**Problem statement**

Malnutrition in Somalia is multifaceted affecting mothers, infants, young children, adolescent girls and women. It restricts inclusive development and overall prosperity of the nation and constitutes a violation of basic children’s rights to survival and development and the highest attainable standard of health. Although there have been improvements in the nutrition status in the last five years, children in Somalia suffer from multiple nutritional deprivations. The proposed nutrition programme, which is in line with National Development Plans (NDP) and UNICEF Strategic Plan is strategically designed to address the underlying causes of acute and chronic malnutrition and contribute to the reduction of child and maternal mortality and morbidity, all the while contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), World Health Assembly resolutions and Global Nutrition Targets for 2025.

For the last two decades, the nutritional status of Somali children has been among the worst in the world. The burden of undernutrition in Somalia remains high as evidenced by the high levels (approximately 14.9 per cent) of acute malnutrition combined with a high prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies, suboptimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices and low human resource capacity. In addition to the existing chronic food insecurity, there is poor access to facilities and services for health and for WASH. The aforementioned problems are exacerbated by a continuously insecure environment.

The 2016 Post Dyer assessment findings indicate high residual levels of acute malnutrition of public health significance and above-emergency threshold in IDP settlements. Out of the 13 IDP settlements surveyed, four showed critical levels of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM ≥15%). While urban populations generally have better nutritional status than rural populations, levels of GAM are consistently higher for boys than for girls. Over 47 per cent of the Somali population does not have access to safe drinking water. At 24 per cent in 2015, the incidence of diarrhoea in children under five has not changed much over the last decades in Somalia despite the rise in use of improved water