

Humanitarian Bulletin

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Drought situation in Puntland deteriorates from severe to extreme
- Humanitarian partners step up response in drought-hit areas
- Rise in River Shabelle water levels ease biting water shortages
- Relentless forced evictions underscores the need for durable solutions to protracted displacement

FIGURES

of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis 1m

of people in food security stress 3.7m

of acutely malnourished children under age 5 305,000

Source: www.fsnau.org (July-December 2016 projection)

of internally displaced people 1.1m

of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen 1.2m

Source: UNHCR

Humanitarian Appeal

FUNDING

885 million requested for 2016 (US\$)

16% (\$145 million)

\$209 million Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 22 April 2016)

Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Severe drought has affected thousands in Puntland and Somaliland. Credit: Stuart Sia, /Save the Children

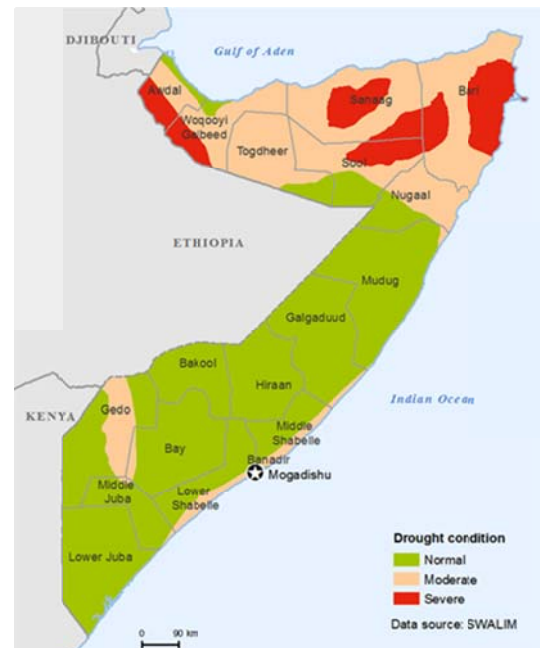
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Drought ravages lives and livelihoods

Drought conditions worsen in Puntland

The situation in Puntland has significantly deteriorated from severe to extreme, according to the latest rainfall analysis by FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). This is due to delayed and poorly distributed rains. While between moderate and heavy rains have been recorded in parts of Somaliland, some areas of Puntland and Somaliland continue to experience drought conditions. The impact on lives and livelihoods is severe. Water resources and pasture have been depleted. Many people have had to confront perishing livestock, disease outbreaks, food insecurity and limited access to water. Already, partners have reported an increase in malnutrition cases and high enrollment in nutrition programmes in the most affected areas. Malnutrition-related deaths have also been reported in some of the worst affected areas such as Awdal region. If the drought conditions continue, hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom depend on livestock and crops for their livelihood, risk losing their livelihoods.



Nearly 385,000 people in Puntland and Somaliland face acute food insecurity and an estimated 1.3 million people are at risk of slipping into acute food insecurity if they do not receive assistance. Overall, some 1.7 million people or 40 per cent of the 4.6 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support.

Humanitarian partners step up response but resources are limited

Humanitarian partners are scaling up efforts to save lives and livelihoods in the areas hardest hit by the drought. Partners are prioritizing the provision of WASH, Food Security and Livelihoods, Health and Nutrition. They are also prioritizing keeping children in schools and protecting them from family separation, violence and abuse. Today, 95 national and international humanitarian organizations are operational in Puntland and

BASELINE

Population (UNFPA 2014)	12.3m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1 per day (UNDP/World Bank 2002)	43%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
Under-five mortality (FSNAU 2015)	0.52/10,000 /day
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2015)	13%
% population using improved water sources (KAP Survey 2015)	55%

CLUSTERS

Lead and co-lead organizations

Education	UNICEF SC-Alliance
Food security	FAO/WFP
Health	WHO
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF CAFDARO
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter/NFIs	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF OXFAM

Somaliland. However, they are unable to scale up response to the level of needs because of lack of adequate funding. Funding across all clusters is low and inadequate to boost response. Timely funding is critical to enable partners significantly boost response to prevent the situation from deteriorating further.

Health and nutrition partners have deployed joint mobile health and nutrition teams to pastoral and other hard-to-reach groups. At the same time, malnourished children are receiving essential primary health care services, including emergency immunization. Health partners have delivered health care services to more than 30,000 people, including Internally Displaced People (IDPs) living in drought-affected areas in Puntland and Somaliland. Between January and March, more than 11,000 acutely malnourished children were admitted into outpatient therapeutic and targeted supplementary feeding programmes. Mobile health clinics and hygiene promotion activities are also ongoing in the affected areas. In Puntland, partners have pre-positioned nutrition supplies, including 500 cartons of high energy biscuits. In Somaliland, 15,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food have been provided to the Ministry of Health for wider distribution. More than 245,000 people in Puntland and Somaliland had been reached with improved access to food and safety net-related interventions. Nearly 90,000 people were also reached with activities aimed at building livelihoods. Approximately 42,000 people received livelihood seasonal inputs such as seeds, tools, fishing equipment, irrigation vouchers and livestock distribution and vaccination. An estimated 190,000 people have been provided with temporary and sustainable access to safe water through water vouchers and rehabilitation of boreholes. Protection Cluster reached some 11,800 people with protection activities. The Shelter Cluster assisted approximately 3,000 people with household items. Education partners reached some 9,900 children in Puntland.

OCHA is leading coordination in Somaliland at the request of the government, to strengthen coordination mechanisms to ensure a more efficient response to drought. OCHA has also reinforced inter-sectoral coordination. Authorities in Puntland and Somaliland have established regional and district-level drought response committees to coordinate with humanitarian organizations and mobilize resources for drought response. This is critical for ensuring a coordinated and expedited response. Concerted efforts are being made to step up robust resource mobilization for Somalia to avert the risk of more people sliding into crisis. To date, the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has only received US\$145 million or 16 per cent of \$885 million requested. On 31 March, humanitarians launched a Call for Aid seeking \$105 million for drought response.

Sporadic start to the rainy season

Some parts of Somalia recorded good rains, indicating a start of the *Gu* rainy season. However, the rains have been rather erratic in some areas. The northern areas have recorded significant rains while the southern and central regions have received little rains, according to SWALIM. The northwest agro-pastoral areas of Guban and West Golis of Somaliland, which have been dry for a long period of time, received some moderate to heavy rains which caused flash floods. Boroma, Dilla and Gibilley have recorded the highest amounts of rainfall in Somaliland. Heavy storms in parts of Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions in Somaliland reportedly led to the destruction of shelters and the deaths of people and livestock. Other nearby areas such as Hargeysa also recorded significant amounts of rainfall. However, the southern parts of Sanaag and Sool regions have not received any rains. Some parts of Bari region in Puntland have also recorded rains since the start of the rainy season. In the Juba Valley, parts of Bakool, Bay and Gedo regions recorded some rains in early April, while Baardheere, Bur Hakaba and Luuq, are yet to receive any rainfall.

Rise in Shabelle River water levels brings some relief

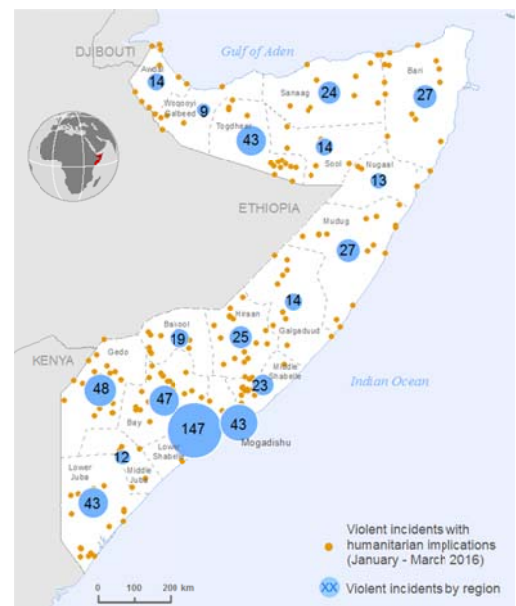
Rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands has led to increased flow along the Shabelle River in Somalia especially in Hiraan region, according to SWALIM. The river's water levels had dropped to their lowest in decades. This was due to below-normal rains in the upper parts of the Shabelle river basin during the previous season. In some areas such as Belet Weyne, communities are reporting that shallow wells are beginning to fill up with water.

The rise in the water levels is expected to ease the water crisis that had hit many areas along its basin. A critical water shortage in Belet Weyne, Bulo Burto, and Jalalaqsi in Hiraan region and Jowhar in Middle Shabelle region had forced people to rely on unsafe water sources. Increased cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were reported as well as livestock deaths and deterioration of pasture. Bay, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle were the most affected regions. Already, 10 out of 13 laboratory samples collected from AWD cases in Lower Juba tested positive for cholera, according to World Health Organization. WASH and Health partners have strengthened response including dispatching essential drugs and hygiene kits to affected areas and providing early treatment. Partners have responded to AWD cases in inaccessible areas such as Bu'aale, Jilib, Saakow, Hagar and Jamaame districts through community collaboration. While cases of AWD have been contained, the risk of escalation remains high as the rains intensify.

Access challenges persist in some areas

Concerted efforts made to improve humanitarian access

The volatile security situation has affected access and impeded the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide time critical assistance in some areas. It has also impacted on civilians. Reports indicate that in March, there was a 20 per cent increase in security-related incidents. Southern Somalia has registered the highest number of incidents. But there have also been incidents in Puntland and Somaliland. During the first quarter of 2016, insecurity related incidents led both to the displacement of local people and temporary disruptions of humanitarian operations in some areas in Gedo, Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba regions. There were over 40 reported violent incidents which affected humanitarian workers including one death, injury of two, arrest of two, abduction of three and assaults and detention of five humanitarian workers.



Access challenges continue to impede the delivery of humanitarian assistance in some areas

Humanitarian organizations also face severe physical access challenges in 28 districts in southern and central Somalia. In areas in Bakool, Bay, Gedo and Hiraan regions, armed non-state actors are implementing blockades. The proliferation of illegal checkpoints by armed state and non-state actors along major access routes has hampered the movement of humanitarian commodities and commercial goods in southern and central regions. Efforts to engage with national and regional authorities to facilitate the movement of humanitarian supplies and other essential commodities and to find sustainable solutions are ongoing.

Meanwhile, the regulatory environment for humanitarian activities remains a key concern. On average, humanitarian partners record at least ten bureaucratic related constraints each month. On a positive note, in March, the Puntland authorities granted humanitarian organizations two months' exemptions, with possibility of extension, on taxation-related constraints including the lifting of the 2 July 2014 ban on transportation of humanitarian supplies into Puntland from Somaliland. Dialogue with Puntland authorities to find sustainable solutions is ongoing.

Forced evictions remain relentless

There is need to find durable solutions to protracted displacement in Somalia as IDPs are the most affected by forced evictions

Forced evictions continue to affect IDPs and urban poor. During the first quarter of 2016, nearly 31,000 people were forcefully evicted in Mogadishu alone. Of these, 14,000 people were forcibly evicted in January. The evictions are often carried out without or within too short notice. Most often, evictees are left without viable alternatives. In Bossaso nearly 14,000 people in six settlements are at risk of eviction. In Gaalkacyo some 23,000 people are either affected by forced or at risk of eviction. In Somaliland, IDPs residing in the two largest settlements –Stadium and State House- remain at risk of forced evictions after authorities issued them with eviction notices in 2015. Forced evictions have the potential to destroy humanitarian gains, such as shelter, WASH installations as well as interrupt livelihoods and access to humanitarian services. In 2015, almost 130,000 people, mainly IDPs, were forcibly evicted in Baidoa, Kismayo, Luuq and Mogadishu.

Somalia has an estimated 1.1 million IDPs in protracted internal displacement. Some of them have faced multiple displacements over the years due to forced evictions. IDPs continue to live in overcrowded settlements. They face protection related threats such as physical attacks, arbitrary arrests, gender based violence, particularly rape, sexual exploitation and abuse, restrictions on their right to freedom of movement, and lack of safe, and adequate access to basic services. Efforts are ongoing to find durable solutions to protracted displacement in Somalia.

Amid rising needs, funding levels remain low

To date, US\$209 million has been received for life-saving and life-sustaining activities. The funding includes \$145 million or 16 per cent of the \$885 million requested for the 2016 HRP and \$64 million for humanitarian activities outside the HRP. Funds received so far are not sufficient to meet the increasing humanitarian needs. The low funding has severely affected the capacity of partners to provide critical humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people. More funding is urgently needed to support the implementation of the 2016 HRP activities, including the scaling-up of response in drought-affected areas.

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