

# 2015

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

# SOMALIA

November 2014



Prepared by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team



Priority needs .....1

Somalia reference map .....2

Impact of the crisis .....3

Drivers and underlying factors.....

The scope of the crisis, and the status and demographic profile of affected people .....

Most vulnerable groups .....

Information gaps.....

**ANNEX: OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT 11**

Local and national response capacity..... 11

Humanitarian access..... 12

### People in need

## 3.2 million

Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian aid

#### Assessment registry:

<https://somalia.humanitarianresponse.info/assessment-registry>

### PRIORITY NEEDS

After two years of incremental improvements, a mix of drought, insecurity, surging food prices, increasing malnutrition, access constraints and funding shortages have led to a serious deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia.

#### 1. Deteriorating food security

Over 1 million people in Somalia are unable to meet their basic food requirements. This is up by an alarming 20 per cent since February 2014, according to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (integrated phase classification (IPC), September 2014). Two thirds are internally displaced people, with approximately 80 per cent of them women and children. A further 2.1 million people are struggling to meet their minimum food requirements. This brings the total number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to 3.2 million.

#### 2. Emergency levels of acute malnutrition

One in seven children under the age of five--or 218,000 children--is estimated to be acutely malnourished. About 44,000 of them are severely malnourished and are at risk of death if they do not receive urgent medical treatment and therapeutic food. Three in four acutely malnourished children are in southern and central Somalia.

#### 3. Inadequate basic services

Poor basic services undermine the resilience of vulnerable people. About 3.2 million women and men in Somalia need emergency health services, while 2.8 million women and men require improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene. The impact of this lack of basic services is felt most strongly among the internally displaced people who continue to be affected by cyclical disease outbreaks. Around 1.7 million children are out of school, and among those in school only 36 per cent are girls.

#### 4. Lack of protection

Over 1.1 million internally displaced people continue to face violations such as forced evictions, discrimination and gender-based violence (GBV). This includes more than 80,000 people temporarily displaced by military operations against Al Shabaab in 2014 alone in southern and central Somalia. These vulnerable communities need proper shelter, household items, protection and durable solutions.

# SOMALIA REFERENCE MAP



# IMPACT OF THE CRISIS<sup>1</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian needs in Somalia are vast. Over 3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and the situation has worsened this year. Drought as a result of failed rains and insecurity was particularly detrimental in 2014. Another external shock could unravel the fragile gains made since the 2011 famine, and Somalia's humanitarian crisis could worsen.
- Somalia remains very underdeveloped, which is a significant factor compounding the humanitarian crisis. The coverage and quality of basic social services in the country is extremely low. Unless significant development assistance is injected into the country, Somalia will continue to be mired in prolonged humanitarian crisis.
- Humanitarian organizations can reach more people in need, including through use of cargo planes, if provided with additional resources. However, to provide aid efficiently and in proportion to need in newly recovered areas in southern and central Somalia, vital humanitarian supply and trade routes must be secured.

## BASIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

- 75 per cent of people are living below US\$2 a day (UNDP 2014)
- Somalia ranks 165th of 170 countries in the Human Development Index (UNDP 2012)
- Life expectancy is 55 years (UNDP 2014)
- Only one in three people have access to safe water
- 1 in every 10 Somali children die before their first birthday
- 1 in 18 women die in childbirth
- Somalia ranks the fourth lowest country globally for gender equality (UNDP 2012)

## Drivers of the humanitarian crisis and underlying factors

### 1. Civilians bear the brunt of violence and insecurity

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the armed conflict that has affected Somalia for the past 25 years. Following the collapse of the central government in 1991, armed factions began competing for influence in the power vacuum that followed, bringing years of violence and insecurity to large parts of the country. A post-transition Federal Government of Somalia was formed in September 2012 and is working to restore peace and stability, with support from international partners.

In March 2014, military operations by the Somali National Armed Forces (SNAF) and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) reduced the territory controlled by the militia group Al Shabaab. However, the group still controls all districts in Middle Juba and many rural areas in southern and central Somalia, and civilians continue to be caught up in the violence. The operation has brought a degree of political stabilization to parts of these regions, but has led to loss of lives and displacement of people. Human rights violations such as the killing of civilians and incidents of gender-based violence have also been reported both in Al Shabaab-controlled territories and due to military operations. Following the start of the second phase of military operations in August, the number of people displaced had reached about 80,000 by September, and is expected to increase further as the operations intensify. While exact figures of displaced women and children are not yet available, estimations based on previous displacement patterns suggest that at least 70-80 per cent of the displaced are women and children.<sup>2</sup> Women and children bear the brunt of protection violations such as GBV due to their sheer numbers among the displaced. In addition to displacement, an increase in food prices in towns affected by Al Shabaab's blockage of commercial supply routes has compounded the already fragile food security situation. Civilians are also affected by insecurity due to rival clans and militias feuding over the formation of semi-autonomous regional states such as the conflict

<sup>1</sup> Food security and nutrition related figures and analysis in this document are provided by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) of FAO Somalia, unless stated otherwise.

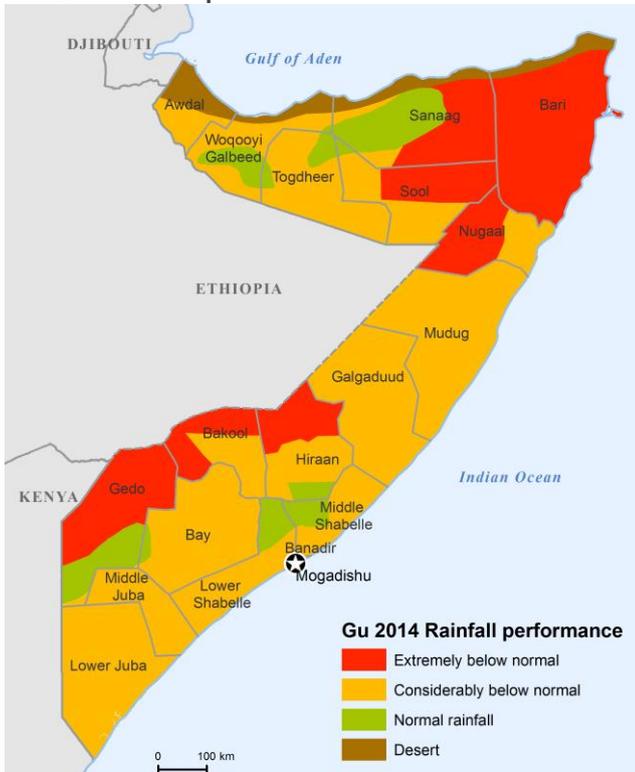
<sup>2</sup> UNDP 2012.

witnessed during the formation of the Interim Juba Administration and the South West Somalia Interim Administration. Endemic inter-clan fighting for control of land, pasture or water sources also continues to lead to the displacement of civilians.

**2. Recurrent drought remains the main driver of food insecurity and malnutrition**

The majority of Somalis depend on subsistence farming and pastoralism for their livelihoods. Both men and women make significant contributions to the household economy and food production. Drought, caused by failure of successive rains, remains the most significant climatic cause of humanitarian crisis in Somalia. This year, the April to June *Gu* rains started late and ended early, recording less than 50 per cent of the normal rainfall, according to the Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). As a result, the *Gu* 2014 cereal harvest was 28 per cent below the five-year average and 45 per cent of the 2010 harvest. Poor rains also led to low water availability for human and animal consumption.

**Gu 2014 rainfall performance**



Drought conditions were present in parts of Bakool, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower Shabelle and Middle Juba in southern and central Somalia, and Bari, Galgaduud, Mudug, Nugaal, Sanaag and Sool, in north-eastern Somalia. The adverse impact of the poor rains was further exacerbated by trade disruption due to armed conflict and reduced access to seasonal agricultural employment opportunities. In affected pastoral areas, severe water shortages and rapid deterioration of pasture resulted in reduced access to milk due to poor livestock production.

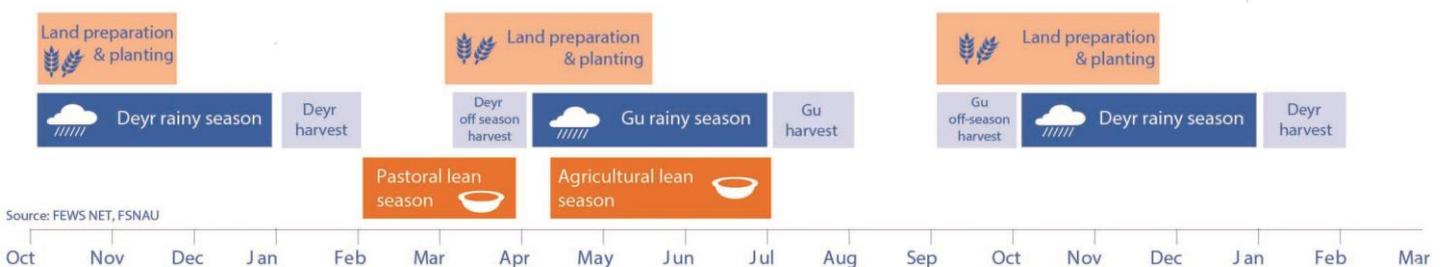
In areas affected by the military offensive, the movement of people, humanitarian supplies and trade were largely blocked, resulting in sharp increases in staple food prices. In other parts of the country, the prices of imported food, which remained somewhat stable, mitigated the impact of the crisis.

Meanwhile, in parts of southern and central Somalia where rains performed better at the start of the *Gu* season, floods caused an increase in the incidence of waterborne diseases and temporary displacements compared to the same time last year.

The nutrition crisis continues. In 2014, the mean GAM and SAM rates in Somalia were 17 and 3 per cent respectively, higher than the 16 and 2 per cent of the same time in 2010. The already high malnutrition levels increased further, mainly in southern and central Somalia, due to a combination of disease outbreaks and acute food insecurity.

Source: FAO's Somalia Water and Land Information Management

**Timeline of critical seasonal events**



Source: FEWS NET, FSNAU

Source: FSNAU

### 3. Lack of access to basic social services increases vulnerability to disease outbreaks

The coverage and quality of basic social services in Somalia is extremely low, mainly due to the absence or low capacity of existing government structures. The healthcare system in Somalia remains weak, poorly resourced and inequitably distributed. Health expenditure remains very low and there is a critical shortage of capacity for the health workforce. Immunization for measles is low at only 30 per cent coverage countrywide. Only 3 per cent of births are registered and the infant mortality rate is 53 per 1,000 live births. With regards to malaria, about 65 per cent of settlements in southern and central Somalia, 84 per cent in Puntland and 32 per cent in Somaliland have moderate to very high malaria epidemic risk,<sup>3</sup> contributing to higher morbidity and mortality levels. 1 in every 10 Somali children dies before seeing their first birthday, and 1 in 18 women dies in childbirth.

Only one in three Somalis has access to safe water,<sup>4</sup> while only 23 per cent of Somalis have access to safe means of human waste disposal. At 83 per cent, Somalia has the third highest level of open defecation in rural areas in the world.<sup>5</sup> Poor access to safe drinking water and lack of adequate sanitation facilities coupled with poor hygienic practices are major threats for the survival and development of children in Somalia. An estimated 1.1 million displaced people live in sub-standard conditions in crowded settlements, and remain at high risk of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera and other waterborne diseases due to inadequate access to basic sanitation and hygiene services. The practice of open defecation and on-site human waste disposal combined with overflowing pit latrines and faecal contamination of drinking water in the high-risk districts also continues to contribute to disease outbreaks. Women and girls pay the heaviest price for poor sanitation. In many locations, the absence of toilets and restrictive cultural norms means women or girls can only go out after dark to relieve themselves. This exposes them to high risk of protection violations, including rape. The acute shortage of water in some districts is further exacerbated by seasonal droughts and floods leaving the vulnerable households with limited affordable options.

In terms of education, south central Somalia has no functioning national system of education. The last baseline survey for education, conducted in 2006, revealed a 30 per cent drop-out rate for girls and 26 per cent for boys in that academic year.<sup>6</sup>

#### The scope of the crisis, and the status and demographic profile of affected people

Food insecurity, critical levels of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, displacement of people, violations against civilians – including GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse – and the absence of educational opportunities remain the core humanitarian issues in Somalia.

#### People in need of food security and nutrition assistance

**7.5 million**<sup>7</sup> population (UNDP estimate, 2005)

**3.2 million** people in need of life-saving and livelihoods assistance

**1 million** people in crisis and at an emergency level of food insecurity

**218,000** acutely malnourished children under 5 years of age

Source: FSNAU 2014

<sup>3</sup> Inform 2014, Defining the risk of and vulnerability to malaria epidemics in Somalia, August 2014.

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF/WHO, Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2013 update.

<sup>5</sup> 53 per cent overall (urban and rural; seventh highest in the world).

<sup>6</sup> Survey of primary education in Somalia 2006 - 2007.

<sup>7</sup> According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) population estimates in 2014, the total population in Somalia is 12.3 million people. However, these estimates were not available at the time of the FSNAU post-Gu 2014 survey and IPC analysis. The estimate of people in need is thus extrapolated based on an earlier population estimate (UNDP, 2005). The new population figures will be started to be used during the Post-Gu (August 2015) FSNAU assessment.

## Food security is deteriorating

Current food security conditions are similar to the period in 2010 when the combination of reduced access, declining funds and consecutive failed rainy seasons led to Somalia's most devastating famine in 2011 that killed an estimated 258,000 people in excess mortality. While the climatic outlook this year is not as bad as in 2010, several indicators observed in *Gu* 2014 such as cereal crop production, consumer price index and acute malnutrition levels show that the levels are close to and in some cases worse than those in *Gu* 2010.

People experiencing acute food security crisis are found in large numbers among displaced people in Bari, Nugaal, south Mudug, Galgaduud, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba and Banadir regions, and in rural areas. Of particular concern are urban communities affected by trade disruptions that followed recent military operations in main towns such as Xudur in Bakool, Bulo Burto in Hiraan and also in the Lower Shabelle region, where a significant surge in prices of basic commodities, mainly food, has eroded households' access to food. Previous analyses indicate that many displaced women are their household's main income provider.

### Comparison of key indicators between the pre-famine period, famine and recent seasons

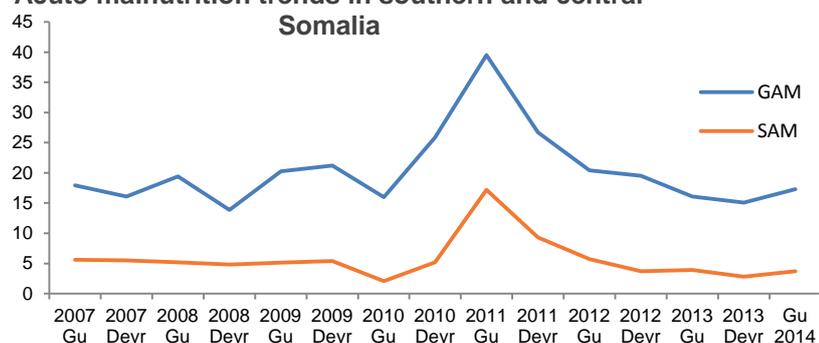
Key indicators*	Gu 2010	Deyr 2010/11	Gu 2011 (famine)	Deyr 2013/14	Gu 2014
Cereal crop production (ton)	198,200	17,900	48,500	87,800	89,500
Average cereal price (SoSH)	8,490	12,162	18,798	7,719	11,099
Median GAM rates (%)	15.95	25.85	39.5	16.1	17.3
Median SAM rates (%)	2.05	5.2	17.2	2.8	3.7

Abbreviations: SoSH, Somalia shilling; GAM, Global Acute Malnutrition; SAM, Severe Acute Malnutrition. Source: FSNAU analysis of key food security and nutrition indicators. \*Figures are for southern and/or central regions.

### Critical malnutrition in displaced communities

In the recent post-*Gu* harvest in 2014, the mean GAM was 17.3 per cent compared to 15.95 per cent in the same period in 2010. Similarly, the mean GAM in 2014 post-*Gu* harvest was 3.7 per cent compared to 2 per cent at the same time in 2010. The most alarming malnutrition rates have been observed among displaced communities, with GAM rates up to 18.9 per cent in seven urban displacement settlements, namely Dhobley, Doolow, Dhuusamarreeb, Garowe, Gaalkacyo, Kismayo and Mogadishu.

### Acute malnutrition trends in southern and central Somalia



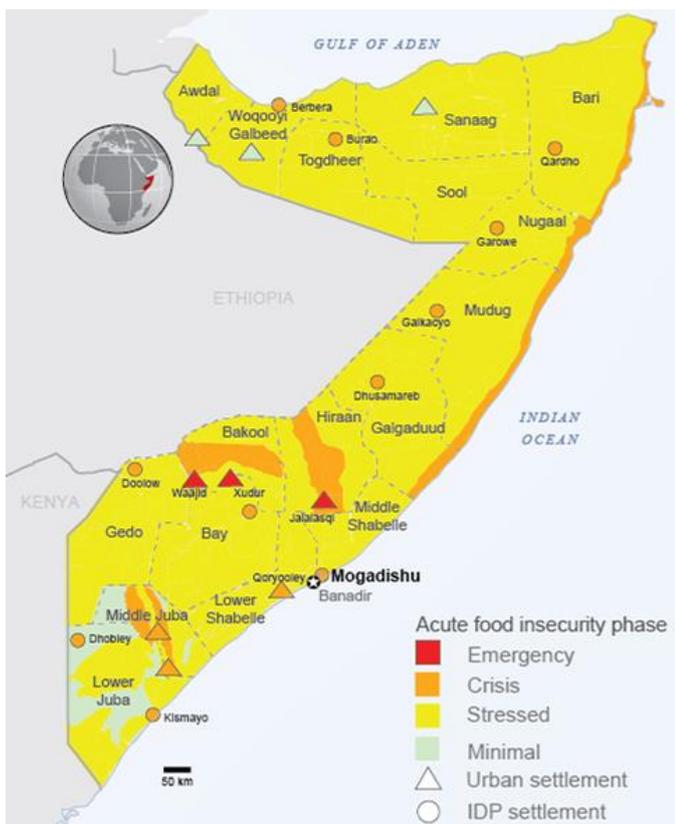
The high level of acute malnutrition among displaced people is associated with disease outbreaks, such as AWD and measles, poor infant and young child feeding practices, and lack of commensurate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health services. Alarming acute malnutrition levels were also observed in some rural parts of Hiraan, Bay, Bakool, Lower Shabelle, Gedo, east and west Golis of Woqooyi Galbeed, Sanaag and Bari regions.

A modest improvement in nutrition levels was observed in parts of the predominantly pastoral north-west and north-east regions of Somalia due to improved access to milk.

### Food security and nutrition outlook

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), the number of acutely food-insecure people may increase from the current 1 million unless humanitarian assistance is significantly scaled up between now and the end of the year. This will be known once the post-Deyr FSNAU assessment results are released in February 2015. Areas currently experiencing acute food insecurity in southern and central Somalia (indicated above) are also the same areas where the number of people in crisis and emergency is likely to increase.

#### Gu 2014 most likely scenario of acute food insecurity (August-December)



According to SWALIM, most of northern and central Somalia received above average *Deyr* 2014 rains. This is expected to improve the average livestock body condition in most of the pastoral areas in these regions. Pastoralists have also benefitted from increased livestock sales during the fasting month of Ramadan in July and during the lead up to the Hajj pilgrimage in October. A combination of improved milk production and increased sales of livestock is expected to ease food insecurity in pastoral areas.

The southern regions of Somalia have received average *Deyr* 2014 rains, although the start of the rains was delayed by ten days. In pocket areas of Lower Juba and Middle Juba the rains were insufficient. However, river water levels have been high, contributing positively to crop harvest in agro-pastoral and riverine areas of these regions. As a result, a further deterioration of the food security situation is not expected at least until the start of the dry *Jilaal* season (January to March). However, the nutrition situation is not expected to immediately improve significantly since the causal factors for malnutrition are multi-dimensional.

Meanwhile, riverine areas of Hiraan, Shabelles and Jubas have experienced flooding that affected up to 50,000 people and damaged agricultural fields. This will have a negative impact on the post-*Deyr* crop harvest.

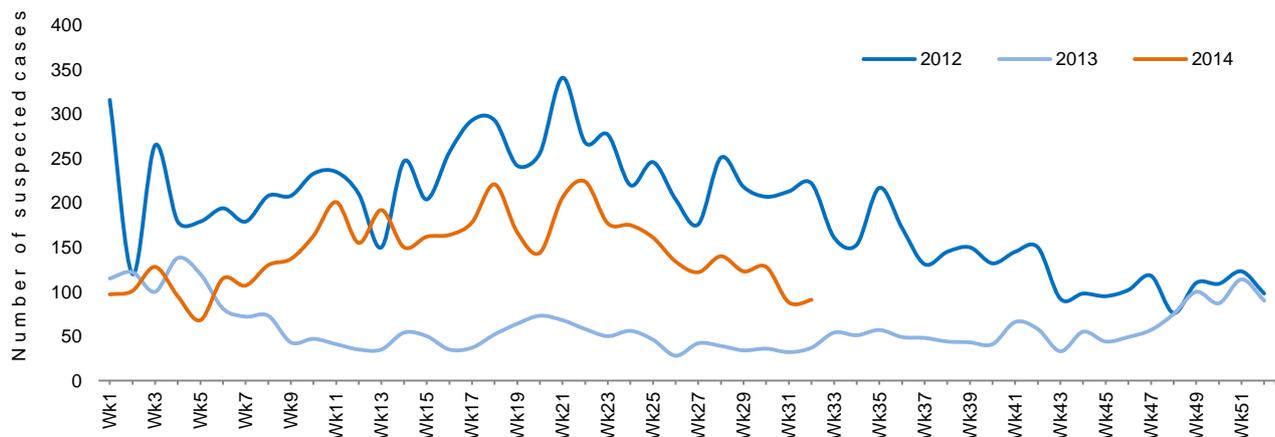
### Disease outbreaks: cholera, measles and malaria

**AWD/cholera** is the disease with the highest death rate in Somalia. As of September, about 3,800 cases of AWD/cholera were recorded in 2014, with 74 per cent of cases being children under 5 years of age. Poor access to safe drinking water, lack of adequate sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices continue to pose major threats to millions of Somalis. Access to water for women and girls is further limited by high risks of GBV.

**Measles** outbreaks were confirmed in several regions of Somalia in 2014. Around 9,000 suspected measles cases were reported between January and November, more than twice the number of cases in the same period in 2013.<sup>8</sup> The risk of further spread and fatality is high due to the low immunization coverage of 33 per cent. Coverage is even less in some hard-to-reach areas in southern and central regions.

<sup>8</sup> WHO/UNICEF.

### Suspected cases of measles in Somalia 2012-2014



Source: WHO

**Polio** still continues to threaten the lives of Somali children, despite a well-coordinated vaccination campaign that started last year and reached over 4 million people across the country. As of November 2014, the vaccination campaigns contained the number of confirmed polio cases to only five since the beginning of the year (194 cases were recorded in 2013). It is estimated that there are 420,000 children in areas under Al Shabaab control or influence who have not been reached with a vaccination programme against polio since 2009.

### Lack of education opportunities

Inadequate learning facilities, lack of teachers and scarce basic emergency teaching and learning materials have a serious impact on children's access to education, in particular, among displaced communities and in recently recovered areas. Around 1.7 million children do not attend school, while some of the 42 per cent of children<sup>9</sup> in school accessing learning opportunities are on the verge of dropping out of education due to inadequate funding. Inadequate support for education in southern and central Somalia will decrease the likelihood of enrolling children who do not go to school, while also increasing teacher attrition, school closure and dropouts in 2015. Education gaps are most evident in areas under the control and influence of Al Shabaab where children do not have meaningful access to formal schools. The gender ratios are in favour of boys across the schooling cycle: only 36 per cent of children in school are girls. Among the main challenges girls face are early and forced marriages, limited numbers of female teachers (15 per cent of all teachers), and schools without separate toilet facilities for girls. Traditional productive and reproductive roles of girls also have a negative effect on the number of school dropouts.

### Loss of lives and violations against civilians

Violence and conflict continue to take a heavy toll on civilians, mainly in southern and central Somalia. From January to September 2014, more than 4,500 weapon-related injuries were treated in eight hospitals in Baidoa, Gaalkacyo, Kismayo and Mogadishu with more than 100 deaths reported. As compared with the same period in 2013, civilian casualties reported in 2014 remained at the same levels with only a marginal increase of 1.8 per cent.

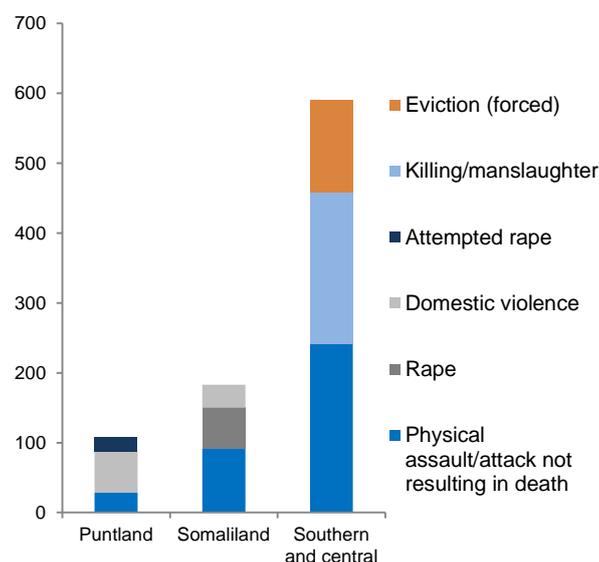
The Protection Return and Monitoring Network recorded violations of rights (killings, evictions, child recruitment and gender-based violence) involving 1,122 survivors from January to September 2014. The most frequently reported violations occurred in southern and central Somalia (726 survivors), followed by Somaliland (266 survivors) and Puntland (130 survivors).

Children are at high risk of forced recruitment into conflict, and sexual exploitation and abuse in many parts of Somalia due to conflict. From January to September 2014, 4,315 cases of child exploitation and abuse were reported (3,344 girls and 568 boys); the majority—over three quarters—were girls. Child recruitment by armed

<sup>9</sup> UNICEF Go-2-School Initiative (2013-2016).

groups also remains a major concern. Between January and September 2014, 547 children were recruited (515 boys and 32 girls).

#### Type and frequency of attacks against civilians in 2014



Source: Protection Cluster

Conflict and violence have led to family separations of over 511 children (271 girls and 180 boys) between January and September 2014. Although over 40,000 children have been provided with medical and psychosocial support in 2014, the number of children in need of protection assistance is far greater than the number assisted.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains pervasive, and female- and child-headed households are at high risk of violations, yet there are limited prevention programmes or medical, psychosocial or legal services in place for the survivors. Across Somalia, the majority of GBV cases reported are of rape followed by physical assault, and the majority of victims are females from displaced communities. Over 1,000 cases of GBV have been reported in Mogadishu alone in the first six months of 2014, according to the GBV Information Management System. The actual number of violations in Mogadishu is believed to be much higher, as most survivors do not report these crimes due to fear of social stigma and ineffective response from the judicial system.

#### Severe impact on women and children

The humanitarian situation is exacerbating gender inequalities that are already severe, with women and girls being most disadvantaged across all sectors including, shelter, protection, food security, water and sanitation, health, nutrition and education. Women are further placed at enormous risk of GBV when trying to obtain access to food, water and sanitation due to widespread impunity of armed groups, insecurity and violence. In addition to a lack of educational opportunities for girls, early marriages and associated physical and psychological damage severally continue to erode girls' rights. Boys remain the main victims of forced recruitment by armed groups.

#### Most vulnerable groups

##### Internally displaced people (IDPs)

The 1.1 million displaced people remain the most vulnerable group in Somalia. Among these, girls and female-headed households are the most vulnerable as they face the greatest risk of gender-based violence. In addition to the food insecurity, malnutrition and serious protection violations they face, their displacement and return dynamics continue to evolve, and events such as military operations in southern and central Somalia that started in March 2014 have created new displacements. Displaced people also continue to be the primary victims of evictions from government buildings and by private landlords, particularly in Mogadishu. From January to September 2014, 34,254 people were evicted in Mogadishu. Most displaced people are in urgent need of improved transitional and permanent shelters that offer more protection, privacy and dignity over longer periods of time. These people also need to be provided with durable solutions as per their preference, including reintegration and resettlement. Conditions are not conducive to large-scale voluntary returns of displaced people.

Region	Number of IDPs
<b>Southern and central</b>	<b>893,000</b>
Banadir	369,000
Lower Shabelle	103,000
Middle Shabelle	51,000
Bay	40,000
Bakool	24,000
Gedo	77,000
Lower Juba	31,000
Middle Juba	27,000
Hiraan	51,000
Galgaduud	120,000
<b>Puntland</b>	<b>130,000</b>
Mudug	71,000
Nugal	10,000
Bari	49,000
<b>Somaliland</b>	<b>79,000</b>
Waqooyi Galbeed	45,000
Togdheer	26,000
Awadal	8,000
<b>Disputed regions</b>	<b>6,000</b>
Sool	5,000
Sanaag	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,108,000</b>

## Refugees

An estimated 1 million Somali refugees live in camps in neighbouring countries, mainly in Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Tanzania and Uganda. Similarly to the IDPs, Somali refugees in Kenya have not been able to return on a large scale, despite the Tripartite Agreement signed in November 2013 between Somalia, Kenya and UNHCR on the voluntary return of refugees. However, spontaneous return of refugees continued in 2014. Since January, more than 7,000 refugees moved from Kenya to Somalia, while over 2,000 others crossed from Ethiopia to Somalia. Meanwhile, an estimated 4,000 Somalis reportedly voluntarily returned from Yemen in the first half of 2014. Over 40,000 Somalis were deported from Saudi Arabia in the last year as part of a crackdown on illegal immigrants. Some 400 Somalis were deported from Nairobi following a security crackdown, which started in April. In the absence of means to support themselves, some of the deported people remain at risk of becoming displaced and exposed to rights violations.

### Summary: Estimated people in need in 2015

Priority areas	Number of people in need
<b>Food security and nutrition</b>	3.2 million people (comprising 2.16 million 'stressed' plus over 1 million in crisis and emergency), and 1.3 million people (comprising 563,500 children, 96,000 pregnant and lactating women and an estimated 648,000 caretakers) need nutrition assistance.
<b>Inadequate or poor basic services</b>	3.2 million people have no access to basic health services; 2.75 million people need WASH services; 1.7 million children have no access to education; a significant proportion of the 1.1 million displaced people require proper emergency shelter and household items.
<b>Displacement, deportations and violations against civilians</b>	Over 1 million IDPs, forcibly returned refugees and a large proportion of the host community, especially women and children (girls and boys) are in need of urgent protection assistance and durable solutions.

## Information gaps

In Somalia, the lack of updated population estimates or an agreed population census has led to the use of old data. Until October 2014, the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team used an estimate of 7.5 million people generated in 2005 as the reference for the number of people in the country, regions, and districts. This estimate is based on an older population census and does not fully take into account the population movements of the last two decades. Starting from August 2015, a new population estimate of 12.3 million based on the 2013 UNFPA survey will be used.

The main source of information for humanitarian situation analysis in Somalia remains FSNAU's periodic food security and nutrition assessments. FSNAU's assessments are comprehensive and provide a good understanding of the existing needs as well the dynamics and trends of these needs. However, a factor to consider is that the latest estimates of people in acute food insecurity were extrapolated on the basis of the 2005 UNDP estimates because the detailed results of the UNFPA survey were not yet available. As such, the number of people in need could be underestimated, and will require a review once the final 2013 population estimates are available.

Similar efforts are being made to review the estimated 1.1 million displaced people in Somalia; an estimate that dates back to 2012. A UNHCR-led profiling exercise is expected to provide a better breakdown of figures on displacement, as well as urban poor, and their socio-economic dynamics. This will help inform humanitarian programming in 2015.

The absence of regular gender-sensitive sector-specific needs assessments for sectors other than food security and nutrition is a significant information gap that needs to be addressed. All clusters, except for food security, mainly rely 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. Another key challenge remains the lack of reliable gender- and age-disaggregated data for most regions and sectors, which adversely affects the appropriateness of targeting responses to the differentiated needs and specific vulnerabilities of women, men, boys and girls.

## ANNEX: OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

### LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Government capacity to respond to emergencies is generally weak, in particular in southern and central Somalia.
- The ability to respond quickly when a new crisis develops needs to improve, although there may be adequate capacity to respond throughout the country.

#### Southern and central Somalia

24 UN agencies and over 100 national and international NGOs continue to operate in Somalia.<sup>10</sup> Most humanitarian partners rely on national staff to implement programmes due to high levels of insecurity. Attacks and threats against humanitarian staff increased in 2014, impacting on the movement of humanitarian partners. Remote management of operations involves high risk of misuse and diversion of assistance. However, humanitarian partners are increasingly able to identify and manage risks. The Risk Management Unit (RMU) in the Resident Coordinator's Office and OCHA's Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) four-pillar accountability framework are two of the main risk mitigation mechanisms that have increased humanitarian partners' capacity to prevent and detect misuse of resources.

Outside Mogadishu, insecurity on the main roads to newly recovered areas as a result of Al Shabaab blockades makes needs assessments, delivery of humanitarian supplies and response monitoring difficult. With the use of cargo flights, the humanitarian community provides some assistance to the vulnerable people in these areas. In August, aid cargo flight operations, run by the UN Humanitarian Air Services, started to deliver assistance to some of the areas where supply routes have been blocked, including Garbahaarey, Xudur and Waajid. The flights operate twice a day six days a week, and by September more than 330 metric tons of vital cargo had been provided to over 66,000 people in three regions.

The capacity of relevant Government institutions such as the Ministry of Interior and Federalism and the Disaster Management Agency to respond to disasters remains limited. In 2014, the positions of Director General for humanitarian affairs and the Focal Point on humanitarian issues were appointed. The Government has established a ministerial-level Emergency Response Committee tasked with drought response and coordination. The committee comprises the ministries of Agriculture, Interior and Federalism, Finance, Planning and International Cooperation, Energy and Water, Health, and Livestock. The appointment of humanitarian focal points and the establishment of the committee are positive developments and demonstrate the government's increased commitment to lead humanitarian response efforts.

#### Puntland

There is adequate capacity to respond to emergencies in Puntland, with 19 UN agencies and around 85 NGOs working in the region. Funding constraints have been the main challenge to timely and appropriate response. In addition, the capacity of the Puntland Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency to respond to emergencies is limited.

#### Somaliland

There is no protracted humanitarian emergency in Somaliland, which makes the context different to other parts of Somalia. Due to a substantial presence of humanitarian organizations and the existence of better local administrative structures, there is adequate capacity to respond to emergencies. More than 20 UN agencies and scores of NGOs operate in Somaliland. There are relatively well-functioning sectors, led by government line ministries, which play a pivotal role in preparedness and response activities. The Somaliland administration has emergency response structures and mechanisms, which are activated in times of drought. The National Disaster Council provides overall leadership, while the focal agency for the coordination of emergency responses is the National Environmental Research and Disaster Preparedness Agency (NERAD). NERAD does not have adequate capacity to respond to emergencies and has no properly resourced disaster risk management system.

<sup>10</sup> The Somalia NGO Consortium: <http://somalianoconsortium.org/>

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The overall operating environment in Somalia remains dangerous and difficult due to the volatile security situation, despite a slight reduction in violent incidents against civilians and humanitarian workers in 2014 compared to 2013.
- Humanitarian organizations are able to reach people despite the difficult circumstances. However, assistance cannot be provided efficiently and in proportion to need unless supply routes to towns taken through military action are secured.

In 2014, humanitarian access remained restricted due to high levels of insecurity in most districts of southern and central Somalia. Al Shabaab continues to carry out targeted attacks against aid workers and to disrupt humanitarian assistance. An estimated 2,170 violent incidents were reported in the first nine months of 2014, a 7.6 per cent decrease compared with the same period in 2013. The decline is attributed to an unusually low number of Al Shabaab-related violent incidents in September. From January to September there were 40 violent incidents against aid workers. During this period, 6 aid workers were killed, 6 injured and 13 abducted. Armed groups also made several attempts to loot relief food and disrupt food distributions. On 15 January, Al Shabaab issued a specific warning to Somalis collaborating with or working for international organizations, including the UN. This limited the movement of UN and NGO Somali staff, reducing the ability of humanitarian personnel to reach vulnerable people and monitor response programmes.

Despite these challenges, assistance continues to be delivered through different modalities including the use of air cargos, cash transfer mechanisms and local partners. While most of the newly recovered towns can be accessed by air, humanitarian aviation services are very expensive and unsustainable. With the start of the second phase of SNAF-AMISOM military operations in late August, Al Shabaab continued its encirclement strategy of recovered towns, further restricting vulnerable people's access to aid. In Al Shabaab-held areas, humanitarian assistance is largely provided through local partners. Taxation, kidnapping and detention of humanitarian staff are among the main access impediments. However, in most parts of the north-east and north-west regions of Somalia, humanitarian partners have significant presence and largely operate freely, although they continue to face occasional bureaucratic restrictions.

### Major access impediments by geographical area

Zone	Region/Area	Main access impediments
Southern and central	Mogadishu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volatile security situation</li> <li>• Politically and economically motivated attacks on aid workers, goods and facilities</li> <li>• Diversion of aid, e.g. gatekeepers' control of settlements where displaced reside</li> <li>• Interference in delivery of relief and implementation of activities; roadblocks manned by militias</li> </ul>
	Newly recovered towns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volatile security situation</li> <li>• Al Shabaab blockage of supply routes</li> </ul>
	Al Shabaab-controlled areas Pirate-affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxation of organizations, and kidnapping and detention of humanitarian personnel</li> <li>• Low presence of UN and international NGOs</li> <li>• Poor infrastructure, road, airfields etc.</li> <li>• Weak or non-existent local administration structures</li> <li>• Organized crime, including pirates, freelance kidnappers etc.</li> </ul>
Puntland	Nugaal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major impediment, but occasional bureaucratic impediments, including taxation requests and sporadic bans on movement of humanitarian supplies and personnel</li> </ul>
	Bari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Al Shabaab-allied armed groups in Galgala mountains</li> </ul>
	Mudug (Gaalkacyo)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General insecurity and targeted killing of aid workers</li> <li>• Bureaucratic impediments due to north-south Gaalkacyo divide</li> </ul>
Somaliland	Waqooyi-Galbeed and Togdheer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No major impediments, but occasional restrictions on movement of aid supplies and personnel</li> </ul>
Disputed regions	Sool and Sanaag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insecurity due to political tensions and conflict</li> </ul>