Early Childhood Development

KNOWLEDGE GATHERING TEMPLATE

In the “G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development”, G20 countries committed to share best practices and lessons learned through a platform that will be developed by ECDAN and will be operative by 2019.

G20 countries are invited to voluntarily submit projects, programs, policies, or similar initiatives implemented domestically, internationally or through official development assistance that are aimed Early Childhood Development, prioritizing those which address the issue in a multidimensional manner.

Countries are invited to share as many projects, programs, policies or initiatives as they wish to showcase, submitting one form per best practice.

**Country Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(1) Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(2) Project, Program, Policy, or Initiative name/title:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivering life-saving emergency assistance to boys, girls and women affected by severe acute malnutrition in drought-affected hotspots and IDP camps in Somalia</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(3) Project, Program, Policy, or Initiative location</th>
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| (3a) **City:** IDP camps in central and southern regions  
(3b) **Country:** Somalia |

**General information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(4) Brief Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict, insecurity, drought and famine have defined Somalia throughout the past two decades. Currently, a third of the population in Somalia is still in crisis and in need of immediate food security and livelihood assistance – over 70 per cent are in the conflict-ridden southern regions where humanitarian access is limited due to the high level of insecurity. Rates of acute malnutrition illustrate an almost unimaginable situation: 30 per cent of children under-5 are acutely malnourished.</td>
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**Project strategy:**

UNICEF revised its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) requirements for Somalia from
US$66.1 million to US$147.9 million to meet the increased humanitarian needs of children due to the rapidly deteriorating drought situation which is now affecting most of the country. In the worst case scenario, UNICEF is targeting 277,000 children affected by severe acute malnutrition. From January to mid-May 2017, UNICEF and partners provided more than 76,000 children with severe acute malnutrition with life-saving treatment, representing a significant increase when compared to the same period last year.

UNICEF procures essential life-saving nutrition supplies and medicines for pre-positioning in strategically located warehouses across Somalia for distribution to key partners and Ministry of Health focal points. UNICEF plans to increase the number of outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) facilities to increase geographical coverage of service delivery while strengthening community resilience to prevent acute malnutrition through early detection of acutely malnourished children and their referral to health facilities offering nutrition services. Through on-the-job training and supportive supervision, the response built the capacity of service providers in the BNSP to treat acute malnutrition. Mobile teams supported and mobilized to deliver services and provide increased support and follow up to nomadic populations. Because of pre-existing high prevalence of anaemia among children under-5, home fortification with micronutrient powders implemented including the supplementation of PLW with multiple micronutrient tablets (MNT).

What are the expected results/impacts/beneficiaries of the project/program/policy/initiative?

China’s contribution enabled timely procurement of core nutrition pipeline supplies for 15,000 children, ensuring that service delivery and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment sites were stocked to continue providing life-saving services. Through the ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) procured with this funding, at least 15,000 children were reached, representing 6 per cent of the 269,714 children under-5 UNICEF and partners treated in 2017. Nutrition services were delivered with outcomes consistent with the recommended Sphere humanitarian performance standards. Without this support, the lives of 15,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition would have been at risk while survivors would have suffered from irreversible physical and cognitive development shortfalls.

This support complemented efforts to scale up the nutrition response at the most critical time of an imminent famine. The expansion in coverage of services, including a drastic increase in number of static and mobile sites from 578 to more than 800 during the course of the 2017 was instrumental for the scale-up, as was the focus on the neediest populations including IDP populations. In 2017, approximately 50 per cent of the SAM caseload reached originated from IDP hosting districts.

Overall, with provision of integrated services, funding ensured delivery of a holistic Basic Nutrition Services Package1 (BNSP); about 30,000 children aged 6 to 23 months received micronutrient powders, over 200,000 women received at least one individual infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling session and a third of all health/nutrition facilities provided at least five of the minimum BNSP components in CSR in 2017. The funding also built on efforts to
increase capacity of partners and communities to deliver and utilise the BNSP including the cascaded IYCF trainings that reached 386 community health workers and facility health workers to deliver skilled IYCF services.

**Legal framework**

(6) (Does the Project/Program/Initiative/Policy have an associated regulatory or legal framework?)

The Agreement was signed between the Government of China and UNICEF for contribution to UNICEF Somalia humanitarian response.

**Implementation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(7) Implementation level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Is the Project/Program/Policy/Initiative implemented within the country’s national territory or in support of other countries?)</td>
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</table>

- Domestic
- Sub-national / Community
- Support of developing and low-income countries
- National
- Regional
- Global

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(8) Geographical impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(more than one answer possible)</td>
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</table>

- Support of developing and low-income countries
- National
- Regional
- Global

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(9) Nº of countries involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(If Project/Program/Initiative/Policy is Regional/Global)</td>
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</tbody>
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- (9a) City, Country, Region 1: Somalia, Africa
- (9b) City, Country, Region 2:
- (9c) City, Country, Region 3:
- (9d) City, Country, Region 4:
- (9e) City, Country, Region 5:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(10) Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under design</td>
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<tr>
<td>In progress</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>(11) Start date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November / 2017</td>
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<td>March / 2018</td>
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<th>(12) End date</th>
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### Action area/s (more than one answer possible)

- Health
- Food Security and Nutrition
- Security and safety
- Other: ___________

### Funding

#### Origin (more than one answer possible)

- National budget
- Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) or Development Financial Institutions (DFI)
- International Organizations (IOs)
- Global Partnerships or Initiatives
- Other: ___________

**Brief description of funding (e.g. name of funding institution or partnership, etc.)**

The Chinese Government signed a Funding Agreement with UNICEF for strengthening collaboration in jointly responding to urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable children and women living in Somalia.

A cash contribution of USD 2 million was made to UNICEF for procuring therapeutic food and medicines for children and women suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Somalia.

### Available funds (optional)

### Monitoring and Evaluation

#### Does the Project/Program/Initiative/Policy involve a monitoring / evaluation process?

- Yes
- No
Programme monitoring and oversight was carried out using a combination of methods. UNICEF continued to rely on reports by implementing partners as the primary source of information and complemented this information with technical coordination, management, monitoring and supervision oversight, and quality assurance for implementation of activities. In an effort to further ensure reliability, UNICEF triangulates data with supplementary sources, such as third party monitoring reports in inaccessible areas and supportive supervision visits of its staff.

UNICEF also uses information generated from surveys and assessments either directly commissioned by UNICEF or from other UN agencies and partners operating in Somalia. For example, the seasonal assessments conducted by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia constitute a critical primary source of nutrition surveillance data, serving as an early warning system for overall programmatic priorities for UNICEF and its partners.

(19) Are there any research studies completed, evaluation reports, or other reviews?

☐ Yes  
X No  
☐ Under development

(20) If “Yes” please provide links to relevant reports and studies

(21) If “Under development”, when will they be available?

(22) Lessons Learned (specific of the initiative and for general ECD application)

Children and women are the most vulnerable groups when the humanitarian occurred, no matter caused by manmade or natural disasters. UNICEF has effectively exchanged information with China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

In 2017, UNICEF and partners completed a bottleneck analysis for integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM); findings revealed shortfalls in several supply, demand and quality dimensions of malnutrition treatment and prompted a chain of actions to be implemented in 2018 and beyond to systematically address the bottlenecks. The precarious security situation underlay most of the bottlenecks to effective delivery of IMAM services in CSR, notably major disparities in programme coverage indicators and availability of health workers trained on IMAM.

Insecurity in targeted areas resulted in increased costs for the delivery of nutrition services due to the need to airlift supplies to some inaccessible areas.
Contact Information

(23) Is there a Project/Program/Initiative/Policy website? Or a website where it is profiled?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Under development

(24) If “Yes”, please provide link to the website

Contact Information

Dr. Alison Jenkins
Senior Advisor
South-South Cooperation and Partnerships, UNICEF China

Supporting material

(26) Please provide links to or upload any further supporting materials, including: case studies, toolkits, photographs\(^1\), and any other relevant materials to help illustrate the project

The ‘2017 Year in Review’ video available at the below YouTube link, in looking back at what UNICEF achieved, recognises the contribution of the Government of China along with that of other Donors. Donor visibility was also ensured through other social media channels, like Twitter and Facebook, as well as through a Human Interest Story published on the UNICEF Somalia website.

**Youtube:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p35GAPdbQ2k&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p35GAPdbQ2k&t=3s)

**Website:** [https://www.unicef.org/somalia/reallives_21245.htm](https://www.unicef.org/somalia/reallives_21245.htm)

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/unicefsomalia/status/96888893549490178](https://twitter.com/unicefsomalia/status/96888893549490178), 5,000 impressions

[https://twitter.com/unicefsomalia/status/968092057792385024](https://twitter.com/unicefsomalia/status/968092057792385024), 2,500 impressions

**Facebook:**

[https://www.facebook.com/UnicefSomalia/photos/a.381266395279957.88479.378612458878684/1842814349125147/?type=3&theater](https://www.facebook.com/UnicefSomalia/photos/a.381266395279957.88479.378612458878684/1842814349125147/?type=3&theater), [240,000 people]

[https://www.facebook.com/UnicefSomalia/posts/1839245356148713](https://www.facebook.com/UnicefSomalia/posts/1839245356148713), [210,000 people]

**Press release**

\(^1\) Please bear in mind that individual members/countries are responsible for obtaining photographic permissions from the subject/s and from the photographer/owner.
China contributes US$2 million toward UNICEF’s humanitarian response in Somalia

https://www.unicef.org/somalia/media_20845.html

Mogadishu, Somalia, 21 November 2017 – As the devastating drought in Somalia shows no sign of ending, UNICEF’s lifesaving work for women and children has received a boost from the Government of the People’s Republic of China. A contribution of US$2 million will help UNICEF reach 15,000 young children who are suffering from severe acute malnutrition, in the southern and central regions.

The humanitarian crisis, which was triggered by the failure of consecutive rainy seasons, has led to massive displacement, disease outbreaks and malnutrition, with 6.2 million people - half of the country’s population – now in need of humanitarian assistance. Some four million of them are children.

“Through UNICEF, we hope to reach the affected populations, especially those in remote places, with lifesaving services,” said the Chinese Ambassador to Somalia, Qin Jian. “We are committed to supporting the humanitarian response led by the Somali Government, and pleased to be working with UNICEF to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable group – children and women – are met. Together, we can to help the Somali people go through this difficult time.”

Since the beginning of 2017, UNICEF, working through implementing partners, has provided treatment for severe acute malnutrition to over 200,000 children, nearly all of whom recovered. However, the needs remain immense. Over the next year, UNICEF estimates there could be more than 230,000 children with severe acute malnutrition.

The funding will help to treat the 15,000 children with a therapeutic peanut-based paste. The supplies will be distributed at facilities and mobile sites as part of an integrated package of health, nutrition and water and sanitation services for people in the most affected areas. Some 120,000 children and their mothers are covered under the integrated services approach.

“Thanks to the generous joint response by the international community, we have managed to avert a famine so far,” said UNICEF Representative, Steven Lauwerier. “However, sustained assistance is needed throughout 2018 to prevent the loss of lives and the collapse of livelihoods. The timely aid from the Chinese Government and the Chinese people will go a long way towards saving children’s lives. We hope this will be the beginning of a long and productive partnership between China and UNICEF in Somalia.”

The media coverage of China supported Somalia programme and a selection of comments left by social media followers are attached. (Annex 1)

Social media

With 113,000 followers on Facebook and 32,000 on Twitter, UNICEF Somalia’s social media channels have become an ideal medium to bring much deserved recognition to our donors. Out of
the posts and tweets, we have reached more than 36,000 people (cumulatively) with messages on this generous contribution. Below are some examples of what has been published on the social media.

Chinese Ambassador Qin Jian handed over US$2 million funds on behalf of his Government to UNICEF. The generous contribution will help us treat 15,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the coming months. Also present at the ceremony held on 21 November in Mogadishu, was Acting Minister Elmi Omar Ainsane of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management - Somalia.

Today, Chinese Ambassador Qin Jian handed over US$2 million funds on behalf of his Government to UNICEF. The generous contribution will help us treat 15,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the coming months. Thank you! w/ @MoHADM_Somalia