

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of people in food security crisis dropped to 870,000, but an additional 2.3 million people remain on the margin of food insecurity.
- Polio outbreak continues with 169 confirmed cases since May. In the last six weeks, no new cases have been reported in the epicentre – Banadir region, which comprises Mogadishu.
- Aid organizations and the Federal Government of Somalia are trying to determine the gap and mitigate effects in the health sector after MSF pull-out.

## FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	870,000
# of people in stress	2.3m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	206,000
Source: <a href="http://www.fsnau.org">www.fsnau.org</a> (August-December projection)	
# of internally displaced people	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1m
Source: UNHCR	

## Consolidated Appeal

## FUNDING

1.15 billion

requested for 2013 (US\$)

37% (429m)

(reported as of 12 September)

Source: Financial Tracking Service <http://fts.unocha.org>



Livestock export has increased since January this year. Credit: FSNAU

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## Food security improves across Somalia

### 870,000 people still unable to meet basic food needs without assistance

The number of people in crisis and emergency in Somalia has decreased by 17 per cent, from 1.05 million to about 870,000 people since the beginning of the year, according to data released by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), managed by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network. The number of people in crisis in Somalia is at its lowest since famine was declared in 2011 and dipped below one million for the first time since 2008. The gains are due to successive good rains and consequent improved harvests, lower food prices and sustained humanitarian assistance. However, an additional 2.3 million people – a third of Somalia's population – remain on the margin of food insecurity. They may struggle to meet their minimal food requirement through the end of the year and are highly vulnerable to major shocks.

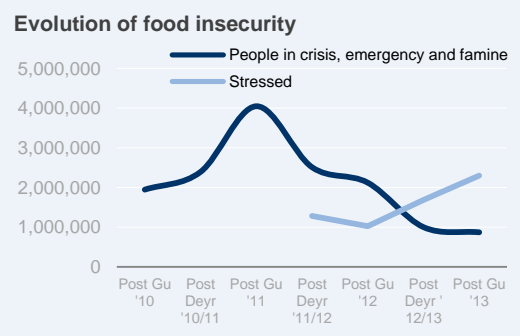
While welcoming the news, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Philippe Lazzarini said that humanitarian actors must continue to provide life-saving assistance and scale up investment in programming to build communities' ability to cope with future shocks. If resilience is built up now, he stressed, it could help ensure that the next period of poor rains does not turn into a deep humanitarian crisis.

Crisis and emergency are phases 3 and 4 on the FSNAU's five-phase scale for analyzing food security with 5 representing famine. Stressed encompasses phase 2 in the same system.

### Internally displaced people are among the most vulnerable

Large parts of Somalia are now classified as "stressed" or in phase two of food insecurity, which means that one of three households can meet minimum food needs, but struggle to cover some essential non-food needs and have limited ability to invest in livelihoods. Some areas and groups that remain of particular concern include:

- **Internally displaced people**, who make up 72 per cent of those who are food insecure. Most live in settlements and have unreliable livelihood strategies.
- **Agro-pastoral households in Hiraan in central Somalia**, where March-June *Gu* rains ended early, were poorly distributed, and resulted in a harvest 38 per cent below the long-term 1995-2012 average, forcing poor families to depend on market purchases for food.
- **Poor pastoral households in coastal Deeh in central Somalia** are likely to remain in crisis through the end of 2013. Inadequate numbers of livestock limit their income.



Source: FSNAU. The graph includes internally displaced people who make up about 72 per cent of the people in crisis and emergency.

## 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 2013)	0.53/10,000 /day
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2013)	14.4%
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

## CLUSTERS

### Lead/Co-lead organization

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

- **Households in the Sool Plateau pastoral livelihood zone in the north-east** are likely to divert funds to purchase water during the dry season through October. High water expenditures could increase debt among the poor.

### Despite gains, critical levels of acute malnutrition persist

Acute malnutrition continues to pose a threat to hundreds of thousands of children, especially in the southern regions and among internally displaced people. Nutrition surveys indicate that 206,000 children under 5 years of age are acutely malnourished, a drop from 215,000 malnourished in January. The decline is attributed to a general improvement in the socio-economic environment and continued humanitarian assistance. Of the 206,000 acutely malnourished children, 40,950, or about 20 per cent, are suffering from severe acute malnutrition making them susceptible to disease and even death. About two-thirds of all malnourished children live in southern Somalia. The ratio of one in seven children malnourished remains among the highest in the world.

The FSNAU food security findings can be found at: <http://bit.ly/1aBIU3r>

## Battle against polio continues in all regions

### No new cases reported in outbreak epicentre for six weeks

The wild polio outbreak in the Horn of Africa continues with the total number of confirmed cases in Somalia at 169 as of 12 September. On 31 August, Puntland confirmed its first polio case in Bossaso. A further 13 cases have been confirmed in Kenya and one in Ethiopia. Given the large numbers of unvaccinated children in Somalia – estimated at around 600,000 in southern and central regions – the risk of further spread remains high. Aid organizations are actively searching for cases of suspected polio in all health facilities country-wide. Health authorities in Somalia, with support from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have continued intense vaccination activities since the outbreak started in May. The sixth round of the country-wide vaccination campaign was conducted between 18 and 21 August, targeting 3.4 million children under the age of 10. A further four campaigns are planned before the end of the year.

Recent three-month assessments of outbreak response in Somalia and Kenya conclude that there is a strong risk the outbreak will last longer than six months. Outbreak response planning should therefore continue into 2014, according to WHO and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. However, there are indications that the response activities to date are having an impact: fewer cases are being reported in the area considered the "engine" of the outbreak – the Banadir region of Somalia, which includes Mogadishu according to WHO. Following intense outbreak response activities, including vaccination of all age groups and heightened disease surveillance, cases appear to have peaked in Banadir.

## Fragile operating environment persists

### Civilians continue to bear the brunt of insecurity

The security situation in parts of Somalia remains volatile, especially in Mogadishu, Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle regions. On 7 September, two consecutive explosions targeted a restaurant in Mogadishu, causing numerous casualties, the majority civilians. On 12 September another deadly attack occurred in Kismayo when an explosion detonated close to a convoy of the leader of the Juba interim administration. The precarious operating environment in southern Somalia continues to limit humanitarian access to people in need and keeps staffing levels reduced although some organizations have resumed activities after the relative hiatus in July. In Somaliland and Puntland, humanitarian access levels remained mostly unchanged during the reporting period.

### Assessments underway to determine gap after aid group's departure

On 14 August, MSF announced the imminent withdrawal of all operations of its five chapters in Somalia, citing extreme attacks on its staff and "an environment, in which armed groups and civilian leaders increasingly support, tolerate or condone the killing, assaulting and abducting of aid workers." While other international NGOs and UN agencies continue to support health and nutrition programmes in Somalia, MSF had played a critical role for

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

Humanitarian Dashboard:

<http://bit.ly/14lka5g>

Humanitarian Snapshot:

<http://bit.ly/17F4mwq>

World Humanitarian Day:

Audio message

<http://t.co/jYF7wAxKTF>

Press release

<http://bit.ly/13y1h6i>

Video

<http://bit.ly/16Q6mri>

*UNHCR and humanitarian partners have underlined that returns should first and foremost be voluntary, and that conditions for large-scale return are not yet in place.*

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hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people, including in areas that are extremely difficult to access for aid workers, including Jilib and Mareereey in Middle Juba region and Diinsoor in Bay region. In 2012, 1,500 MSF staff at 21 hospitals and health centres in nine regions of Somalia provided more than 624,000 medical consultations, admitted 41,100 patients to hospital, vaccinated 58,620 people, and delivered 7,300 babies. Aid organizations, in collaboration with the Federal Government's Directorate of Health, are trying to mitigate the worst effects of the withdrawal on vulnerable people. The estimated minimum requirement is US\$16.6 million for one year.

## Returns to home areas and reports of evictions

### Protracted displaced people helped to return to their homes voluntarily

The Somali Return Consortium, comprising UN and NGOs, in July and August completed a series of intention survey exercises in Gaalkacyo and Mogadishu to establish the number among the 11,500 families surveyed that would want to voluntarily return to their places of origin. About 90 per cent confirmed their intention to return to Bay, Hiraan, and Lower and Middle Shabelle regions in southern Somalia. Registration of the displaced who expressed the intention to relocate and go-and-see visits to their villages of origin is on-going. In September, 5,000 families are expected to relocate ahead of the Deyr rainy season from October to December. Support to 2,000 families who were assisted to return in February and March in the Consortium's pilot project continues. In August, a livestock distribution programme benefitted returnees in Bay, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle regions. The Consortium provides assistance including transport, access to basic services, and livelihood support in the villages of origin. The assisted households are monitored and supported for a minimum of six months.

### Seasonal and temporary returns to Somalia continue

From January to August, over 26,000 cross-border movements into Somalia were recorded, the majority from Kenya, according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR). About 1,800 people were reported to have moved in August. UNHCR said that many of these movements are seasonal or temporary and not permanent refugee returns. A planned Government of Kenya conference to discuss repatriation of Somali refugees, which was scheduled for 28 and 29 August in Nairobi, was postponed following a request from the Federal Government of Somalia to have more time to prepare the issue. UNHCR and humanitarian partners have underlined that returns should first and foremost be voluntary, and that conditions for large-scale return are not yet in place.

### Displaced people evicted from settlement in Mogadishu

In August, reports of evictions from the Zona-K site, a model temporary accommodation for internally displaced people, in Mogadishu were received. Private landowners, who had returned to the capital from the diaspora, started to reclaim parts of the land on which the settlement was located. Gate-keepers (self-appointed managers of settlements for displaced people) exploited the situation and started moving people to the area between Kilometre 7 to 13 on the road running from Mogadishu to Afgooye town. About 60 to 100 shelters built with corrugated iron sheets and other infrastructure, including latrines, were dismantled by the displaced who sold the shelters before relocating. The Zona-K plots were part of a humanitarian strategy for improving living conditions for internally displaced that was implemented in the second half of 2012. Humanitarian partners visited the areas on 10 September and are looking into how to



Latrines and temporary secure shelters made from corrugated iron sheets were dismantled in August. Credit: OCHA/Russell Geekie.



address the development. The Government's plan to relocate displaced people from the city-centre has stalled, partly due to lack of security at the relocation site.

## Somalia faced with cash flow disaster

### Millions of Somalis rely on remittances from abroad

*...this move will affect 40 per cent of Somalis who depend on remittances with 75 per cent of the money used for the most basic services including water, food, health and education.*

The planned closure of money transfer business accounts by the UK bank Barclays at the end of September could cut a vital lifeline for millions of Somalis who rely on the money for basic services. Wary about lack of controls over the flow of funds, Barclays announced in June it would close its accounts with most Somali remittance companies and has since postponed the closure twice, at the request of lobbying from humanitarian agencies.

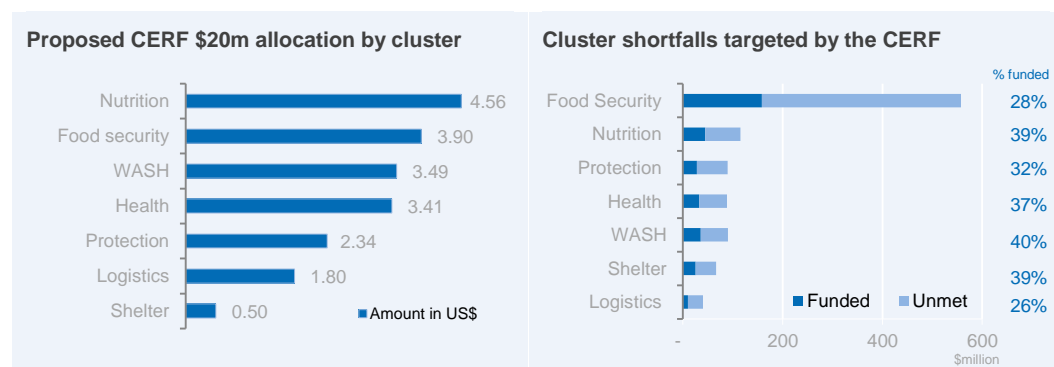
In August, advocacy efforts by the major relief and development groups intensified, asking to help money transfer organisations to comply with the regulations and for a 12-month extension to find a solution. One interim solution could be to develop a custodial 'remittance bank' with the support of a multi-lateral organisation until the Somali banking sector is rebuilt. On 11 September, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Philippe Lazzarini was part of a Nairobi Forum panel to discuss "Keeping the Lifeline Open." He reiterated that this move will affect 40 per cent of Somalis who depend on remittances with 75 per cent of the money used for the most basic services including water, food, health and education.

## Emergency funding to fill gaps in key areas

### Prioritized clusters to be supported to maximise impact of activities

*The slow funding flows have meant that humanitarian agencies have focused on lifesaving activities to prevent the situation for people in crisis to deteriorate.*

The Somalia 2013 Consolidated Appeal remains underfunded at 37 per cent of a request of \$1.15 billion. The slow funding has meant that humanitarian agencies have focused on lifesaving activities, but have had to forgo essential investments in resilience. In July, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US\$20 million to Somalia as one of the underfunded emergencies globally. The grant follows the first standard allocation of the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), held in May/June 2013, which allocated \$29 million to lifesaving assistance and support to resilience activities in 22 priority districts in Somalia. The Somalia Humanitarian Country Team decided that the CERF allocation would primarily support the same priority clusters and augment the CHF allocation to maximise the impact of activities. It will boost ongoing efforts to ensure continuity in programming particularly in health, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene, which were faced with reductions in coverage due to underfunding. Also at risk were the humanitarian priorities of protection against sexual and gender based violence whose programmes have chronically suffered inadequate funding.



Source: 2013 CERF allocation to underfunded emergencies, Financial Tracking Service <http://fts.unocha.org>.

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