

2016 - 2018

HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY








SOMALIA

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MAY 2016

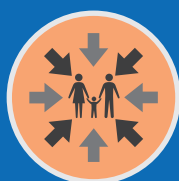
PERIOD: JANUARY 2016 – DECEMBER 2018

			KEY CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE IN NEED (2016)			
TOTAL POPULATION	BASELINE NO. OF PEOPLE IN NEED (FEB 2016)	REQUESTED FOR 2016		952,000	22,247	'Emergency'
					929,830	'Crisis'
				3.7 million	people in stressed food security and livelihood situations	
				305,000	Acutely malnourished children (prevalence estimates)	
				1.1 million	Internally Displaced Persons in need of protection and durable solutions	
12.3 million	4.7 million	885 million				

Sources: Total population estimates, UNFPA; IDP numbers, UNHCR; other humanitarian needs, FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU).



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE IN THREE YEARS?



The complex, inter-linked and multi-dimensional humanitarian challenges in Somalia requires correspondingly complex solutions, from a development and a humanitarian perspective. The three-year humanitarian strategy for Somalia for 2016 to 2018 will aim to lead to significant long-term reductions in the level of humanitarian need in Somalia. Whilst entirely humanitarian

in scope, the strategy will link with other state-building and development-focused activities in order to address many of the underlying causes of recurrent humanitarian crisis in Somalia and to strengthen the resilience of Somali people and communities to prepare, respond and recover from future crises. The overarching three-year humanitarian strategy will achieve the following:



STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



- Less people in need of **life-saving humanitarian** assistance and protection in particular those in 'emergency' and 'crisis' situations, through the efficient and effective delivery of timely, well targeted support and services where needed and in line with people's needs.
- **Malnutrition** rates less than emergency threshold of 15 per cent in any Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) settlement/community anywhere in Somalia through a coordinated, multi-cluster approach.
- **Basic social services**, including education, health, nutrition and WASH delivered to vulnerable people when needed, where needed and at scale.
- Strengthened **humanitarian protection services** by preventing and responding to pervasive protection violations against minorities, IDPs, and other vulnerable civilians, and with a gender sensitive approach, including increased advocacy.
- Enhanced household resilience to conflict and sudden and slow-onset natural disasters through the long-term provision of sustainable livelihood support and basic services, in a community-based approach.
- Strengthened **linkages and complementarity between humanitarian and development programmes and activities in order to catalyse** durable solutions to displacement, recurrent protection violations and to address the underlying causes of hunger throughout Somalia.
- Improved preparedness and response to conflict and natural disasters through enhanced early warning and early action mechanisms.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE STRATEGY

2016-2018

For over three decades, poverty, marginalization, armed violence, insecurity, political instability, natural hazards and a combination of underdevelopment and development failure have continued to drive humanitarian needs in Somalia. While Somalia continues to be on an positive trajectory, resurgent conflict and endemic environmental hazards render many of Somalia's estimated 12.3 million people chronically or acutely vulnerable. Armed fighting is prevalent in large parts of the country and continues to cause significant physical and psychological harm to civilians, as well as displacement and deprivation of basic services. Natural hazards and disasters are endemic in Somalia and affect hundreds of thousands of people every year. Some chronically impoverished and conflict-ridden communities are so vulnerable that even small-scale natural hazards, which continue to increase in prevalence and impact, have devastating effects on their lives. While coping mechanisms and some forms of assistance do exist, the seemingly endless cycle of human suffering continues unabated. The multidimensional nature of poverty in Somalia is largely influenced by geographical, gender, age and other social, economic and political factors. About 95 per cent of the rural population face poverty compared to 60 per cent in urban areas (UNDP 2014), while female-headed households and those above the age of 60 are among the most vulnerable groups. Lack of access to basic services for youth, especially education and livelihoods opportunities, means they can easily tip into the vulnerable category, as well as encouraging outward migration in search of employment and increasing susceptibility of recruitment to non-state armed forces. Needs arising from these factors can either be reduced or mitigated through appropriate programming that seeks to strengthen vulnerable people's ability to withstand shocks, contribute to strengthening institutional and local operational capacity to manage disasters and efforts to ensure access to basic services. The necessity to complement current development programming and continue to link with planned development projects is vital in the coming years, particularly on capacity-building, disaster risk management, increasing resilience of vulnerable communities and catalysing durable solutions for the displaced.

With more than 60 percent of households in urban areas and 95 percent of rural households suffering from multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2014), Somalia remains among the most poor and food insecure nations globally. The economy is highly concentrated in the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors (approximately 60 per cent of total employment), which are characterized by low productivity and low value addition, and are vulnerable to a range of external shocks, including commodity price fluctuations, land degradation, floods and droughts. The lack of significant longer-term development programmes in a context of conflict, climatic shocks, cyclical displacement, extreme poverty, and inadequate basic social services, has not helped the situation and continually undermines the resilience of millions of Somalis who

remain vulnerable to both natural and human-made disasters. A combination of these factors continues to perpetuate the vicious cycle of humanitarian emergencies in the country. This means that a significant proportion of the Somali population has been relying on unsustainable international humanitarian assistance for their survival. Recognizing that the persistent vulnerabilities and the urgent needs arising from them are interlinked with deep-seated underdevelopment and fragility, and the little prospects of recovery in the short to medium term, the humanitarian community in Somalia will take another longer-term outlook for humanitarian action in the years ahead. This complements some of the initiatives set out in the 2013-2015 Somalia Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) to save lives, improve basic services, strengthen livelihoods and continue aligning humanitarian programming with development initiatives. While the previous plan brought resilience into humanitarian planning, broadening the horizon of the strategy to address the underlying causes of vulnerability and the protracted nature of the crisis, it was difficult for the humanitarian community to measure the impact of the results. With another three-year plan, there is opportunity to build on gains made on resilience particularly if the multi-year strategy translates into multi-year programmes complemented by multi-year funding. These results will be exemplified through multiple needs assessments and monitoring over the coming three years, and plans will be effectively modified, when necessary, utilizing updated information, risk analysis and monitoring of achievements and results.

Drawing on lessons from previous experience, such as the debilitating effects of the 2011 famine, the El Niño phenomena of 1997-8 and 2006-7 and other chronic shocks and stresses, including the most recent flooding and drought that was exacerbated by El Niño, the humanitarian community in Somalia has developed a humanitarian strategy extending from 2016 to 2018 that aims to save lives, strengthen community livelihood



About 95 per cent of the rural population face poverty compared to 60 per cent in urban areas



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systems to withstand shocks and manage disasters, improve access to basic services, while concurrently prioritizing protection of vulnerable groups, including seeking durable solutions for IDPs. By pursuing these overriding objectives, this strategy will utilize life-saving humanitarian assistance as a platform for vulnerable people to withstand and build resistance to natural and man-made shocks, while at the same time closely linking with current and planned development activities to address the root causes of vulnerability and solve cyclical displacement by supporting durable solutions. A three-year approach to humanitarian response in Somalia makes it easier for partners to set benchmarks for year-on-year monitoring frameworks and adjust annual response plans in line with emerging needs, ultimately leading to increased prioritization of response programming, improved accountability to affected people and better linkages with development efforts, such as durable solutions for internal displacement and returning refugees.

The overall goal of the three-year strategy is to ensure maximization of available humanitarian assistance and available resources, whereby basic life-saving assistance targets the most vulnerable and the resilience of people susceptible to vulnerability is strengthened by concurrent programming, thereby cumulatively contributing to conditions where fewer people require endless emergency relief. The strategy also envisions that, by the end of 2018, the current caseload of people in need of assistance would have reduced as a result of increasing development and humanitarians will only focus on emerging and urgent needs – such as those of newly displaced people and the severely food

insecure – with the longer-term needs to build more resilient livelihoods and basic services, strengthening disaster risk management, and ensuring durable solutions for IDPs and returning refugees being addressed by development assistance. In the first year of the three-year strategy humanitarian response is aligned with the New Deal Compact² to enable the people of Somalia and its international partners to address a range of development challenges, factoring in humanitarian action, to improve people's ability to be self-reliant and strengthen access to basic services. At the culmination of the New Deal in 2016, and throughout its preparation and formulation, the strategy will closely assimilate with and complement the Somali National Development Plan (SNDP) for the period 2017-2019 in order to avoid duplication. As the programmes planned under the SNDP come into effect, humanitarian response planning will focus on complementing programming, increasing and decreasing in scale and focus where necessary to ensure the most vulnerable people continue to be provided with vital humanitarian assistance, and act as an enabler in providing basic services and livelihoods, disaster risk management and prevention, and building resilience during the transition to development programming, as well as catalyzing durable solutions for returning refugees and to end cyclical displacement. In order to ensure that we can continue to build resilient communities in a cost-effective and more sustainable manner we need to have flexible funding to enable timely programming and support the early recovery of disaster-struck communities. This also addresses the humanitarian-development divide and works toward ending need by breaking the chronic cycle of humanitarian emergencies.



STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

To ensure continuity and predictability of aid and to capitalize on the positive impact of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance, including improved access to basic services and protection of vulnerable groups, the three-year strategy for humanitarian action in 2016-2018 will pursue the overarching strategic outcomes summarized below:

- **Reduced number of people in need of critical life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection, as well as increased provision of basic services.**

The three-year strategy seeks to mitigate the threat of food insecurity, malnutrition, disease, displacement and human rights violations by prioritizing saving lives and strengthening livelihood support to reduce persistent vulnerabilities and acute suffering. The strategy also seeks to ensure timely and targeted response to people in need in an efficient way to achieve the best impact out of available resources. The target is to reduce the

current rates of food insecurity and severe acute malnutrition rates to below emergency threshold through efficient, targeted and timely delivery of aid in a well-coordinated multi-cluster approach. Based on the most recent increase in population estimates, according to FSNAU, about 4.7 million people are food insecure. The country is one of the top ten countries with highest prevalence of malnutrition in the world and is the third highest in the eastern and southern Africa region with 13.6 per cent global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate amongst children under age 5, with 2.3 per cent of these severely malnourished. Critical levels of acute malnutrition tend to persist in a number of population groups, especially IDPs, and while a nutrition causal analysis was conducted in 2015 to identify underlying causes, an action plan based on partnerships to address the causes identified holistically must be initiated. This strategic outcome embraces a wide range of critical and life-saving response activities, including emergency healthcare; food and nutrition assistance; access to safe water and sanitation; emergency shelter; provision of emergency education; and, protection of civilians affected by emergencies. These activities will target people affected by natural causes such as flooding and drought; cyclical displacement;

² The "New Deal" also defined a set of principles and mutual commitments to ensure an accountable, effective and transparent relationship between the Somali Government and the international community. This includes a section on humanitarian principles whereby the Government reaffirms that it will help facilitate full humanitarian access and that it will not interfere with humanitarian actors' neutrality, impartiality or independence from political, economic and military processes. It also established a Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDRF) to be jointly managed by the Somali Government and international partners. The SDRF will oversee the alignment of international financing with government priorities, reduce fragmentation of aid, and increase Somali ownership and leadership in the transition out of fragility. It will have several funding windows including a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund that will record donor funds in the Somali Government budget with the aim to increasingly channel funds through the treasury.

armed violence and insecurity; and, providing humanitarian assistance where necessary to returning refugees, and to refugees and asylum seekers. The key strategies used to reach this outcome will be: continue to restore and strengthen livelihoods and basic service delivery to build resilience to recurrent shocks, thereby reducing vulnerability levels of people and preventing people from slipping in and out of 'emergency' and 'crisis'; sustained integrated multisectoral programming (food security, health and WASH) to reduce malnutrition levels; pursue innovative and multi-sectoral approaches to response, taking into different needs of various vulnerable groups; systematic multi-sector assessments and shared situation analysis; scaled up advocacy for predictable funding and a safe operating environment; pre-positioning of stocks in priority locations ahead of predictable seasonal hazards; strengthening of the humanitarian coordination architecture at state-level and continuing collaboration with Government structures; and, ensuring unhindered access to affected people and the safety of aid workers.

- **Strengthened humanitarian protection services by preventing and responding to pervasive protection violations against vulnerable groups, including minorities, IDPs, refugees, returnees and women, children and the elderly.**

Displacement continues to cause suffering for over 1.1 million people. Marginalization, forced evictions, discrimination against different vulnerable groups and minorities, pervasive gender-based violence (GBV), and insecurity and armed violence continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities and to drive needs. The protracted nature of the displacement is due to the persistent or recurrent nature of many causes of internal displacement, limited ability of the state to protect and assist IDPs and support durable solutions for them, the fragility of the context, widespread impoverishment and limited economic reconstruction. The issue of forced evictions remains a reality affecting livelihoods, access to basic services and the dignity of the affected vulnerable populations. The IDP Solutions Initiative that started with addressing IDP issues around Mogadishu had grown to require a multi-cluster response. In 2014 and 2015, about 32,500 and 130,000 persons were forcefully evicted respectively. Efforts to address the issues by the Protection Cluster include supporting municipalities with undertaking lawful evictions, access to justice for IDPs, mechanisms to verify eviction notices and competing land ownership, and related efforts. This strategy emphasizes the centrality of protection of civilians in the response and focuses on the prevention of further violence and abuse, including establishing effective services for survivors. This strategy, therefore, also prioritizes the establishment of a long-term system of protection monitoring, advocacy and response services, to mitigate the effects of protection challenges on

vulnerable groups, including IDPs, host communities and returnees. Services will focus on improving the protection of civilians in IDP settlements and for other vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly and the disabled. Child and gender-sensitive services to survivors of violence will also be provided under this strategy as part of ensuring that the specific needs of specific groups are met. The humanitarian community will also engage with different interlocutors to advocate for adherence to national and international legislation on human rights violations and protection of civilians. To ensure efficient prioritization, the humanitarian community will identify lead agencies for different types of protection issues such as general, child and GBV protection at all levels. Protection will be mainstreamed across all clusters, including strengthening information sharing with UNSOM and UNSOS to advocate with national and international actors. Over 1.1 million Somali refugees³ are in the region and in Yemen with some of them facing pressure to return from host countries such as Kenya, where the Government on several occasions has declared an intention to close refugee camps. The efforts to develop a durable solutions strategy for internal displacement and a refugee solutions strategy for Somalia is also underway, along with concurrent durable solutions for returnees from Kenya and Yemen.

- **Strengthened individual and Government's capacity to manage disasters and their ability to cope with shocks.**

This objective focuses on enhancing the capacity of individuals, communities and Government institutions to prepare, mitigate, respond to and recover from sudden and slow-onset disasters. This demonstrates the humanitarian community's long-term commitment to averting more people from sliding into acute suffering and to support the relevant Government line ministries to strengthen their disaster preparedness, response and coordination capacity. It also seeks to strengthen



Efforts are underway to develop a durable solutions strategy for internal displacement and a refugee solutions strategy for Somalia



community, individual and local and national authorities' capacity to provide for themselves and reduce their dependence on life-saving assistance, therefore lowering the humanitarian caseload. It builds on the first objective where life-saving and livelihoods activities are part of the foundation for building community and state capacity to strengthen preparedness and build people's resilience. It places the individuals, communities, as well as national and local authorities, at the centre and as playing the lead role in emergency preparedness and response, which is necessary to prevent and mitigate the effects of short-term crises. Key humanitarian response activities under this objective include: training on life skills as part of increasing self-sufficiency of individuals and families; diversification of livelihoods and food production systems; community sensitization on managing health emergencies; disease prevention; increasing advocacy for durable solutions for IDPs and supporting policy development; capacity-building in disaster preparedness, prevention and risk reduction; an intensified focus on livelihoods and food self-sufficiency; and, efforts to reduce protection challenges affecting vulnerable groups. This will be in addition to addressing the needs of those whose level of vulnerability is at risk of deteriorating due to seasonal shocks by strengthening existing and viable livelihood systems (agriculture, livestock, and fisheries). National and local authorities' ability to prepare and respond to emergencies will be strengthened through continued collaboration and capacity-building by close cooperation, consultation and coordination with regional and federal line-ministries throughout the humanitarian programme cycle, especially by ensuring alignment between humanitarian and development planning and programme implementation, including advocating for appropriate legislation and supporting the establishment of institutional structures. These efforts will be linked to contributing to improving access to basic social services, including education, health, nutrition and WASH delivered to vulnerable people when needed, where needed and at scale.

- **Strengthened linkages and complementarity between humanitarian and development programmes and activities.**

This strategy underscores that strengthening national

and local systems for delivering basic services and enabling the state authorities to be the primary provider of services will reduce the need for humanitarian aid in the long-term, with an eventual exit-strategy in mind. In pursuing this objective, this three-year strategy seeks to further link humanitarian efforts to the Peace-building and State-building Goals (PSGs) of the New Deal Compact for Somalia, and later the five pillars of the Somalia NDP. The strategic objectives of the HRP and the New Deal, especially PSGs 4 (Economic Foundations) and 5 (Revenue and Services), have been aligned to foster complementarity between humanitarian and development programming in pursuit of durable solutions to displacement, recurrent protection violations and to addressing the underlying causes of hunger, malnutrition, disease, and suffering throughout Somalia. Alignment of humanitarian and development strategic approaches is particularly vital to ensure that achieving rights-based durable solutions of choice. All stakeholders need to be engaged in the Somalia IDP Solutions Initiative to support political willingness, and to develop a comprehensive durable solutions strategy for IDPs to advance on this priority. The Special Advisor to the DSRSG/RC/HC on IDPs underscored the need to complement humanitarian responses to Somalia's internal displacement crisis with effective development interventions that target IDPs, as well as host communities, to reverse the trend of protracted displacement and find durable solutions for them. Sustainable local integration of IDPs alongside returnees will be enabled through the provision of equitable access to land, property and basic services, as well as complementary building and strengthening of livelihood opportunities. Working with development partners will ensure that IDPs are integrated and mainstreamed into programming to enable sufficient integration into society in a rights and community-based approach to end marginalization and cyclical displacement. Humanitarian partners will continue to engage closely with the IDP durable solutions taskforce to ensure complementarity of strategic approaches and programming.

Activities under this objective include: strengthening collaboration between PSGs, and eventually the pillar-leads under the NDP, and the ICCG by ensuring that clusters work closely with Government line ministries, national non-governmental organizations, civil society and local communities;



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supporting the development and implementation of the right humanitarian legislative framework, and plan and enact integrated programmes in tandem with on-going or planned resilience and development programmes and projects, including early recovery programmes and early warning systems, as well as disaster risk management; and, ensuring that humanitarian organizations impart as much operational knowledge and information to national organizations and targeted groups as possible through contingency planning exercises, preparedness planning and strengthening coordination forums with Government authorities. An increased focus on national capacity will create conditions that give the voice to the voiceless and improve accountability to affected communities, by enhancing the understanding of their needs, and strengthening mechanisms for communication between communities and local and national authorities. To meet this objective, partners will better coordinate their response plans

with state institutions, national non-governmental organizations and development initiatives to expand basic services across the country and increase the resilience of communities to enable them to withstand shocks. Government staff, volunteers and communities and their leadership will also be trained in disaster management and emergency preparedness. Collaboration with local and state institutions on vulnerability analysis and monitoring aimed at enhancing national capacity to conduct vulnerability analysis and inform early warning, disaster risk reduction and response planning will be conducted. and their leadership will also be trained in disaster management and emergency preparedness. Collaboration with local and state institutions on vulnerability analysis and monitoring aimed at enhancing national capacity to conduct vulnerability analysis and inform early warning, disaster risk reduction and response planning will be strengthened.

APPROACHES TO THE STRATEGY

Following a concerted consultation process undertaken from the end of 2015 to mid-2016, involving ministries of the Federal Government of Somalia, development actors, donors, humanitarian partners and the Somali people, and drawing on lessons learned from previous experiences, in order to achieve the outcomes of this three-year strategy for humanitarian action, the humanitarian community has identified five operational priorities, including: strengthened coordination and continued adherence to utilizing and enhancing early-warning/early-action systems through risks analysis and scenario mapping; systematic prioritization of programming through better needs analysis and collective information sharing to better inform response and decision-

making; advanced planning and preparedness for predictable seasonal hazards (pre-positioning of supplies and supporting the implementation preventative measures against flooding and drought, for example) to strengthen livelihoods and coping capacities; advocacy for predictable access to all areas of need, while underlining humanitarian principles; and, improved risk management, monitoring and evaluation. Annual response plans will continue to contribute to the overall goal and strategic outcomes set under the umbrella of the overarching three-year strategy and will be modified and tailored according to emerging needs and achievements, as well as in line with an expected reduction in caseloads.

COORDINATING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

A strong humanitarian coordination system is already in place, which includes the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) consisting of nine clusters, regional ICCGs, national and regional humanitarian coordination forums, and where appropriate through sectorial emergency sub-groups. These humanitarian platforms have been effective in prioritization of needs, development of response plans and ensure a shared situational awareness. The HCT will continue to provide strategic direction to response, which will be operationalized by the ICCG and other sub-working groups and task forces. In order to enforce a well-functioning early warning mechanism to ensure early action, the trigger and accountability framework will continue to be enhanced and efforts to mobilize resources for its implementation will increase. To enable systematic assessment and analysis of needs, partners and clusters will continue to use and enhance existing tools to ensure scarce resources are used most effectively and efficiently. Some of these assessment and analysis tools include the Somalia Inter-cluster Rapid Needs Assessment (SIRNA) and REACH's needs assessments, which have been used to determine priorities according to each sector. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) will continue to be used to assess the food security and nutritional situation according to global standards. Findings from these tools will inform the planned response of the HCT, ICCG and the wider humanitarian community. The humanitarian

community will also play an important role in ensuring that cash programming is coordinated more effectively in Somalia to ensure that the impact of this response modality is maximized and efficient. Partners will also monitor the impact of their response on a regularly basis and the evolution of needs and adjust their response accordingly to emerging needs, achievements, and funding availability. One of the key priorities over the next three years is to decentralize coordination structures to enable decisions to be made closer to those in need, taking into account capacity challenges. This will include the newly established Access Task Force that will be an important forum to enable better coordination of humanitarian action as the humanitarian community continues to face challenges in the operating environment. In addition, the Civil Military Coordination Group and the implementation of the Somalia context-specific Civil Military guidelines are paramount to ensuring humanitarian space is established and respected and that civil-military issues are dealt with in accordance with international law, standards and principles. Another key component of this approach is strengthened collaboration with line ministries and local authorities. Supporting the Government to coordinate humanitarian action will continue through close collaboration between the HCT and the relevant Government emergency response committees, both at the national and regional levels.



The HCT will continue to provide strategic direction to response

The HCT works closely with the Ministry of Interior throughout the humanitarian programme cycle and meets on a needs basis. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister is also very closely engaged in humanitarian affairs.

The Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency in Puntland participates and co-chairs the regional ICCG. There have been moves from cluster to sector coordination where appropriate, as Government capacity to coordinate and respond increases.



PRIORITIZATION

Funding towards humanitarian response, for both HRP and non-HRP, has reduced by about US\$67 million, from \$672 million in 2014 to \$605 million in 2015. Despite alarming needs, the 2015 Somalia HRP was the lowest funded against requirements compared to previous response plans since 2008. It is therefore vital to make the most of available resources and, in this three-year strategy, partners will prioritize life-saving, livelihood support and protection activities.

Resources will be prioritized to prevent the main causes of death such as hunger, malnutrition, disease, natural disasters and protection challenges. In the absence of adequate funding, allocation of resources will be guided by the severity of these threats to human life, including pooled funding and use of logistic capacity. Mitigation of protection challenges will be mainstreamed in cluster response plans.



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SEASONAL VARIATIONS AND PREDICTABILITY FOR FUNDING

Clusters will align their response planning according to predictable Somalia seasons in order to ensure the timeliness of the response and improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian operation. Life-saving supplies need to be procured and pre-positioned in priority areas ahead of the *Deyr* rainy season between October and December and the *Gu* rainy season between April and June to prepare and enable immediate response should there be flooding or drought. Pre-positioning of supplies to mitigate and prevent the spread of disease outbreaks, preventing and preparing for flooding through putting in place flood mitigation measures in flooding hotspot areas along the Juba and Shabelle rivers (Baidoa, Belet Weyne, Jowhar, Kismayo) and working with development partners, especially those working under the NDP pillar five, to ensure that rehabilitation of river embankments, reservoirs, flood gates and relief valves is undertaken in a timely manner to avert recurrent flooding and displacement. Similarly, ensuring that communities have adequate farming inputs to take advantage of the rainy seasons is a vital part of this strategy in order to strengthen livelihood systems and contribute towards preventing food insecurity and malnutrition and reduce the number of people in need. This can be enabled through close monitoring and by complementing infrastructure

development and disaster risk management, and supporting the rehabilitation of irrigation canals, reservoirs, river barrages and rain-water catchment areas. Formulation and modification of early warning indicators also needs to be systematically enabled to inform early action.

Food security and nutrition assessments will be carried out by FSNAU after each of these seasons. In addition, pre-positioning of health and WASH supplies ahead of the rainy seasons will also enable partners to respond timely to endemic killer diseases such as malaria, AWD/cholera and other water-borne diseases. These factors will inform the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the HRP. The Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) strategic priorities are also aligned with the HRP strategic objectives and prioritization processes to ensure timely allocation and disbursement of funds to respond to predictable seasonal variations and their repetitive effects, as well as providing timely and flexible funding to underfunded priority interventions underscored in the HRP. The SHF allocation model will now be a "Reserve Plus" mechanism to enable quick and flexible funding to the most urgent humanitarian needs.



RISKS AND SCENARIOS

The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) can provide a three to five-year trends analysis of humanitarian risks in Somalia. Both development and humanitarian partners need to work together, based on a shared context and risk analysis to reduce humanitarian caseloads by ensuring that vulnerable people can withstand shocks and crises, and in doing so protect development interests. Planning to manage the crisis would be done with context-specific, yet flexible, benchmarks and progress against these benchmarks will not be measured through outputs but on their impact on people's lives. As of March 2016, the highest risk overall rankings in the Horn of Africa region continue to be located in Somalia as a result of armed conflict, cyclical climatic shocks such as drought and flooding, and low levels of development. The highest risk rankings (from 7.3

to 9) are found in southern, central and northern regions. Severe drought conditions continue to affect hundreds of thousands of people in Puntland and Somaliland. Political and security events such as elections and military operations may also continue to have an impact on humanitarian operations. Along with climate change, conflict, and any economic and social developments, it is important that humanitarian and development actors continue to develop scenario mapping and contingency plans to prevent and prepare for any upcoming natural and man-made shocks. This can be enabled through risk analysis using INFORM, FSNAU/FEWSNET/SWALIM, the SIRNA, interagency assessments and severity mapping.



ADVOCATING FOR ACCESS

The operating environment in Somalia remains one of the most dangerous and challenging in the world. Regular and sustained access for humanitarian organizations remains a challenge because of limited infrastructure, surging insecurity, limitations on capacity, and funding constraints. Operational presence, capacity, and coverage is largely an independent process affected by security and logistics. Attacks and threats against aid workers and assets have been on the increase particularly in the volatile southern and central regions. Roadblocks and checkpoints manned by armed actors continue to severely hamper aid delivery particularly in the southern and central regions. Road access limitations have increased operational and transportation costs for humanitarian agencies delivering relief supplies to the affected areas. They also increase commercial food prices as traders transfer the high cost of operating in unregulated areas to consumers, making it difficult for vulnerable people to access food and other essential commodities, and disrupt means of livelihoods of local communities, rendering them dependent on humanitarian assistance and more susceptible to malnutrition and food insecurity. Further, the formation of the different layers of administration is triggering a perverse effect on humanitarian operations, by creating a suffocating climate of regulations, registration requests and taxation plans, often in an uncoordinated manner. This has created undue administrative burdens, which is not only cumbersome but has caused uncertainty and interruptions of humanitarian programming. Restricted access and other operational constraints also complicate the gathering of good quality, evidence-based and reliable primary humanitarian

data. There are large gaps in information on population movements, livelihood sources, and sex-and age-disaggregated data for displaced and conflict-affected people making it difficult to adequately target the most vulnerable groups.

To achieve the objectives of this strategy, however, robust and innovative approaches to field-level access negotiations including additional resources will be required. Negotiations will be based on the access strategy adopted by the HCT in 2015, which reaffirms basic principles of unimpeded, safe and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, and safety of civilians seeking assistance. Partners will adopt complimentary high-level advocacy mechanisms to address access challenges as they arise, including any eventual restrictions and bureaucratic impediments. Based on existing obligations under international humanitarian law, these rules aim to secure commitment to the free and safe movement of civilians seeking assistance, and access of humanitarian partners to people in need. The Access Taskforce to support inter-agency coordination, established by the HCT in October 2015, will ensure collaborative efforts to facilitate and maintain access are implemented. The HCT, through the HC, will continue to engage with national authorities to ensure safer operating environment for aid workers and explore innovative ways of engaging other parties to achieve this goal.



Road access limitations have increased operational and transportation costs for humanitarian agencies



MONITORING, ADJUSTING RESPONSE AND RISK MANAGEMENT

By using evidence-based tools to assess needs and monitor programme impact, including working closely with the Risk Monitoring Unit (RMU) in the Resident Coordinator's office, the humanitarian community will continue to allocate resources where they are most needed and partners will strive to ensure that resources are directed where they are urgently needed for life-saving and livelihoods and protection purposes. As highlighted above, systems for joint assessments and sharing of situational awareness are already in place. The SIRNA teams will be deployed to ascertain and verify reported needs, and comprehensive, country-wide needs assessments will be utilized to fill any necessary critical information gaps. The drivers of needs in the country will be re-evaluated every year to guide the HCT's prioritization and adjustment of response where necessary. To strengthen systematic evaluation of achievements and measure the progress and implementation of the multi-year strategy through annual response plans, a three-year monitoring framework will be prepared by the ICCG, which states

what will be monitored, when, by whom and which reports will be produced. Periodic monitoring reports (PMRs) to measure the results of humanitarian action, which replace the mid-year review process, will be issued twice during the year, if necessary. FSNAU's food and nutrition assessments are also conducted twice every year to contribute to the humanitarian community's understanding of the food security and nutritional needs and, along with coordinated needs assessments, this will allow a review of the HNO when necessary. Overall response prioritization for each annual plan under the overarching three-year strategic outcomes will be guided by the HNO and a three-year monitoring framework with results-based measurable indicators, as well as annual frameworks, will be developed to track response against needs and its contribution towards meeting the strategic outcomes. This will permit efficient monitoring and increase the effectiveness of the response. Allocations from the SHF and the Central Emergency Response Fund will be informed by the outcomes of these shared prioritization tools.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT

The crisis in Somalia has been characterized by inter-communal fights for scarce resources, which often result in displacement and increased vulnerability, as well as land degradation and desertification. That combined with the pastoralist nature of Somali society have severely strained the environment further weakening the livelihood system. The objective on livelihood support takes into account the impact of these factors, as well as humanitarian action, on the environment.

Environment will be mainstreamed across all cluster operational response plans, mainly focusing on mitigating the destruction of livelihoods systems and deforestation for fire wood and charcoal; over-drilling for water; overgrazing of land; exploitation of fishing resources; and, soil erosion caused by cutting down of trees. The shortage of resources caused by migration of people, over-grazing and land clearing for cropping aggravates vulnerabilities and causes increased security and protection risks. The humanitarian community can act as an enabler to ensure that linkages are created between the sub-

pillars focusing on disaster risk management and environment under NDP pillar five.

IDPs, returnees and refugees without fixed abode who lack access to fuel for domestic use tend to rely on local forests for firewood and charcoal. In Somalia, women, girls, boys and men are exposed to multiple risks to their safety and health in gathering firewood. Boys and men face the risk of abduction or recruitment into armed groups, while girls and women are at risk of sexual violence. In addition, the time spent fetching firewood by girls or livestock grazing by boys, takes time away from educational, social, and other activities that are crucial to their well-being. Environment will be mainstreamed in humanitarian preparedness and response across all cluster operational response plans drawing from the "Environmental Marker" for guidance on the allocation of resources to activities which foster meaningful and constructive environmental practices. The mainstreaming will be done at all stages of the humanitarian planning and implementation cycle to ensure maximum impact.

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS

Somalia ranks among the countries with the highest gender disparities. These disparities are evident in key poverty indicators. For example, girls are the most disadvantaged when it comes to access to services such as education, with most families prioritizing boys, which results in gender disparities at school and subsequently in employment opportunities. Lack of education, poor access to primary and maternal health services, and early marriages result in extremely high rates of infant mortality and the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Sexual and gender-based violence continues to be widespread, with long-term effects on communities in Somalia. Lack of regular gender-sensitive needs assessments for sectors other than food security and nutrition is a significant information gap that needs to be addressed. Most clusters have often relied on area-specific and ad hoc needs assessments, which adversely affect the availability of data disaggregated by gender, age and geographical location for most

regions and districts.

This strategy recognizes this information gap and makes a commitment to address this issue. This strategy will continue strengthening the mainstreaming of gender across cluster operational response plans by integrating gender aspects into all activities to alleviate the current disparities. One of the key priorities is to strengthening sex and age disaggregation in all data collection tools and mechanisms in order to strengthen analysis and inform programming. This will be done through engagements with local leadership, affected communities, special groups, other vulnerable groups. Once this information gap is addressed, it will facilitate developed of gender and age-sensitive programming. To achieve this, cluster plans will apply the 'gender marker' in their response programming and this enable them to evaluate, prioritize and adjust projects to ensure appropriate targeting and programme efficiency. Throughout the humanitarian programme cycle, clusters will provide sex-and-age-disaggregated data through the monitoring dashboard cluster-level indicators. This will improve gender-analysis with regards to the response.

The number of people living with HIV is increasing and estimated at 40,000 in 2014 (UNAIDS). The adult HIV prevalence rate in 2015 was 0.55%. The integration of HIV/AIDS sensitivity across programming is absolutely imperative to ensure the prevention of marginalization and inequality, as well as address the threat of the virus.



Lack of regular gender-sensitive needs assessments for sectors other than food security and nutrition is a significant information gap



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AND COMMUNICATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Consistent meaningful engagement with communities can improve programme quality and impact, and lead to a more effective response. To ensure appropriate and targeted response, this strategy will mainstream views of the people affected by disasters and conflict. It places communicating with affected communities at the centre of humanitarian decision-making and allocation of resources. Mainstreaming accountability to affected people (AAP) and communicating with communities (CWC) throughout the humanitarian programme cycle are priorities in 2016 and going forward. Systems to engage and capture community views are already in place albeit some challenges due to insecurity. Partners have been working with community leaders, local authorities, and with other vulnerable people through feedback platforms

and monitoring mechanisms. The SIRNA, REACH, FSNAU and other data collection tools will continue to be used to ensure an unhindered linkage between partners and affected communities. Information and feedback will be captured by partners and consolidated to ensure that the views of affected communities inform response as part of efforts to achieve targeted programming. Where possible, this will be complemented by feedback mechanisms as part of cluster programming. Where the mechanisms are not yet in place, the clusters are encouraged to draw from good practices on ensuring beneficiary views from all groups are heard and incorporated in the future programme design. Mobilizing community ownership of the planning, design and implementation of services will also be a priority.





2016 - 2018
HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

SOMALIA