

Project Number: 200924 | Project Category: **Single Country Special Operation**
Project Approval Date: December 22, 2015 | Planned Start Date: January 01, 2016
Actual Start Date: January 01, 2016 | Project End Date: December 31, 2018
Financial Closure Date: N/A

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Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Somalia and in Kenya Standard Project Report 2017

World Food Programme in Somalia, Somali Republic (SO)



World Food Programme

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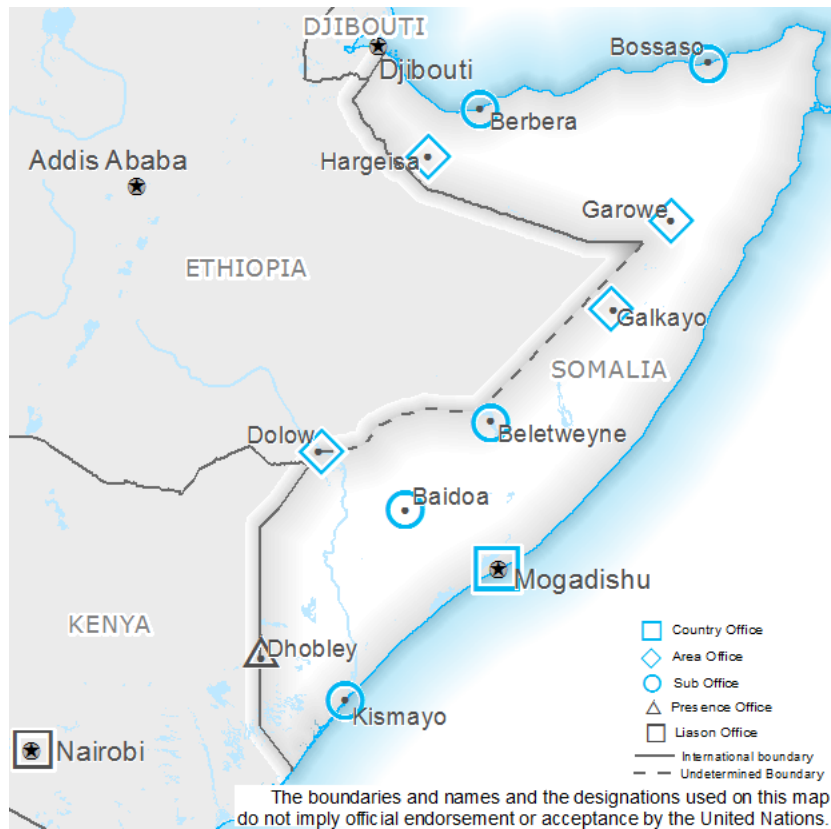
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Country Context and WFP Objectives



Achievements at Country Level

Somalia has been in a state of drought emergency since 2016. This led to a severe food and nutrition crisis affecting more than half of the Somalia population in 2017. From February 2017, WFP rapidly scaled up its nutrition and food assistance, consistently reaching over 2 million beneficiaries each month between April and December 2017. By the end of the year, WFP had reached a total of 3.1 million women, men and children - a third of whom were internally displaced persons (IDPs) - in the worst-affected areas of Somalia with lifesaving food and nutrition support. WFP's relief assistance represented 61 percent of the total Food Security Cluster (FSC) response [1] and 98 percent of the total curative response for moderate acute malnutrition under the Nutrition Cluster. While the overall food security situation remained grim throughout the year, food consumption levels and dietary diversity among households receiving WFP assistance progressively improved, with beneficiaries being five times more likely to have a good or acceptable food consumption compared to non-beneficiary households [2]. The nutrition situation among IDPs also improved, from an average global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 18.1 percent in June 2017, to 14.3 percent in November [3]. In general, in 2017 WFP's drought response significantly contributed to the wider humanitarian effort and helped to save lives, prevent famine and reduce malnutrition .

WFP assistance included the provision of unconditional cash, in-kind food and nutrition assistance, prioritizing regions in Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and 4 [4], as well as those with high GAM rates and a high number of IDPs. Over 80 percent of all the people assisted through the relief programme (including over 66,000 Somali returnees from the Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya), received cash based transfers through WFP's electronic transfer management system - SCOPE. In 2017 alone, WFP transferred USD 134 million to beneficiaries throughout Somalia, including several new locations in southern Somalia, through an expanded network of around 900 retailers. WFP also distributed 88,002mt of food during the reporting period to over 1.5 million beneficiaries.

Where markets were not fully functional, WFP utilized an extensive network of warehouse hubs in each region to preposition food, a time charter vessel, and the WFP-operated UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to supply

food to the regions where roads were not accessible due to insecurity, weather conditions or poor infrastructure. WFP's response was strengthened and effects maximized through enhanced partnership and coordination with government authorities at both federal and local levels, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, as well as the Nutrition, Logistics and Food Security Clusters in Somalia.

[1] Under the FSC's Improved Access to Food and Safety Nets Objective

[2] Acceptable food consumption score improved at the end of the year from 24 percent in August to 35 percent in December. The dietary diversity score of the households also improved from 4.0 in August to 4.3 in December.

[3] Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) Nutrition Update, November 2017

[4] Individuals categorized as Crisis (IPC 3) are from the households with high food consumption gaps or above usual acute malnutrition, or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs. Emergency (IPC 4) are those whose households have large food consumption gaps resulting in very high acute malnutrition and excess mortality; or have extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps in the short term.

Country Context and Response of the Government

After more than two decades of political and economic instability, Somalia remains one of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Over half of the country's 12.3 million population lives below the poverty line [5]. Years of conflict have forced more than 1 million people in Somalia to leave their homes and seek refuge in urban areas where they often live in appalling conditions, face constant eviction and have no access to health or education services. In 2017, an additional 1 million people were newly displaced due to drought related factors and conflict [6].

Although considerable political progress has been made since the establishment of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) in 2012, the country still struggles with fragmented and weak governance and institutional systems, clan conflicts and widespread insecurity, as well as poor health and education infrastructure and services. Somalia's mortality rates of 146/1,000 live births among children under the age of five and maternal mortality rates of 850/100,000 live births are among the highest rates in the world [7].

Gender inequality in Somalia is the sixth highest globally [8], with high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) and discriminatory family laws and customs. Following the 2017 drought and the subsequent increase in displacement, the number of reported cases of GBV spiked, including sexual assault and intimate partner violence [9]. In Somalia, women are generally excluded from most decision-making processes, and despite the 30 percent parliamentary quota system in place, have limited influence in public governance.

More than half of children and youth are out of school [10]. Literacy levels are low for both men and women, while school enrolment rates are among the lowest in the world, especially for girls. Only 42 percent of school-aged children (6–12 years) attend primary school [11]. Of these, only 36 percent are girls [12].

Somalia's economy is highly dependent on imports, creating a large trade deficit that is financed by remittances and international aid. Traditionally, Somalis have relied on social capital, kinship networks and intra-clan support to address food gaps. However, years of conflict and drought have deteriorated natural capital, increasing vulnerability and acute hunger. Market assessments conducted by WFP suggest that Somali markets are generally integrated. However, disruptions can occur due to insecurity resulting in access restrictions. The level of trade for nationally produced food and livestock varies according to seasons, but the main agriculture and livestock markets function throughout the year. Regionally, markets are linked with Kenya and the Gulf States through ports and towns bordering Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Since 2016, Somalia has experienced severe drought conditions due to consecutive failed rainy seasons [13]. This, coupled with conflict, increased displacement, lack of access to basic services as well as the absence of a formal social protection system led to an acute food and nutrition crisis that brought Somalia to the brink of famine in 2017. The drought particularly impacted crop production and further eroded livelihood assets such as livestock, leading to below-average food production and loss of livelihoods. The food security and nutrition situation in Somalia marginally improved by the end of the year, thanks in part to a significant humanitarian investment in emergency assistance and recovery, and favourable environmental factors. Even so, half of the Somali population were still facing acute food insecurity, with 3.1 million people classified as in "crisis" or "emergency" [15] and experiencing dangerous levels of hunger. Another 3.1 million people were classified as "stressed" [15] and in need of livelihood support to cope with the effects of the drought.

Malnutrition rates among women and children remained high in 2017. An estimated 388,000 children aged 6-59 months across the country were acutely malnourished, including 87,000 who were severely malnourished and at risk of disease and death. Halfway through the year, the national global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate had risen well

above the emergency threshold at 17.4 percent (a 17 percent increase from January 2017). The high malnutrition rates were mainly due to high incidences of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) and measles outbreak, as well as to the poor consecutive rainy seasons. The HIV and AIDS prevalence in Somalia is geographically heterogeneous, with higher prevalence rates reported in locations of significant trade-driven mobility across all areas. Approximately 31,000 adults and children are living with HIV and AIDS, of whom 51 percent are women and 49 percent are men.

Somalia launched a New Deal Compact in 2013, following the establishment of the Federal Government. From 2017 to 2019, the key priorities set out by the Somali Compact will continue under the National Development Plan (NDP), which is an ambitious and more comprehensive document outlining the challenges and goals for the Government and its partners over three years. The NDP has a strong focus on poverty reduction, economic development and resilience building, while recognizing the need to first address security, the rule of law, and governance. Gender equality, employment creation and skill development - especially for the youth and women - is also recognized as a key factor in the promotion of economic growth, human development and poverty reduction.

Security conditions in Somalia remain extremely fluid especially in south central Somalia where many areas are still not accessible. However, military operations by the Somali government and allied forces in recent years have increased humanitarian access to areas previously controlled by non-state armed actors, including urban locations in the southern parts of the country. Somalia is one of the most complex operating environments in the world and, although large-scale humanitarian assistance in 2017 managed to avert famine, the food security and nutrition situation remains incredibly fragile and at risk of deterioration if emergency relief efforts are not sustained.

[5] World Bank, Somalia Overview <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/somalia/overview>

[6] OCHA Humanitarian Snapshot,

[7] UNDP (2015). *Human Development Report*.

[8] OECD Development Center, *Social Institutions and Gender Index, 2014*.

[9] Source: GBV Sub-cluster under the Protection Cluster

[10] World Bank, *Somali Poverty Profile 2016*

[11] World Bank *Macro Poverty Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa- October, 2017*
<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/752311492188170790/mpo-som.pdf>

[12] Somalia Federal Republic, Ministry of Human Development and Public Services, *Go2 School Initiative 2013-2016: Educating for Resilience*

[13] present since October 2016

[14] IPC Phase 3 & 4, respectively, according to the Integrated Phase Classification

[15] IPC Phase 2, according to the Integrated Phase Classification

WFP Objectives and Strategic Coordination

In 2017, WFP's objectives in Somalia focused on addressing the drought emergency through a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) and two special operations. WFP relied on the strength of its existing partnerships with local stakeholders and donors, as well as new strategic collaborations with new partners to meet the needs of millions of vulnerable Somalis facing hunger, malnutrition and loss of livelihoods as a result of the ravaging drought.

The **Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO 200844)**, (2016-2018), with an approved budget of USD 999 million [16], aimed at strengthening nutrition and food security through the provision of life-saving curative and preventive nutrition services to children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW); delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance through in-kind and unconditional cash based transfers (CBT) to the most vulnerable households; livelihood support to help poor urban households to cope with the shocks resulting from the drought; and school meals to enhance access to education for primary school boys and girls in food insecure areas throughout Somalia.

The **Special Operation (SO 200924)**, (2016-2018), with an approved budget of USD 87 million, continued to provide safe and reliable air transport services to the humanitarian community in Somalia and Kenya. Under this operation, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) facilitated access to key locations in both countries, supporting life-saving emergency programmes, medical evacuations, and the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from the Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya. UNHAS also transported light cargo such as medical supplies, specialized food commodities and high value equipment for humanitarian agencies implementing programmes in Kenya and Somalia.

The **Special Operation (SO 201051)**, (2017-2018), with an approved budget of USD 1.6 million, was created to facilitate the rehabilitation of the Kismayo Port in Somalia. This will allow for more efficient humanitarian operations, augment the capacity of the port as a gateway for local trade and consequently contribute to economic growth in Somalia.

WFP and other UN agencies continued to support the Somali government's development priorities and efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the United Nations Strategic Framework (UNSF). The UNSF articulates the UN's collective strategy, commitments and actions in support of the Somali government for the period 2017–2020. Priority areas for the UNSF include support for state-building, conflict resolution and reconciliation; improved peace, security, justice, and the rule of law for Somalis; and strengthening the resilience of Somali institutions towards poverty reduction, access to basic social services and sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

In the last quarter of 2017, WFP worked on a Drought Impact Needs Assessment (DINA) with UNDP, the World Bank, the EU, the Somali government and other UN agencies, FAO, UNICEF and UNHCR. WFP provided its technical expertise towards the design of the food security, social protection and nutrition components of the assessment. The DINA and the Recovery and Resilience Framework (RRF) are due to be launched in 2018, with a focus on medium term recovery and resilience activities as the foundations for development in Somalia. In addition, WFP is a member of the Resilience Pillar Working Group and contributes to the Economic Growth Pillar Working Group under the National Development Plan (NDP). Under the Joint Resilience Programme, WFP partnered with FAO in the Canada Rome Based Agencies Programme, with the goal of strengthening resilience in Somalia while prioritizing the most vulnerable in the region.

WFP remains an active partner of the Return Consortium led by UNHCR and in 2017 continued its support for the voluntary return of Somali refugees from Dadaab and their reintegration through food security and nutrition programmes, in their areas of return.

WFP continued to engage in the UN Joint Team on HIV and AIDS as the convener of the food and nutrition pillar and co-convener of the HIV in Emergencies pillar. This ensured the integration of nutrition for HIV and tuberculosis (TB) in national policies and programs. Somalia is a recipient of the Global Fund for the TB, HIV and Malaria grant and WFP participated in the development of the concept note for the next funding cycle (2018-2022) highlighting the need for nutritional support for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and people on TB treatment.

In 2017, WFP embarked on a process to develop an Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) to guide its operations in Somalia from 2019-2021. The ICSP will be developed using findings from a desk review of food security and nutrition programmes and policies in Somalia; an Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) in the form of a food security and nutrition trend analysis; a country portfolio evaluation of WFP's operations in Somalia, and a multi-stakeholder consultative process. The Country Portfolio Evaluation (CPE) mission took place in the final quarter of 2017 and findings are expected by the first quarter of 2018. An external research institute to support the ICSP desk review and consultations was also identified. Stakeholder consultations, involving participation from the government, the UN, NGOs, international institutions and the Somali private sector and civil society are planned for February 2018.

[16] Budget Revision 3 (2017-2018).

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Through the generous support of donors, WFP's activities under the PRRO (200844) were well resourced in 2017 [17]. As a result, following the release of a famine alert in February 2017, WFP was able to rapidly scale up its emergency interventions in order to meet the immediate life-saving needs. By May 2017, WFP was assisting up to five times the number of people assisted at the beginning of the year. To incorporate the new needs, WFP carried out a third budget revision, raising the beneficiary target from 1.45 million people to 3.65 million. The significant deterioration of the food security situation required the prioritization of drought emergency assistance in the form of unconditional relief and nutrition assistance, as well as school meals. Consequently, WFP scaled down food and voucher for assets programmes between January and August 2017 to only those funded through multi-year grants.

WFP's substantial scale up was facilitated by the early adoption of and investment into the SCOPE technology in the preceding years. Through the platform, WFP was able to rapidly register new drought-affected households, enroll those that were already registered in the system, and expand its cash-based transfers into new hard-hit areas using a network of around 900 retailers throughout Somalia. WFP's well-established complaints and feedback mechanism and community engagement also supported a more efficient response, as it allowed for monitoring of concerns (including protection) likely to arise with the massive scale up, and the implementation of immediate mitigation measures.

Relying on its proximity to WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) in Berbera and Mombasa, the Somalia country office was able to offset immediate pipeline breaks. As a result, WFP was able to reach its beneficiaries and provide assistance in a timely, flexible and efficient manner. Multilateral contributions, advance financing, and exceptional donor waivers also allowed WFP to maintain and quickly scale up the high levels of assistance provided to the most vulnerable beneficiaries in 2017.

WFP remained committed to exploring innovative ways to provide high quality assistance to populations in need while maintaining cost benefits for its partners, donors and the local economy. Continuing with trends from 2016, WFP experienced reductions in costs associated with cash-based transfers, food transportation and handling (Landside Transportation Storage and Handling) and administration (Direct Support Costs). WFP also sought and enhanced strategic partnerships with organizations that covered the operational costs, while WFP provided food support therefore enhancing value for money. One such partnership was with an NGO consortium (BRCiS) to ensure coordinated coverage of nutrition treatment services. WFP benefitted from the nutrition expertise of partners as well as from the cost sharing for the associated costs. UNFPA and WFP also partnered to provide nutritional support and to promote sexual and reproductive health seeking behaviours of PLW in UNFPA-supported maternity homes.

In a similar trend to the year before, 60 percent of the total operational cost for the UNHAS operation was covered through the cost recovery mechanism, while 40 percent was received from donors. Among countries that are adopting the cost recovery model for UNHAS operations, Somalia has the highest share of funds secured through this mechanism, which confers a certain level of self-sustainability to the operation, in case of uncertainty of donors funding. UNHAS undertook a budget revision in early 2017 to extend the operation up to the end of 2018, and align it with the planned introduction of the Interim Country Strategic Plan in 2019.

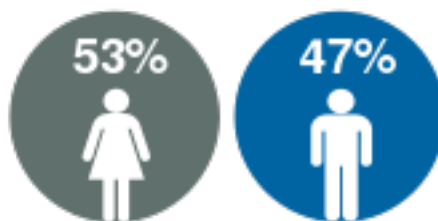
Through increased donor engagement and investment in innovations and processes that support cost efficiency, WFP saw its donor base expand to include non-traditional donors such as Russia, Slovenia, China and the Republic of Korea. WFP also received contributions from many first time donors to Somalia (since 2011), such as Czech Republic, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Lithuania and Luxembourg. WFP saw an increase in directed contributions from Nordic countries, and continues to cultivate those relationships with a focus on relief and resilience programmes.

[17] The PRRO project portfolio was over 80 percent funded in 2017.



Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	446,162	478,031	924,193
Children (5-18 years)	414,293	382,425	796,718
Adults (18 years plus)	637,374	828,587	1,465,961
Total number of beneficiaries in 2017	1,497,829	1,689,043	3,186,872



Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	42,100	5,469	8,526	31,907	-	88,002
Total Food Distributed in 2017	42,100	5,469	8,526	31,907	-	88,002



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	14,813,693	120,178,435	184
Total Distributed in 2017	14,813,693	120,178,435	184

Supply Chain

The 2017 drought response relied on the WFP's ability to rapidly switch between different transfer modalities as well as its agility in the delivery of assistance. As a result, the role of WFP Logistics in Somalia evolved from the physical supply of in-kind food commodities to assuring local supply through a stronger emphasis on cash-based modalities. In addition, the prolonged drought and the subsequent poor harvests had left many Somalis relying on imported foods. This kept most markets functioning and made cash based transfers a more appropriate modality of response. To reach the people in need, WFP enlisted new retailers, prioritizing remote and hard-hit drought affected areas. As a result, the retailer base was significantly increased from 500 contracted retailers in January to almost 900 by the

end of the year. Cash-based transfers provided a lifeline for vulnerable communities in Somalia, where regular and sustained humanitarian access to some of the most food insecure areas remains a challenge.

Where roads were inaccessible, especially in the south of the country, critical supplies were airlifted with up to three cargo planes positioned in Mogadishu at a time. Air operations quadrupled compared to the previous year, airlifting up to 4,100 mt of cargo on behalf of partner agencies and the government. As the volumes of cargo airlifted for the drought response continued to increase, WFP installed two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) and two new refrigerated containers to store heat-sensitive nutrition items at the Mogadishu and Baidoa airports to ensure more efficient prepositioning of emergency items for WFP and its partners.

The humanitarian emergency in 2017 significantly increased the volume of food commodities handled by WFP Logistics and the need for a flexible and affordable storage solution that did not compromise on quality. Consequently, WFP set up cocoons in critical locations in central and south Somalia such as Mogadishu, Dinsoor and Baidoa to support its emergency drought operations. A cocoon is a gastight and watertight outdoor storage unit, designed for long-term storage of agricultural commodities. Each unit can store between 100 and 150 mt for a year with close to no losses. Unlike other storage units, cocoons are simple to set up and dismantle, making them ideal for quick setup during emergencies.

WFP transported its food into Somalia through the major ports of Berbera, Bosasso, Mogadishu and Kismayo. The food was then transported inland by contracted trucks, monitored with the latest vehicle tracking technology. WFP purchased a total of 47,000 mt through the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), which represents 97 percent of cash-funded purchases. The food purchased through the GCMF was delivered after an average of 22 days, a 79 percent reduction of the average lead-time. The share of local and regional GCMF purchases increased from 4 percent in 2013 to 36 percent in 2017.

In response to the drought emergency in Somalia, the Logistics Cluster, led by WFP, scaled up its logistics support on behalf of the humanitarian community and the Somali government. The cluster worked closely with the Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to build the capacity of local partners. In 2017, this was done through three trainings in Southern Somalia with more countrywide trainings planned for 2018. The cluster also assigned two temperature control units and rub halls specifically designed to store heat-sensitive items to the Ministry of Health.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Rice	8	2,822	2,830
Split Peas	-	462	462
Vegetable Oil	2	-	2
Wheat	-	608	608
Total	11	3,891	3,902
Percentage	0.3%	99.7%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Corn Soya Blend	14,112
High Energy Biscuits	114
Maize	490

Commodity	Total
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	12,191
Sorghum/Millet	14,713
Split Peas	906
Vegetable Oil	1,154
Total	43,680

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Lessons gathered over the implementation period [18] of the Joint Resilience Strategy (JRS) implemented by WFP, UNICEF and FAO underscored the need to improve on joint implementation of programmes, a common beneficiary database, a common theory of change with a focused set of objectives and outcomes, and joint monitoring and reporting of results. As such, advanced consultations between the three agencies took place in 2017 towards the development of a Joint Resilience Action which places food security and nutrition at the core of building resilience in Somalia.

As a preparedness measure learned from previous emergency operations, WFP embarked on a large scale registration of households on the SCOPE platform in food insecure areas across the country in 2016 and 2017. As a result, more than 1.1 million additional people were registered in 2017, bringing the total number of people registered in SCOPE since October 2014 to 2.7 million (705,514 households). The massive registration exercise enabled WFP to quickly respond to the drought through the use of the registration information already in SCOPE, hence making it possible for beneficiaries to receive assistance in the shortest possible time. However, WFP noted the importance of continued sensitization of registered household members to distinguish between what it means to be a beneficiary and non-beneficiary on the SCOPE platform.

The Strategic Review of the school meals programme initiated the previous year was completed in 2017. The review assessed the relevance of the project approach, the extent to which its strategy is efficient and effective, and whether it is likely to have a sustainable impact. Findings from the review indicated that the take home ration (THR) given to incentivize girls' enrolment and retention in school, had made a positive impact on their retention in the reviewed schools but had potentially negatively affected the retention of boys. The review also found that the gender gap between boys and girls enrolled in the school meals programme had decreased since the start of the project, with a less than 25 percent gender gap in enrolment across the assessed schools. Based on these findings, WFP will discontinue the take-home rations programme in 2018, whilst closely monitoring the enrollment and retention rates of both boys and girls over the coming year.

Somalia's markets have always proven resilient even during times of crisis and local food production shortages. However, food insecure people often do not have sufficient economic purchasing power for food. Cash based transfers (CBT) help food insecure populations access food from the local markets while strengthening local demand, economy and trade, and incentivizing traders and local farmers to stay in businesses even in crisis. Based on this knowledge, WFP significantly scaled up its use of cash based transfers in 2017 as the quick mobilization of food assistance was key to responding to the drought emergency. WFP analysis confirmed that delivery of food assistance through CBT was faster than in-kind food delivery. The time it takes from grant confirmation until a food voucher is in the hands of the beneficiary is half the time the same process takes for in-kind food.

The introduction in 2017 of a new assistance mechanism in the form of multi-purpose cash, gave rise to new challenges in programme implementation on different levels. One of these challenges was crowd control and disorder at some cash distribution points. WFP received two reports on this through the complaints and feedback mechanism during the reporting year. As the reported incidents were a result of too many beneficiaries trying to redeem their entitlements at the same place and time, WFP took action by dividing the beneficiaries into different batches and planning the top-ups and distribution cycles of each batch for different days and over longer periods of time. This helped to mitigate overcrowding at distribution points during the redemption period and also enabled the bank to ensure sufficient resources, both in terms of staffing and cash. WFP also worked closely with local authorities to enhance security measures at distribution points and with cooperating partners to improve beneficiary sensitization about entitlements and cycle validity.

The complex Somali context continued to present unprecedented situations in the field requiring innovative thinking and providing lessons to draw from. The WFP office in Galkayo, located at the border of Puntland and Galmudug

states and providing assistance to beneficiaries all over central Somalia faced one such situation in early 2017. Violent clashes between the Puntland and Galmudug authorities over historically disputed land led to the closure of the border at Galkayo and the interruption of trade and flow of goods (including humanitarian assistance). Over 1,100mt of assorted WFP food commodities [19] destined for the WFP warehouse in the south was stuck on the northern side of the border. As the impasse persisted, WFP decided to offload the cargo in eight temporary storage facilities (cocoons) on its compound, eventually managing to dispatch the food to the warehouse in the south through alternative routes, months before the border was reopened. This allowed WFP's beneficiaries in the south to receive much needed food assistance in the midst of a crisis and saved WFP from a considerable amount of resources that would have been spent if the consignment had been transported back to the original warehouse in the north. This incident underscored the need for WFP teams, especially those working at border points prone to conflicts, to be prepared to store and dispatch food through alternate storage facilities and routes so as to reach our beneficiaries in time, in the midst of a crisis.

[18] From 2012 to 2016.

[19] For distribution to 200,000 beneficiaries.

Cash provides a vital lifeline in Somalia

Delivering money directly into the hands of drought-hit families means greater freedom to choose

Hawo Ahmed slowly climbs the staircase inside the massive concrete building — the tallest one in the city — and enters the modern, glass-encased room. She sits and nervously fiddles with the digital blue card in her hands. Hawo has never set foot in a bank before.

A teller calls Hawo's name. She approaches and hands over her card, which the teller inserts into a point-of-sale machine. Hawo places a finger on the scanner next to it.

Cash can be managed better

Her identity confirmed, the teller asks Hawo whether she'd like her US\$90 in cash or mobile money. She prefers cash, so the teller hands over several dollar bills, then motions to the next customer.

“Cash is good,” says the grandmother of five orphaned children as she shuffles away from the desk and tucks the bills into a fold in her skirt. “I can manage it better and use it for food, medicines and school expenses.”

Hawo and her grandchildren moved to Galkayo in central Somalia after drought wiped out most of their livestock in their village along the Ethiopian border. Of their 300 goats and 30 camels, only three goats and three camels survived.

For five months, Hawo had received e-vouchers from WFP that enabled her to buy food. From October, she began receiving cash, opening up new possibilities for her and her family.

Cash provides vital support

Through the support of key donors, WFP introduced cash assistance in Somalia in June 2017 and assisted over 62,000 vulnerable families. The drought left 3.1 million Somalis in need of immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance. Many lost their livelihoods because of widespread losses of livestock and poor harvests. The drought drove over 1 million people from their homes in search of food, water and assistance in 2017.

For Habiba, a single mother of six from Lower Shabelle, receiving cash is a lifeline. Drought and conflict forced her and her family to move to Mogadishu, where she barely scrapes a living through irregular washing jobs. Of the monthly US\$80 in cash Habiba receives through WFP, US\$50 goes on food while the rest is stored on her mobile phone to cover other expenses.

Cash boosts local trade

Cash-based transfers – whether cash or e-vouchers – through SCOPE, has the added benefit of supporting and stimulating local trade in areas where markets continue to function, even during the drought.

Hilaal is the owner of one of seven shops in Dollow that have agreements with WFP. She says that ever since WFP scaled-up its operations in the town in 2017, WFP customers make up 80 percent of her monthly revenue. It's a relationship that works: “I serve the community,” she says, “and my business benefits.”

Above all, delivering cash directly into the hands of families upholds WFP's guiding principle to provide humanitarian responses that address the basic needs of people most in need with greater flexibility, dignity and choice. As the crisis in Somalia continues, WFP will keep exploring ways that it can further serve and support vulnerable people.

Project Results

Activities and Operational Partnerships

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) special operation was created to facilitate access to key locations in both Kenya and Somalia, where alternative sustainable local services do not exist and air access is a necessity due to the fluid security situation and consequent access constraints. Insecurity, poor infrastructure, long distances and the lack of reliable air transport providers in Somalia makes the continued presence of UNHAS crucial to the delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected populations. In Kenya, no commercial airline operates between Nairobi and the refugee camps. The only alternative is to travel by road through insecure areas, which is risky and time-consuming.

In 2017, UNHAS continued to provide safe and reliable demand-driven air transport services to the humanitarian community in Somalia and Kenya, rising up to meet the increase in needs that followed the drought emergency in Somalia and the continuing voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Dadaab refugee complex in Kenya.

UNHAS conducted its operations from its strategic hubs in Nairobi, Mogadishu and Hargeisa, deploying aircrafts to 34 locations in Kenya and Somalia, according to a pre-designed weekly flight schedule. At the same time, flexibility was ensured in order to respond to regular ad-hoc demands, rapid response missions to deep-field locations outside the usual UNHAS routes, evacuation requests and special flights, as required by the humanitarian community. The Nairobi-based fleet operated as feeder aircraft, serving South Central Somalia through the hub in Mogadishu, while Somaliland and Puntland were served through the connecting hubs in Garowe/Conoco. UNHAS assets were shared between the Kenya and Somalia operations, depending on actual needs.

In support of the humanitarian response to the drought emergency, UNHAS added one aircraft to its fleet of 6 aircrafts in the first quarter of 2017. This aircraft provided additional capacity for agencies to access locations in South and Central Somalia on a regular basis, and was used to deliver medical supplies for UNICEF and WHO, and high value nutrition items to small airfields in South Central Somalia that could not handle larger cargo aircraft. In South and Central Somalia, UNHAS also operated three cargo aircrafts to newly accessible locations for the delivery of specialised nutritious foods and non-food items, on an ad hoc basis. These locations included Wajid, Hudur, Garbahare, Bardhere, Baidoa, Dinsor, and Beletweyne. The cargo aircraft, based in Mogadishu, supported the Logistics Cluster in delivering urgent emergency food and non-food supplies for different agencies to remote locations otherwise inaccessible by road. The WFP food and nutrition commodities transported by the cargo fleet were charged to WFP's protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200844.

The UNHAS aviation security officer closely monitored the implementation of aviation security procedures to ensure their effectiveness and continued improvement in a fragile security environment. Aviation security assessments were carried out at all station terminals and aviation security training delivered to UNHAS, UN Security and Airport Authorities personnel. UNHAS monitored the progress of its flights through a dedicated communication system employing very high frequency and high frequency (VHF/HF) radios and satellite tracking systems. To further supplement the airport security capabilities, in 2017, UNHAS procured and deployed three additional explosive detector machines in Dollow and Mogadishu airports as well as in the Conoco airstrip, where UNHAS has been temporarily operating while rehabilitation works have been continuing in Garowe airport.

UNHAS continued to maintain strong links with both the Somalia and Kenya Civil Aviation Authorities and collaborated with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) to obtain timely information on security in its areas of operation. UNHAS also shared technical information on airfields and operating environment with the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the UN Office in Somalia (UNSOS), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Furthermore, UNHAS held regular user group meetings in Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab to share information with all users on operational performance and ascertain possible future needs of the agencies.

Results

In line with project objectives, UNHAS provided safe and predictable air transport services to priority destinations that enabled humanitarian staff and donor entities to access project implementation sites. In 2017, UNHAS operations in Somalia transported 23,812 passengers (8 percent more than the previous year) to 27 locations[1] including 17 new locations inside Somalia. The addition of one aircraft to the existing fleet increased the frequency of access to southern Somalia by 650 passengers per month. A total of 60 percent of the passengers were from UN agencies, while the NGO community and the donor and diplomatic missions constituted the other 30 and 10 percent, respectively. UNHAS transported more than 6,780 refugee adults and children (excluding infants below 2

years) from Kakuma and Dadaab to Mogadishu and Kismayo on 187 flights, which represents three times the number of returnees transported in the previous year.

In Kenya, passenger traffic on the Nairobi-Dadaab route reduced by 21 percent, whereas on the Nairobi-Kakuma route, there was a 23 percent increase. The reduction on the Dadaab route could be attributed to the continued scaling down of humanitarian activities in Dadaab, following the initiation of the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Kenya to Somalia. In response to the increased demand on the Kakuma route, an extra frequency was introduced on the schedule.

During the Kenya election month in August 2017, the number of passengers dropped to an all-time low of 664 passengers, compared to a monthly average of 1,050 passengers in 2017. In December, UNHAS cancelled eight flights in Kenya, due to perceived insecurity threats in Dadaab. As a result, overall, the Kenya operation transported about the same number of passengers as in the previous year with a marginal (1 percent) decrease. UNHAS Kenya conducted 14 dedicated flights at full cost recovery in support of missions by various UN agencies and a donor agency. These included high-level missions by the High Commissioner of UNHCR to Dadaab in December. In addition, 44 medical evacuations were performed on scheduled service flights.

The sharing of air assets between the Kenya and Somali operations provided advantages to the overall humanitarian response, including additional fleet flexibility and economies of scale. Furthermore, the feedback received from passenger satisfaction surveys and users group meetings enabled UNHAS to review and assess the changing needs of the humanitarian community and amend schedules where practical, or introduce new locations accordingly.

[1] Including Nairobi and Wajir in Kenya

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

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A UNHAS aircraft in Wajid, Somalia, a small remote town in the south that received an influx of IDPs in 2017 as a result of drought and conflict. WFP provided vulnerable families in Wajid with a combination of in-kind food and e-vouchers and nutrition support for small children and pregnant and nursing mothers. Because road access is extremely limited and subject to frequent checks and attacks by non-government forces in the south, WFP airlifted in-kind food commodities to Wajid from Mogadishu on a weekly basis.

Project Indicators

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Air Ops)				
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	agency/organization	130	156	120.0%
Number of assessments/surveys conducted	assessment	4	4	100.0%
Number of locations served	site	30	34	113.3%
Number of passengers transported monthly against planned (passengers transported)	individual	3,000	3,035	101.2%
Percentage of passenger bookings served	%	95	99	104.2%
Percentage response to medical and security evacuation	%	100	100	100.0%
Quantity (mt) of cargo transported	Mt	240	351	146.3%