



Health worker during house-to-house visits in camp for internally displaced people, Kismayo.  
Credit: WHO/Somalia

MOGADISHU, 20 August 2023 –The World Health Organization (WHO) country office of Somalia alongside the Government of Somalia, UN sister agencies and other partners marked World Humanitarian Day on 19 August 2023 under the global theme of “No Matter What”.

This occasion commemorates the day in 2003 when 22 of the United Nations colleagues lost their lives in an attack on the United Nations compound in Baghdad, Iraq. Since then, the humanitarian community across the world has been remembering the fallen heroes and showing their unwavering commitment to meeting the needs of the most under-served and marginalized communities during conflicts, climatic shocks and health emergencies.

With over half the population of Somalia (8.3 million people) in need of humanitarian assistance

[\[1\]](#)

and approximately 6.6 million people facing acute food insecurity

[\[2\]](#)

, reaching out to these vulnerable populations with humanitarian aid including health services is crucial. Somalia has faced one of the most severe droughts in its history: 7.8 million have been affected and 1.4 million have been forced from their homes in search of food, water and health care.

[\[3\]](#)

“WHO exists to save lives and ensure that every woman, man and child has access to health care – no matter what. Since the beginning of the drought, WHO has been racing against time to save the lives of the most vulnerable in Somalia and, with our humanitarian partners, have successfully pushed famine back. This would not be possible without the dedicated, skilled humanitarians that we work with every day,” said WHO Representative Dr Mamunur Rahman Malik. “With millions impacted by the ongoing drought, disease outbreaks and insecurity, our staff and partners, particularly front-line health care workers, are working in the most difficult circumstances to respond to multiple emergencies at the same time. They do this because of their commitment, dedication and the belief that together we can make a difference. Together, we will continue to serve the people of Somalia, no matter what,” he contended.





WHO Somalia staff member handling humanitarian aid supplies in a warehouse. Photo: WHO/EMRO