



Joint Press release

Government of Germany contributes €50 million towards strengthening resilience in southern Somalia

MOGADISHU 7 March 2018 – The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has committed 50 million Euros for a joint United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF programme to tackle women and children's nutrition in nine districts in Banadir and six districts in Gedo region in the south of Somalia.

Over a million children in Somalia are expected to be acutely malnourished in the next 12 months, including 232,000 who will be severely malnourished and in need of lifesaving assistance. The ongoing drought and other shocks have left communities with little to no resources to fall back on- hence the importance of investing in resilience.

The three-year grant (€ 24.5 million for UNICEF and €25.5 million for WFP) will be managed by the German Development Bank (KfW). This will help put families and communities in a better position to cope with shocks and crises that often hit Somalia.

UNICEF and WFP will work closely with the Government at local, state and federal levels. Key ministries include the Federal Ministry of Health and Human Services, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Energy and Water Resource. Coordination and oversight of this programme will be conducted by the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development.

"The Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MOPIED) recognizes the importance of this initiative by WFP and UNICEF which contributes to the overall resilience agenda of the National Development Plan by putting an urgent focus on improving the resilience of women, children and their communities to recurrent shocks," said Gamal Mohamed Hassan, Federal Minister of Planning

The programme will take a multi-sectorial approach to addressing malnutrition and building resilience through health, nutrition water and sanitation as well as hygiene interventions. This year, it targets nearly 206,000 children under the age of five, along with over 109,000 pregnant and nursing mothers who will receive health and nutrition support for the treatment and prevention of various forms of malnutrition both at the facility and community levels. In addition, over 8,000 children in Gedo will benefit from water and sanitation facilities in their schools. There will be similar numbers of people benefitting from the programme in the following two years.

"We must look to long-term community solutions to break the cycle of persistent droughts and humanitarian crisis in Somalia," said Jutta Frasch the German



Ambassador to Somalia. “We are confident that, through the collaboration between the German Government, UNICEF, WFP, the Federal Government, the Government of Jubaland, the Banadir Regional Administration and other key authorities, we can make this happen.”

To ensure the long-term impact and sustainability of the programme, WFP and UNICEF are placing significant focus on strengthening the capabilities of government, communities and families to withstand shocks and crises and to recover from them quickly.

The services are being delivered through health centres run by partners in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Health and Jubaland authorities. There is also a package of community level interventions delivered through community workers.

“Germany has provided important support not only to Somalia’s humanitarian efforts but also to work towards rebuilding its government and institutions and strengthening its systems,” said UNICEF Somalia Representative, Steven Lauwerier. “While we continue our scaled up operations to combat the drought, we need to plan ahead and ensure that communities are resilient and able to withstand future droughts, floods and other extreme events.”

“WFP is proud to be part of this programme with UNICEF and the Government of Germany that allows us to bring our expertise together and work closely with the Government of Somalia and the people of Banadir and Gedo regions,” said WFP Deputy Country Director, Edith Heines.

The programme is being launched today by the German Ambassador, UNICEF and WFP representatives and senior representatives of the Federal Government of Somalia at a ceremony in Mogadishu.

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About UNICEF

UNICEF has been working in Somalia since 1972, when its first office opened in Mogadishu. Today UNICEF has several offices across the country, including Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garowe and Hargeisa. Together with over 100 international and national NGOs and community-based organizations, UNICEF delivers services in Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education and Child Protection, as well as responds to emergencies and supports peacebuilding and development. For more information visit www.unicef.org/somalia

About WFP

WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries. WFP launched its first operation in Somalia in



1967, and this year aims to assist 4.2 million people in the country. In addition to emergency food assistance, WFP programmes enhance the resilience of vulnerable Somalis against recurring shocks such as droughts and floods. This work includes building water reservoirs and roads, and reinforcing safety-net systems such as nutrition and school meals programmes, as well as working in partnership to connect small-scale farmers to markets.

For more information, please contact:

Susannah Price, UNICEF: +254 722 719 867, sprice@unicef.org

Surani Abeysekera, UNICEF: +254 706033236 sabeysekera@unicef.org

Amor Almagro, WFP: +254 734 554 040 amor.almagro@wfp.org

Peter Smerdon, WFP: +254 707 722 104 peter.smerdon@wfp.org