

HIGHLIGHTS

- About 3 million people need humanitarian and livelihood support, despite good October to December rains and reprogrammed humanitarian assistance.
- Acute malnutrition has gone down by 13 per cent in the last six months. However, the situation remains dire.
- Threat to Somali remittances could have serious ramifications.

FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	731,000
# of people in stress	2.3m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	203,000
Source: www.fsnau.org (Feb-June 2015 projection)	
# of internally displaced people	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1m
Source: UNHCR	

Humanitarian Appeal

FUNDING

863 million
requested for 2015 (US\$)

2% (14m)

933 million
requested for 2014 (US\$)

49% (457m)
(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 19 Feb 2015)
Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Medical supplies being unloaded in Tayeeglow in Bakool region.
Credit: UN Photo/Tobin Jones

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Modest and fragile food security improvements

Fewer people face acute food insecurity, but progress is easily reversible

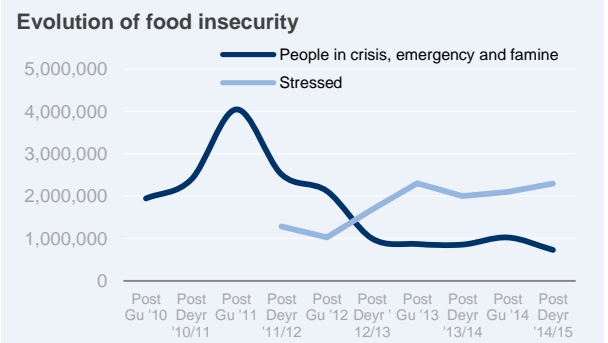
About 731,000 Somalis face acute food insecurity while an additional 2.3 million people are at risk of sliding into the same situation, bringing the number of Somalis in need to about 3 million. Internally displaced people living in urban areas are among the most vulnerable and make up 76 per cent of those facing acute food insecurity. Overall, this is an improvement from six months ago when over 1 million people were unable to feed their families and 2.1 million were on the

verge of acute food insecurity, according to post-harvest findings from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), led by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

Relatively good October to December rains, improved flow of goods and humanitarian assistance have helped prevent a worsening of the humanitarian situation and allowed a number of people in the most affected areas to get back on their feet and not constantly have to worry about the next meal. However, whilst it is good news that conditions have not worsened further, this should be seen as a short reprieve from the most acute situation. A poor rainy season could reverse the humanitarian situation to where it was six months ago or worse. The Humanitarian Coordinator on 29 January stated that the outlook for 2015 remains worrisome and that it is an essential prerequisite to continue to do everything we can to address the current humanitarian needs to prevent the relapse of a major crisis that could jeopardize recent historic peace- and state-building gains

Several areas and groups remain of high concern

- Internally displaced people make up 76 per cent of those who are food insecure. Most live in settlements and have unreliable livelihood strategies.
- The food insecurity among displaced people in Doolow in Gedo is classified as emergency. People in 12 other settlements for displaced are classified as crisis. Five settlements have global acute malnutrition rates over the emergency threshold.
- Urban communities in southern Somalia (Xudur and Waajid in Bakool region and Bulo Burto in Hiraan region) affected by trade disruptions face acute food security crisis despite a modest improvement of the situation since July 2014.
- Southern agropastoral communities in Juba and destitute pastoralists in coastal areas of northeastern, central and southern Somalia face acute food security crisis.



Source: FSNAU/FEWS NET

BASELINE

Population (UNDP 2005)	7.5m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1 per day (UNDP/World Bank 2002)	43%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
Under-five mortality (FSNAU 2015)	0.52/10,000/day
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2015)	12%
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

CLUSTERS

Lead or co-lead organizations

Education	UNICEF SC-Alliance
Food security	FAO/WFP
Health	WHO Merlin
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF CAFDARO
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF Oxfam GB

- In riverine livelihoods of Middle and Lower Juba affected by floods during the *Deyr* season, food security will continue to deteriorate until the late (off-season) harvest becomes available in March. Similarly, in parts of pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones that received below-average *Deyr* rains, household food security will continue to deteriorate until the start of *Gu* rains in April.

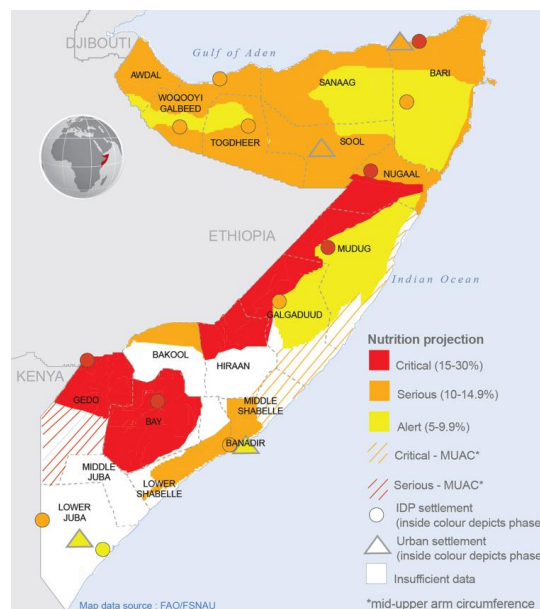
Timeline of critical seasonal events



Crisis and emergency encompasses phases 3 and 4 in the five-phase classification system of the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. For more information on the recent food security findings see: <http://bit.ly/1DjrZwF>

Global acute malnutrition levels remain alarmingly high

Acute malnutrition has gone down by 13 per cent in the last six months. However, the situation remains dire. About 203,000 acutely malnourished children require emergency nutrition supplement, access to clean water, sanitation infrastructure and better hygiene. About 38,000 children are severely malnourished and need medical treatment and therapeutic food to survive. At 15.3 per cent, the global acute malnutrition rate in southern and central Somalia is above the global emergency threshold of 15 per cent, especially among internally displaced people in Baidoa (Bay region), Doolow (Gedo region), Gaalkacyo (Mudug region), Garowe (Nugaal region) and Bossaso (Bari region). An improvement in the nutrition situation has been seen among displaced people in Mogadishu and Kismayo due to targeted nutrition activities. Aid workers did a causality review of malnutrition with humanitarian clusters among displaced people in Mogadishu last year and have initiated a review among internally displaced people living in other urban settlements to better understand the underlying causes and inform response.



Source: FSNAU/FEWSNET

National level	August 2012	January 2013	August 2014	January 2015
Acutely malnourished	206,000	203,000	218,000	203,000
Severely malnourished	54,000	50,000	43,800	38,200

Vaccinations needed to curb disease outbreaks

Repeated measles campaigns needed to prevent further outbreaks

Measles remains a public health concern in Somalia with 10,279 suspected cases reported in 2014, a three-fold increase compared to 2013 when 3,189 cases were reported. It is estimated that a third of the children under one year are vaccinated against measles through routine immunization services. This is far below the 95 per cent coverage considered necessary for the control and prevention of measles outbreaks. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and immunization partners are planning a nation-wide measles campaign in mid-2015 and are looking at how to improve routine immunization and surveillance activities. Repeated campaigns that prevent future outbreaks of measles will be required.

**New material on the
OCHA Somalia website:**

HC press release

English and Somali:

<http://bit.ly/1vjEvNI>

Humanitarian Key Messages:

<http://bit.ly/17hcNG3>

Humanitarian Snapshot:

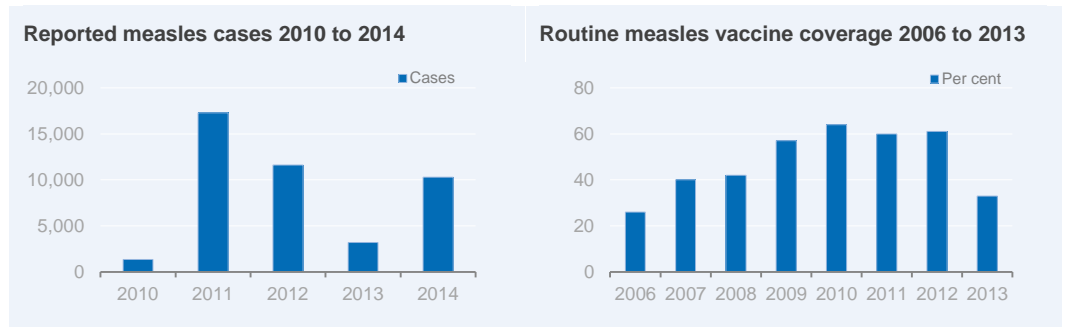
<http://bit.ly/1Jrh1MM>

CHF first allocation:

<http://bit.ly/1MA5JVz>

Pooled fund update:

<http://bit.ly/1AWqdmM>



Somalia is marking six months since the last polio case was reported

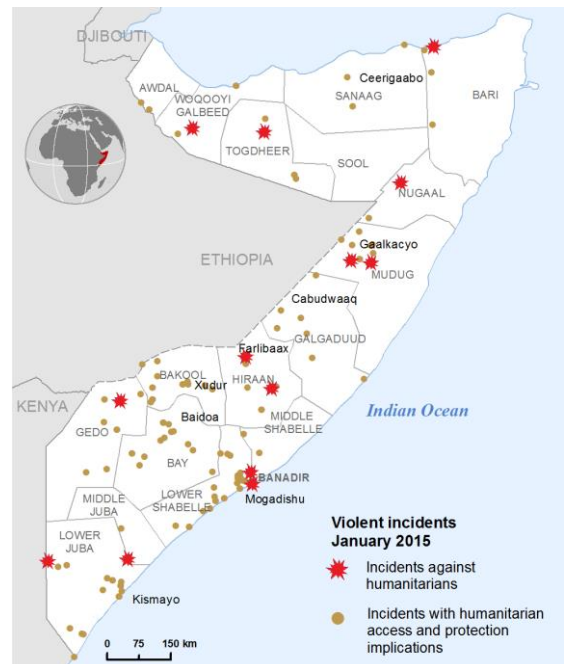
Polio was detected in Somalia in May 2013, for the first time in six years, after the parents of a two-year-old girl in Mogadishu found she was unable to walk. The virus, which can cause paralysis or even death, spread quickly, affecting 194 people in 2013. In 2014, the outbreak was contained to only five cases, all in Mudug region in Puntland. The last case was reported in Hobyo district, Mudug on 11 August 2014. Since the outbreak began, the authorities, with support of UNICEF and WHO, have targeted more than 2 million children under the age of five for vaccinations, as well as children aged from five to 10 and adults in some areas. Despite the news, a cautious approach is required since the task of eradication is not finished. Polio continues to threaten the lives of Somali children and the campaigns to eradicate polio will continue in 2015.

Longstanding access challenges persist

Road access in southern and central Somalia remains restricted

The overall operating environment in Somalia continues to be difficult. More than 210 violent incidents with implications for humanitarian access and protection of civilians were registered in January, a slight reduction compared to December 2014 in all regions, except Banadir. Humanitarian workers were targeted in nine incidents in January, which led to the death of one staffer and the injury of two in Hiraan region. Two attacks on food aid convoys were registered in Yasooman and Luuq-Jellow in Hiraan. The food trucks were enroute to Maxaas and Ceel Buur districts in Hiraan and Galgaduud regions.

According to the recent food security findings, access to food in local markets has improved slightly since July in some of the towns that came under Government control in 2014. These areas include Bay and Bakool, Gedo, Hiraan, and the Shabelle regions. However, main supply roads are still not fully opened up for commercial and humanitarian goods and food prices remain above the five-year average. Non-state armed actors continue to target civilian movements aiming to restrict the flow of food and other essential supplies particularly along the road from Mogadishu via Baidoa to Luuq and the road between Belet Weyne, Jalalaqsi and Burlo Burto in Hiraan region. Despite challenges and persistent insecurity in parts of Somalia, humanitarian organizations are reaching people in need of assistance in all 18 regions of the country.



Over 210 violent incidents with implications for humanitarian access and protection of civilians were registered in January.

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Any disruption of this critical lifeline could have a devastating impact on the humanitarian situation and could undermine current peace building efforts.

Remittances to Somalia jeopardized again

Disrupting lifeline for millions of Somalis could have serious consequences

On 6 February, the US-based Merchants Bank closed accounts with Somali money transfer operators. The news that the last major US bank closed accounts of companies allowing Somali-Americans to send money to families back home, could have serious ramifications. According to the money transfer operators, the bank was responsible for transferring up to 80 per cent of remittances from the US.

Money transfers from around the world to Somalia are an important financial inflow. Each year, Somalia receives more money in remittances to meet their most basic needs than from development assistance, humanitarian assistance, and foreign direct investment combined. The Oxfam, Adeso and Inter-American Dialogue report *Keeping the Lifeline Open* from 2013 estimated that Somali-Americans send over US\$200 million to Somalia each year. An estimated 40 per cent of the Somali population depend on money that friends and family send from abroad to meet their needs for food, clothing, medicine and education. Any disruption of this critical lifeline could have a devastating impact on the humanitarian situation and could undermine current peace building efforts in Somalia.

For more information see new report on remittances "Hanging by a thread": <http://bit.ly/1AJorH1>

More funding is needed to scale up response

Pooled funding will help jumpstart critical activities for vulnerable people

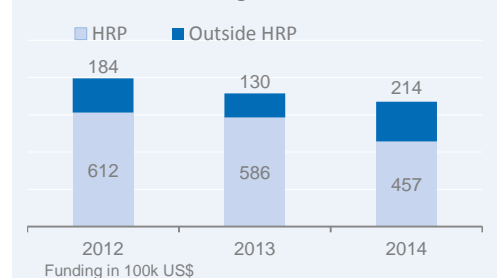
The Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has decided on the year's first allocation of \$30 million focusing on support to people in crisis and emergency. Half of the allocated funds will support projects targeting internally displaced people in urban settlements where conditions are most critical: Dhobley, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garowe, Kismayo and Mogadishu. An emphasis on integrated programming across clusters will ensure that projects addressing acute malnutrition are complemented by activities in health and water, sanitation and hygiene to reduce elevated morbidity and mortality levels. The CHF also allocated \$6 million to education, protection and shelter projects to enhance the protective environment for displaced people and host communities.

Half of the allocated CHF funds will support projects targeting internally displaced people.

Last year's appeal nearly half funded, but no time for complacency

The 2014 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has received 457 million, or 49 per cent of requirements. Although the funding level improved over the last months, this is not the time for complacency and it remains the lowest funded appeal against requirements since 2008. From 2008 to 2010, the annual humanitarian appeals received an average of 68 per cent of requested funding. This spiked to 87 per cent in 2011 following the famine. However, since then it has declined, from 52 per cent in 2012, to 51 per cent in 2013, and 49 per cent in 2014. While the funding for the appeal has gone down, funds received outside the response plan have increased. Last year, donors contributed \$670 million for humanitarian activities in Somalia with \$457 million against the \$933 million appeal and \$214 million outside the appeal. The percentage of non-appeal funding has gone up from 23 per cent in 2012 (and 18 per cent in 2013) to 32 per cent in 2014. The actual amount of humanitarian funding received outside the Humanitarian Appeal could be higher, as figures only show what has been reported on the online Financial Tracking System.

Humanitarian funding trends



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