Operational Context

After nearly three decades of political and economic instability, Somalia is on a positive trajectory with significant progress made since the re-establishment of the Federal Government in 2012. However, the country continues to struggle with recurrent food and nutrition crises, widespread insecurity, political instability, underdeveloped infrastructure, and natural hazards such as drought and floods. Over half of the country’s population lives below the poverty line and gender inequality is the fourth highest globally, with high levels of gender-based violence, child marriage, and maternal mortality. In response to these challenges, the government revised the 2016 National Development Plan and adopted the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9, 2020-2024) in December 2019. The NDP-9 has four pillars encompassing security and rule of law, inclusive politics, economic development, and social development as pathways to achieving long-term development and wellbeing of the Somali people.

WFP Somalia Country Office has been operating from Nairobi since 1995 but transitioned to a Liaison Office in February 2015 when WFP re-opened the Somalia Country Office in Mogadishu for the first time in 20 years.

Operational Updates

The 2019 Somalia Deyr Seasonal Food Security and Nutrition assessment findings (February 2020) indicates an improved food security situation in Somalia due to a favourable Deyr harvest and improved livestock production. However, without sustained humanitarian assistance, 1.3 million people are expected to face Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) food security outcomes and an additional 2.8 million people are expected to be stressed (IPC Phase 2) across Somalia, between April and June 2020.

Somalia faces the largest desert locust outbreak in 25 years. The locusts have had limited impact on the current food security situation. However, the infestation can have severe consequences from March/April when eggs start to hatch. The Federal Government of Somalia has declared the desert locust infestation a national emergency.

About 1.6 million women, men and children in communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity in Somalia received assistance from WFP in January. More than half of the people reached received cash-based transfers (CBT) worth nearly USD 8.6 million. In addition, about 524,000 pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-59 months received preventative and curative nutrition assistance, while approximately 46,000 people received support through livelihoods programmes.

WFP is planning to undertake a national food security and nutrition vulnerability mapping among people living with HIV and TB patients in February 2020. In January, a meeting was held with the federal Ministry of Health to clarify the protocol, sampling procedures and data collection methodology. The study will provide WFP with the required evidence to strengthen and improve policy and programming for its TB and HIV nutrition programme.

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The Ministry of Education in Puntland convened a stakeholders’ meeting themed, ‘decentralised quality education for all’. The meeting was attended by government officials, donor representatives, and education stakeholders. A review of the education sector in Puntland was undertaken. Among the actions proposed were integration and strengthening of the school feeding programme in the education sector plan and the development of a school feeding programme policy in 2020.

**Monitoring**

In January 2020, the WFP complaints and feedback mechanism (CFM) recorded 684 cases in its case management system, through the hotline. 94 percent of the cases recorded were to seek clarification on WFP assistance while 6 percent were technical issues related to SCOPE authentication which WFP needed to redress. So far, 87 percent of these cases have been resolved and closed in the system. A majority of the cases (84 percent) were received from women, who make up more than three-quarters of the recipients of WFP assistance under the relief programme and the principle adult beneficiaries in the nutrition programmes.

**Funding**

WFP requires USD 186.4 million in the next six months (February-July 2020) to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

**Donors**

ICSP: USA, United Kingdom, China, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, European Commission (ECHO), Japan, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and UN CERF.