

## Hyping the Shelter Advocacy Impetus

Life was difficult for the people of Somalia prior to the onset of several drought crises, with chronic challenges of underdevelopment, financial crisis, and poverty. As a result of protracted conflicts and natural disasters, 1.1 million people had already experienced long-term displacement. Due to the drought, compounded by insecurity, another 739,000 people have had to flee their homes for survival.

A total of over 1.8 million displaced persons represent about 16% of the total population or put another way, one in six of the country's population is now displaced. The continual cycle of conflict and natural disasters impacts lives in devastating ways. Somalis continue to live in uncertain times and cannot live stable lives. They are food insecure, have limited access to clean water, and incur increasing debt. Many live in cramped and difficult conditions and are in desperate need of shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs). Many families have faced multiple displacements, lost household items, livestock on which they are dependent, access to livelihoods and are travelling long distances to seek assistance.



**Figure 1: An IDP settlement in Baidoa - DRC**

In view of the scale of displacement and dire situation in most IDP sites, and with the onset of rains, it is imperative that resources are mobilised including funding to enhance the living conditions in those sites.

Some of the most vulnerable IDPs are those people staying in spontaneous settlements. They do not have the option of staying with host families/friends and often face extremely poor living conditions and lack of access to water, food and social services. The high proportion of women and girls are often exposed to a number of protection issues. Spontaneous sites are often very basic forms of settlements where families have built rudimentary, makeshift shelters which are not durable enough to withstand longer periods of displacement, multiple displacements, and harsh climatic conditions.

The Shelter Cluster has 18 active partners across the country. Between January and May 2017, ARC, CARE, DKK, DRC, ICRC, MERCY CORPS, NRC, SCI, SYDF, SYPD, UNHCR, WV, SRCS and CCBRS, with funding from ECHO, SHF, CERF, German Foreign office, DFID and Somalia Diasporas, distributed NFI kits to more than 25,000 disaster-affected households in IDP camps in Somalia.

The NFI kits were comprised of 2 blankets, 3 mats, 3 bars of soap, 1 tarpaulin, 1 kitchen set and 2 jerry cans.

The Shelter Cluster estimates that approximately 70 - 75,000 households are in need of urgent shelter/NFI support particularly as cloth covered shelters offer little protection from the rains which have now commenced. The settlements are now prone to flooding which exacerbates the health risks at the sites.



**Figure 2: Pathetic conditions of the IDP settlements**

In order to highlight the conditions, the plight of the persons affected by displacement and what can be done by the cluster to improve living and health conditions, the Shelter Cluster has developed a photo-story which can be found here:

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/XOzl2AUbjCXf0/>

The Shelter Cluster in association with the CCCM Cluster, has identified a range of responses to meet the specific needs of IDPs according to their needs:

- *Emergency shelter materials such as plastic sheeting and floor mats are required for spontaneous settlements along with non-food items such as kitchen and hygiene kits to replace what has been left behind.*
- *The living conditions and infrastructure in the settlement sites can be improved by creating drainage channels, construction of fire breaks and raising the floor of the makeshift shelters (to mitigate flooding).*

For Each 5,000 Households, the Shelter Cluster requires an estimated

- *USD 850,000 to provide critical emergency shelter and NFIs. Locally procured, in-kind materials or cash/voucher equivalent are both viable and quick options.*
- *USD 60,000 to provide community tool kits (shared between 5 HHs) to promote site improvements and raise the standard of living conditions.*

### NEEDS ANALYSIS

- 740,000 drought displaced people are in need of Shelter/NFI assistance. The majority of the displacement is to Baidoa and Mogadishu. The displaced families are confronted with the need of shelter and other household non-food items.
- Safe and secure settlements are needed to provide crisis-affected communities with protected and healthy living spaces and environments, while ensuring sufficient privacy and dignity.
- Nearly 1.1 million protracted Internally Displaced people exist countrywide

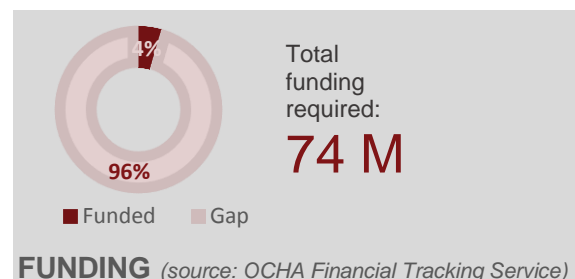
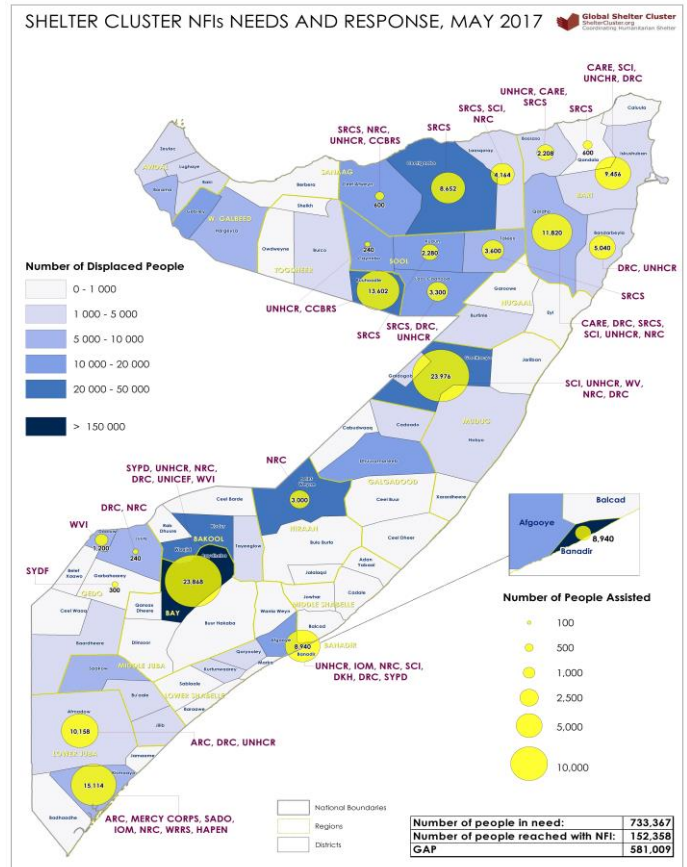
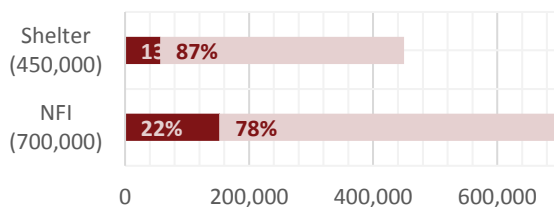
### GAPS / CHALLENGES

- Poor infrastructure inhibits the provision of NFI supplies to the interior regions of Somalia.
- Restricted humanitarian accessibility continues to affect the provision of assistance to affected people in some parts of south and central Somalia.
- Lack of funding of shelter activities has exceptionally affected the capacity of cluster partners. The resulting gaps are aggravated by the sharp increase in emergency shelter needs which calls for stocks to be positioned for timely response to emergencies all over Somalia.

### RESPONSE

- 11040 persons have received emergency assistance Package (NFIs) in May
- 57120 persons have received emergency Shelter assistance (ESKs) in May

### COVERAGE AGAINST TARGETS (HH)



### SHELTER CLUSTER CONTACTS / DOCS / LINKS

Shelter Cluster Coordinator (ad interim)  
Nurta Mohamed Adan  
[adan@unhcr.org](mailto:adan@unhcr.org) / +252 615682233

Shelter Cluster Support Associate  
Padmore Ochieng Okal  
[okal@unhcr.org](mailto:okal@unhcr.org) / +254 723 793 105

### KEY DOCUMENTS

- <https://www.sheltercluster.org/response/somalia>

### KEY LINKS

- <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia/emergency-shelter-and-nfi>
- <http://reliefweb.int/country/som>