THE CRISIS  Three consecutive failed rainy seasons have created a major risk of famine in Somalia. Nearly 895,000 people have been displaced due to drought compounded by armed conflict since November 2016. In addition, 3.2 million require emergency food assistance including 388,000 children suffering from acute malnutrition; half of Somalia’s population is in dire need of support to restart their lives and livelihoods. The country’s heavy reliance on its natural resource base and the provision of ‘ecosystem services’ is a major source of fragility, aggravated by insecurity, extreme weather patterns and climate change impacts.

The United Nations appeal for $1.5 billion in urgent support is still only about two thirds funded. The focus of humanitarian efforts to date has been to prevent a large-scale famine in 2017. The humanitarian response has been rapid and able to assist more than 3 million people each month with protection, health and education, as well as food, water and livelihood support mainly in the form of cash vouchers, through an integrated approach from drought operation coordination centres at national and sub-national levels.

UNDP RESPONSE   The UN Development Programme primarily supports the government to coordinate the response and address the root causes of the ongoing humanitarian crisis, so to break the ‘vicious cycle’ of natural disasters and emergencies. Over three decades of conflict, governance failure, insecurity and violence combined with recurrent droughts/floods have thrown Somalia into extreme poverty and recurrent famines despite relief aid and support from the humanitarian donor community.

UNDP in Somalia today stands at the crossroad of the humanitarian, peace and development nexus, working simultaneously on peace, justice and security, state building, local governance, climate change and longer-term sustainable development, to avert and mitigate shocks – whether these shocks are caused by violence, disaster, climate, famine or epidemic.

UNDP collaborates with government and UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the World Bank, to help establish a medium to longer-term recovery and resilience framework for Somalia.

In early 2017, UNDP has also supported the new Federal Government of Somalia for the preparation of the National Development Plan, in which for the first time in more than 25 years building resilience to displacement due to both climate disasters and protracted insecurity is set as a key development priority.

As part of a joint project of OCHA, UNDP and the Somaliland disaster reduction authority NERAD, a student from a university in Somaliland has been recruited as data collector to gather information on how drought has affected communities. Photo: UNDP Somalia

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Strengthening Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management Institutions

- UNDP contributed to set up, and provides ongoing technical capacity to disaster management institutions in the four Emerging Federal States—Galamduug, South West, HirShabelle, and Jubbaland—facilitating together with IOM state level crisis coordination, alongside disaster management.
- UNDP builds the capacity of the newly established Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management since its creation in March 2017, in particular to establish a disaster management, crisis response and crisis coordination system in the country.
- UNDP promotes South-South cooperation for showing the way and exchanging experiences in crisis response, crisis coordination and disaster management.
• UNDP facilitates coordination and partnership building between the federal ministry and existing disaster management institutions in Puntland and Somaliland (HADMA and NERAD respectively).
• UNDP supported the new federal ministry in organizing its first Country Humanitarian Forum in July, which brought together various key players, national and international; the Forum and its regular technical groups have become a mechanism for coordination and information sharing within the government and among humanitarian partners.

Post Disaster Needs Assessment and Recovery and Resilience Framework
UNDP and the World Bank are undertaking a Post Disaster Needs Assessment aiming to evaluate early recovery aspects and medium term resilience in the context of the ongoing drought crisis, extended to the cyclical pattern of droughts and floods in the country. This entails jointly developing a government-led Recovery and Resilience Framework for Somalia, followed by the prioritization and sequencing of investment into recovery and resilience building.

Water Harvesting Facilities
• UNDP supported the Somali Government to immediately deliver water to 6,500 vulnerable households in drought-affected communities.
• UNDP helped the regional Ministry of Environment in Puntland build a main water reservoir, which provides to 15,000 pastoralists and their livestock water storage for four months.
• In partnership with local NGOs, UNDP rehabilitated water catchment facilities in Puntland, benefitting 650 households.
• UNDP committed US$ 1 million to extend in the short-term its Water Access Programme to improving small water storage facilities in rural areas in Puntland and Somaliland – through new constructions or rehabilitation of berkeds and boreholes; medium size water storage dams (50,000 to 100,000 cubic meters) are built to catch seasonal streams, and equipped of safe overhead water tanks with solar pumps for human consumption.
• UNDP is setting up desalination plants in coastal areas and inland in Puntland.
• UNDP is working with vulnerable groups across the country, to launch greenhouse small scale farming with drip irrigation systems; such systems are running successfully in the surroundings of Mogadishu.

Protection – Gender-based Violence
• UNDP activated mobile legal clinics via the UN Joint Rule of Law Programme, the existing Gender Programme and a local nongovernment partner in Baidoa, South West State, as well as in Puntland with the Legal Aid Centre, to provide legal information and, to the extent possible, address gender-based violence within displaced groups and host communities.

Improved Environment in Displacement Camps
• In partnership with a local humanitarian actor, UNDP provided primary environmental and clean-up care in camps for internally displaced people living in camps in Baidoa, South West State, benefitting 984 households.

Renewable Energy in Cholera Treatment Centre and Civil Service Institutions
• Solar panels previously supplied by UNDP have met 75% of energy needs in the main treatment centre for more than 2,000 cholera patients in Baidoa.
• Encouraging the use of renewable energy across the country to address climate change, the Federal Government of Somalia launched in August a solar power system for the Office of the Prime Minister. Built with UNDP’s support this hybrid system of 298 solar panels – 76KVA – is expected to save 35% of fuel consumption at Villa Somalia in Mogadishu, or 120 liters daily.
• Supported by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and UNDP, solar energy has a huge potential in Somalia, which enjoys over 310 sunny days – almost 3,000 hours of sunshine – yearly; the project aims to scale up the provision of affordable and clean energy across civil service offices in Somalia.
• Five hundred solar lanterns will be distributed to rural communities or community centres without access to reliable sources of energy. Finally, 50 youth will be trained in the operation and maintenance of solar energy equipment.