

## In focus: Multi-year approaches and the Somalia appeal

The need for a longer-term humanitarian assistance and resilience approach in protracted and recurrent crises has prompted the advent of multi-year, UN-coordinated appeals. In 2013, Somalia was the first and only country to launch a multi-year appeal. In 2014, a further 13 countries had multi-year strategic response plans (SRPs).<sup>6</sup>

The Somalia plan integrates life-saving and livelihood support to address the cycle of recurring crises brought on by drought and conflict. Within its multi-year framework (called a consolidated appeal process (CAP) appeal because it was introduced in 2013, before the changes to the system), annual SRPs are developed to reflect changes and short-term shocks.

This framework could be an opportunity to secure multi-year funding, supporting predictability, continuity and long-term approaches in programming. However, while the umbrella document for the Somalia CAP provides an indication of financial requirements for the full three-year timeframe, the annual response plans present strategies with one-year financial requirements only; and multi-year initiatives are not easily distinguishable from short-term projects.

The two largest donors in Somalia (the United States (US) and the EU institutions) continue their 12 or 18-month funding cycles but the following donors are providing multi-year funding:

- United Kingdom (UK) – US\$89 million over four years (late 2013 to late 2017), including US\$41 million to a joint UNICEF/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/World Food Programme (WFP) resilience programme and US\$33 million to the Livelihoods and Resilience Consortium; DFID agreed this multi-year programme prior to the introduction of the multi-year CAP.
- Sweden – US\$15 million over three years (2013–2015), of which US\$9 million is for the multi-year (2013–2016) Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP); Sweden cites the multi-year CAP as the main reason for its multi-year funding.
- Denmark – over US\$11m to Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) over two years (2012–2013), and over US\$20 million over three years (2013–2015) including grants to FAO and SomReP. Notably, this funding comes from both development and humanitarian budget lines; grants were awarded prior to the multi-year CAP but are in line with its priorities.

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The Somalia Humanitarian Donor Group (chaired by European Commission's Department of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and Sweden) is currently considering the effects of this multi-year CAP. One concern is that its strong resilience focus may overshadow insufficiently sign-posted urgent humanitarian needs. Indeed, in June 2014, the Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) issued an urgent request to the UN Security Council for an immediate injection of US\$60 million<sup>7</sup> to meet the most urgent funding needs within the critically underfunded appeal. A full evaluation of the Somalia multi-year CAP is not in OCHA's plans, but such a review would yield lessons for all multi-year appeals – including effects on volumes and duration of humanitarian assistance and other resource flows, as well as challenges in balancing urgent response with resilience-building.