

The Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund allocates \$20 million to boost humanitarian response

The Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has allocated US\$20 million from its reserve window to address the highest priority gaps in the humanitarian response operation. The areas of highest need were identified in the three month operational plan that still remains underfunded, and to complement a recent Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocation of \$20 million to Somalia.

An estimated 1 million people across 16 regions, including those in newly accessible areas, are expected to benefit from multi-sectoral and complementary interventions. Among these are acutely malnourished women and children in internally displaced people settlements in Dhusamarreeb, Doble, Doolow, Gaalkacyo, Garowe, Kismayo and Mogadishu; and vulnerable families that need immediate food assistance and livelihood support in food insecure areas. The funds will also be used to address acute water shortages and improve sanitation in crowded settlements (to combat out breaks of acute watery diarrhoea), and ensure access to safe water in drought-affected areas. Funded health projects will provide crucial primary health and reproductive healthcare services in newly accessible and underserved areas in addition to helping address the symptomatic causes of malnutrition.

Funding to strengthen protection services will be used to address pervasive protection concerns such as gender-based violence and child protection. Complementary services such as shelter and education will additionally offer a protective environment for vulnerable women and children. About 75 per cent of the funding allocation has been directed to life-saving food security, health, nutrition and WASH interventions to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

CHF funds were allocated against a backdrop of worsening food security and nutrition situation amid critically low funding for basic services. An estimated 1.1 million displaced people live in appalling conditions. Over 1 million people are unable to meet their food needs. Only one in three Somalis have access to safe water; one in every ten children die before seeing their first birthday; and one in 18 women die in childbirth.

Despite the shocking humanitarian indicators, Somalia has one of the most underfunded aid appeals in the world with only 32 per cent (\$299 million) received against the \$933 million requested for 2014.

The Common Humanitarian Fund is a country-based humanitarian pooled fund set up in 2010 and managed by UNOCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator to provide quick, predictable and strategic funding to UN agencies, international and local NGOs working in Somalia. The Central Emergency Response Fund is a global pooled humanitarian fund set up in 2005 to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflicts and natural disasters. It is funded by voluntary contributions from UN Member States, NGOs, local government, the private sector and individual donors, and is managed by UNOCHA.