somali regions. These partners include government and civil society. In addition, two international consultants are conducting feasibility studies in urban towns, including Baidoa. Moreover, over 40 PPP companies are functional and UNICEF is providing capacity support in shape of hardware inputs, including construction extension and rehabilitation, and software inputs, including training on book keeping and general accounting, financial management, setting billing systems, stocks and assets control, personnel management, training on operation and maintenance of water equipment, setting concession agreements, business planning, tariff setting, water regulations and water law.

Through its partners, UNICEF is providing safe water supplies for socially excluded population groups in urban and rural areas and together with sustainable sanitation services and hygiene promotion. These are built on best practices, including the PPP model of managing water supply system, lessons learned, engaging religious and clan leaders for CLTS approaches, and innovative approaches, including the use of technology for monitoring results and solar/wind powered water supply systems, during the previous programme cycle.

To ensure ODF status communities remain at the centre of its programming, UNICEF is working closely with the existing community structures like religious leaders, imams and sheiks, and clan leaders to improve the results in ODF status in several communities in the previous country programme. During next 4 years UNICEF intends to support 500 villages declared ODF.

To successfully implemented WASH at global level, UNICEF is using 'Three Star' approach for improved water and sanitation services in schools. UNICEF is planning to work with stakeholders in health to develop an inventory of all health facilities across Somalia, and to map functional water supply and sanitation services and thus, improve service delivery.

Recognizing the differences between urban and rural service delivery in context, actors, technology and financing, the WASH programme is engaged in urban

WASH, including support to the poorest and most vulnerable communities in urban areas, small towns and peri-urban settings. In addition, the programme will advocate for municipal resources to be devoted to poor and socially excluded populations and for the associated development of strategies and policies. Emphasis will be placed on the need to manage liquid waste, solid waste and drainage, as well as reducing threats to communities in the urban environment.

Major Donors

