

The Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund allocates \$30 million to life saving assistance in the 2015 appeal

The Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) has allocated US\$30 million from its standard allocation window to respond to the most critical humanitarian needs in the Somalia. The allocation is aligned to the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and will contribute to the achievement of its strategic objective on provision of timely and quality life-saving assistance to people in humanitarian crisis and emergency. Protection services will be mainstreamed to create a broader protective environment. The allocation provides early support to the 2015 appeal while complementing the recent CHF strategic reserve and CERF allocations of \$40 million.

People in emergency and crisis across 11 regions, including those in new areas with increased access, 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 communities requiring an integrated package of life-saving services in six newly accessible locations. The funds will also be used to address acute needs of families with serious to alarming malnutrition rates caused by a combination of disease outbreaks, lack of access to clean water, poor sanitation facilities and food insecurity. Households in Ceel Waaq, Bardheere and Baidoa districts will be targeted.

Funding to scale up 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 improve the protective environment for vulnerable women and children. About 92 per cent of the funding allocation will be used for life saving response to further prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Close to 70 per cent of the allocation will support life-saving food security, health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

The 2015 CHF allocation process has been adapted to align better with the HRP to ensure timeliness of response to pressing needs. The allocation is against a backdrop of worsening food security and nutrition situation amid critically low funding for critical basic services. Over 1 million people are in emergency and crisis. An estimated 1.1 million displaced people live in substandard conditions in crowded settlement. The most alarming malnutrition rates have been observed among displaced communities with GAM rates up to 18.9 per cent in the seven urban displaced settlement targeted by this allocation. The high level of acute malnutrition is associated with disease outbreaks, poor infant and young child feeding practices and lack of commensurate WASH and health services. The groups targeted by this allocation also experience acute food security crisis where a significant surge of prices of basic commodities, mainly food, has eroded households' access to food. Mortality rates in Somalia remain the highest in the world; one in every ten children die before seeing their first birthday; and one in 18 women die in childbirth.

Despite the shocking humanitarian indicators, funding for humanitarian needs in the Somalia 2014 appeal has been worrying with only 41 per cent of its \$933 million requirements met. This has led to a scale down of key activities across the country. The CHF 2015 allocation represents 3 per cent of the overall HRP 2015 requirement of \$863 million. Urgent and sustained support to the 2015 HRP is required to prevent further deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

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.