

The Humanitarian Country Team for Somalia urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations as this will facilitate an effective emergency response to the drought and famine in the country. Cash contributions enable agencies to respond according to identified needs within a strategic framework that has been developed by the humanitarian community. This will in turn foster coordination. If however, cash contributions are not possible, donors should follow these guidelines on in-kind donations to Somalia in support of the emergency famine response.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR IN-KIND DONATIONS OF HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ITEMS

- Donations should be well planned with national authorities and the humanitarian community to ensure that they correspond with set priorities and are necessary and appropriate for beneficiaries. In Somalia, the humanitarian community is organized into a cluster system covering activities such as health, shelter, nutrition, etc. The clusters are responsible to plan, identify needs, prioritize and coordinate response.
- Before sending donations, donors should contact cluster focal points or lead UN agencies to verify that donations correspond to identified prioritized needs and are necessary. For a list of Somalia cluster focal points, please visit the OCHA Somalia website: <http://ochaonline.un.org/Somalia>.
- Donors are also kindly asked to inform the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) of any in-kind donations they make (<http://fts.unocha.org>, Report a Contribution).
- Donations should be accompanied by documentation required by recipient national authorities including a clearly designated consignee. This can be a local or international NGO, a UN agency or any other entity who by prior arrangement has agreed to take responsibility for arranging collection of cargo once it arrives at the port or airport and for onward delivery and distribution to beneficiaries.
- All cargo, including humanitarian relief items arriving in Kenya or Somalia must be accompanied by the correct documentation in order to be accepted by the port and airport authorities, customs and others. Lack of documentation may result in cargo being refused entry or delays in onward movement to intended beneficiaries for failure to meet local authority requirements.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

- In accordance with internationally accepted guidelines, **donations of infant formula, bottles and teats and other powdered or liquid milk and milk products should not be made.** The current environment, characterized by a lack of water and overcrowding in IDP locations, creates unsanitary conditions that make it difficult to prepare and keep these products safe for consumption and thus will intensify the spread of diseases, especially diarrhea among infants. Moreover, the use of feeding bottles further adds to the risk of infection as they are difficult to clean properly.
- For quality assurance, all medical items including drugs should comply with World Health Organisation (WHO) requirements for in-kind contributions. After arrival in the recipient country all donated drugs should have a remaining shelf-life of at least one year. In addition, medicines should appear in the WHO Model List of Essential Drugs. The list is available on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/essentialmedicines/en/> and guidelines for in-kind donations can be found at <http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/en/>.
- All drug donations should be based on an expressed need and be relevant to the disease pattern in Somalia. Drugs should not be sent without prior consent by the recipient.
- In line with the Somalia Shelter Cluster Shelter Strategy, donations of tents are not recommended. However, donations of high quality 4mx7m tarpaulins are welcome. Specifications for the minimum non-food items (NFI) and other guidelines are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org/Somalia/> under “Appeals and Funding”, then “Overview”.