

**EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR'S  
KEY MESSAGES ON THE HORN OF AFRICA**

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**I. Key Messages**

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1. Donors have pledged and contributed millions of dollars to the Horn of Africa crisis over the last year, including over \$200m at the UN's Horn of Africa mini-summit last month. Their generosity has saved millions of lives. The famine in the Horn of Africa remains the biggest crisis in the world today, but people and governments have proved that when needed, they can come together to save lives and end suffering.
2. The regional aid effort will need to continue well into 2012, both to meet immediate needs and – in the longer-term - to tackle the underlying problems and vulnerabilities which have put so many people in danger. We must do all in our power to stop this crisis from recurring.
3. In Somalia, the UN and partners have received 79 per cent of the funds we have requested – and this money has enabled us to reach more than 2 million people with food aid, and more than 1.5 million people with safe water. But this appeal only reflects the needs of people in areas where the UN has access. 750,000 people are at risk of starvation in the next four months in the famine zones, and also face cholera and measles outbreaks. The UN and other aid organizations have reached some but not all of them, and will continue to work hard to reach the rest.
4. In those areas where the UN has limited access, we welcome the engagement of other humanitarian organizations, including many from countries in the Gulf, who are doing their utmost to save lives in difficult circumstances. We thank them for their generous contribution, and we look forward to strengthening our relationship. All aid agencies are working wherever they can, whenever they can.
5. Even where do we have access, it has been a challenge to coordinate the effective distribution of aid to people in need. The picture of who is doing what and where is constantly changing, making coordination particularly difficult - but even more necessary.
6. Somalis, and the aid agencies that are helping them, continue to face extreme insecurity on a daily basis. The recent bomb attacks in Mogadishu are deplorable, hurting innocent civilians at a time when people urgently need stability to recover and rebuild. We appeal to all parties to refrain from any act which would jeopardise efforts to increase the emergency response.

**For more information, please contact:**

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

**Celebrating 20 years of coordinated humanitarian action**