

Somalia

November 2016 | Issued on 28 November 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Drought conditions worsen across the country
- Conflict displaces thousands of people
- Kenya extends Dadaab refugee camp closure
- Partners scale down due to lack of funding

FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian 'emergency' and 'crisis'	1.1m
# of people in food security stress	3.9m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	320,000
Source: FSNAU September 2016	
# 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\$)

47% (\$412 million)

\$545 million
Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 28 November 2016)

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



Livestock deaths have been reported as the drought situation continues to deteriorate, especially in the north. Photo: NGO Consortium

Drought worsens humanitarian situation

Authorities appeal for humanitarian assistance for worst affected areas

Drought conditions continue to worsen in Somalia. Joint assessments conducted by authorities and humanitarian partners confirm that drought conditions are affecting Puntland, Somaliland and some parts of southern and central Somalia, especially Gedo, Hiraan and Lower Juba regions. These areas have experienced a delayed start of the *Deyr* (October-December) rains. Most regions registered less than half of the usual rainfall in the month of October. Pasture and water shortages are widespread and crop losses at a significant scale are highly likely, with total crop failure expected in several areas. Substantial increases in water prices are being reported in many areas of Xudur district in Bakool region, with price hikes as high as 66 per cent, and 58 per cent in Laas Caanood district of Sool region. The *Deyr* rains are past their peak; no significant rainfall is expected in the coming weeks and the drought conditions are likely to intensify until the next rainy season expected in April 2017 according to SWALIM.

Water levels in Juba and Shabelle rivers are below normal for this time of year due to limited rain upstream in the Ethiopian highlands. The water levels are expected to decline further, putting additional stress on communities dependent on irrigation for growing crops. The worsening drought, poor *Deyr* rains in October, and poor prospects for the remainder of the season will further compound the food security situation countrywide.

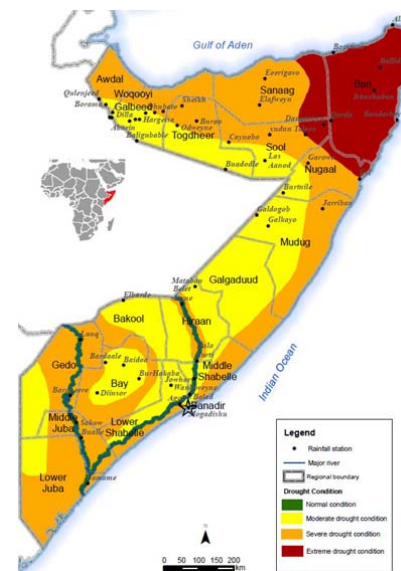
On 12 November, the President of the Federal Government of Somalia appealed for humanitarian assistance for people affected by the drought. State authorities in Jubbaland, Puntland and Somaliland also issued appeals on 2 October, 5 October, and 17 November, respectively, highlighting the urgency of the situation.

Access to food and livelihoods diminishes

The drought comes amid an already fragile humanitarian situation. Overall, some five million people - two out of five Somalis - are already in need of humanitarian assistance. More than one million of these are in 'crisis' and 'emergency' and this figure is now projected to increase to over 1.3 million by May 2017, according to a food security outlook issued jointly by FSNAU/FEWSNET in October. Areas worst affected by the drought have already seen increased rates of malnutrition due to earlier droughts. Overall, over 320,000 acutely malnourished children are in need of urgent nutrition support, including life-saving treatment for more than 50,000 who are currently severely malnourished. These children are the most vulnerable during the current drought. The case load of acute malnourished children for one year is estimated to be 850,000 including 150,000 severely malnourished children. Separate surveys in rural and IDP settlements indicate that Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) prevalence are above the Critical threshold of 15 per cent in half of 28 rural and displaced population groups surveyed.

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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 5 mortality (FSNAU 2016)	0.52/10,000 /day
Under 5 global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2016)	13.6%
% population using improved water sources (KAP Survey 2015)	55%

CLUSTERS

Lead and co-lead organizations

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

In Puntland, drought conditions have impacted some 150,000 people. Livestock prices have been declining since February 2016, as has the terms of trade between goats and cereals. A spike in milk prices has put the lives of vulnerable people, particularly children and the elderly at risk. In Bari and Nugaal regions, large numbers of livestock deaths are likely as the situation deteriorates further due to poor *Deyr* rains, which could undermine people's livelihoods and food sources. Terms of trade between goats and cereals in these regions are also declining in some main markets. This could worsen in more remote rural markets. Severe water shortages have resulted in a 300 per cent increase in the cost of water since June 2015 from the equivalent of \$5 per 200 litre barrel of water to \$15 in some parts of Puntland.

The crisis continues to deepen

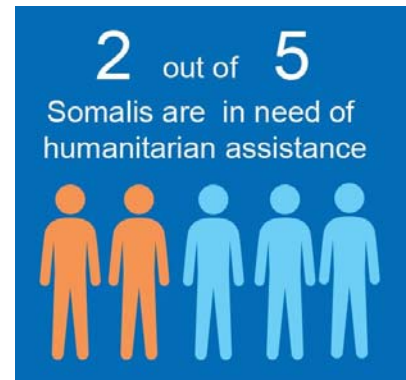
In Somaliland, recovery from the impact of the drought has been slow and likely to be short-lived despite five regions receiving between average to above average *Gu* rainfall (April-June) in 2016. An estimated 248,000 people are faced with acute food security 'crisis'. The poor performance of the *Karan* (August - September) rains and poor performance of the *Deyr* rains in October with gloomy prospects for the remainder of the season signal that a longer and deeper crisis will persist. In the Guban pastoral livelihood zone along the Gulf of Aden, which has experienced persistent drought since early 2014, the prevailing food security 'crisis' could deteriorate to 'emergency' levels. Preliminary findings of the inter-agency assessment conducted in October 2016 indicate that 84 per cent of households have had their main sources of income affected by drought, with 62 per cent reporting significant to complete loss of income. Some 86 per cent of the households lost livestock in the last season. Loss of livestock undermines sources of income and food and jeopardizes the resilience of drought-affected communities.

Assessments conducted in Gedo region in southern Somalia in September indicate that families are already reducing the number of meals per day. Many have also lost their livestock due to the drought while some are migrating to nearby areas. Pastoralists have also been forced to buy livestock feed due to shortage of pasture. Humanitarian partners and local authorities in Galgaduud, Hiraan and Mudug regions in central Somalia are concerned about the increasing shortages of water and pasture in some areas. It is reported that 10 districts in the three regions are severely affected with increases in the outmigration of pastoralists from the affected areas. The price of water has also gone up by nearly \$5 in some areas. Livestock production has reportedly decreased. In Lower Juba region, there are critical water shortages especially in Afmadow district and the regional authorities have appealed for humanitarian assistance in areas near Afmadow, Badhaadhe and Kismayo districts.

16 Days of Activism in Somalia

Somalia joined the world in marking this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign with activities in the capital Mogadishu. The campaign commenced on 25 November, the international day for the elimination of violence against women and will end on Human Rights Day on 10 December. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is an international campaign period to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world.

The campaign emphasizes the need for sustainable financing for efforts to end violence against women and girls towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In Somalia, cases of gender-based violence against women are widespread, according to the Protection Cluster. Some 75 per cent of all recorded incidents of gender-based violence, notably rape and physical assault against women and girls, are perpetrated in IDP settlements. Some 10 per cent of the population, or over one million IDPs live in unprotected and deplorable conditions in informal settlements and destroyed public buildings in many of the cities and towns. They face continuous risk of forced evictions, child rights violations, GBV and discrimination.



Somalia joined the globe in marking 16 Days of Activism

Conflict-related displacements spike

Clashes displace over 29,000 people in Lower Shabelle

Conflict in Lower Shabelle region displaced an estimated 29,000 people in October, according to the Protection and Return Monitoring Network. A majority of the displaced people have settled with host communities, while some have joined existing IDP settlements. Learning in ten schools has been disrupted and as a result over 4,660 children are out of school. Fighting in Lower Shabelle has largely been between parties to the conflict, but there is a worrying shift with reports indicating that non-state armed actors are now directly targeting civilians, and have ordered residents of some 30 villages in Afgooye, Qoryoley and Marka districts to vacate the area. While humanitarian partners are present in some of the affected locations, activities are constrained by insecurity and access challenges. Health and nutrition supplies are needed in areas hosting IDPs, as well as the delivery of emergency NFI/shelter kits.

The withdrawal of international and local troops in Bakool, Hiraan and Galgaduud regions has seen non-state armed actors seize vacated areas.

New displacements continue to be reported in Bari region, Puntland since October. At least 22,680 people have so far been displaced in Quandala, Bari region to areas 45 km west of Bosasso when non-state armed actors took over the town. Access to learning and health facilities has been disrupted, including humanitarian activities in the town. Humanitarian partners continue to provide life-saving assistance to displaced and vulnerable people in accessible areas. Meanwhile, the withdrawal of international and local troops from at least eight locations in Bakool, Galgaduud and Hiraan regions has resulted in non-state armed actors seizing vacated areas. This has led to the displacement of some 5,000 people. Non-state armed actors reportedly subjected civilians to apprehension, torture, arbitrary killings and forced recruitment. The withdrawals have also further reduced humanitarian access in areas that are already hard to reach, disrupting ongoing humanitarian operations, many of which have only benefited from assistance since 2014.

40 per cent of the displaced people in Gaalkacyo return home

More than 40 per cent of the people who were displaced by armed conflict in Gaalkacyo, Mudug region have begun to return to their homes, according to the Protection cluster. Most of those who have returned are from the host communities. Learning has also resumed for at least 20,000 learners who were affected by the conflict. However, eight and 13 IDP settlements in north and south Gaalkacyo respectively, remain deserted. The situation remains calm but tense following the commitment to the cease-fire agreement which was signed on 1 November by Galmudug and Puntland leaders. The conflict which broke out on 7 October, left an estimated 90,000 people displaced. Based on the inter-agency rapid assessment conducted in October, up to 60 per cent of IDPs residing in the town have been forced into secondary displacement. Over 80 per cent of the displaced are women, children and the elderly. Humanitarian response continues in Gaalkacyo. Nearly 14,000 people are provided with unconditional cash transfer assistance. Some 60,000 people received food and NFIs, while 36,000 people received two-month food rations. Another 27,000 people will receive NFI support. Over 30,000 litres of water is distributed daily to displaced people in settlements and villages in the outskirts of south Gaalkacyo. Humanitarian partners reach some 5,000 people daily with health and nutrition services. They are also providing ringer lactate, trauma A and B emergency kits and emergency health kits to cover 10,000 people for three months. Safe temporary learning spaces have been set up for displaced children to continue their education and are working to ensure that the teachers receive their incentive allowances. Shelter partners plan to distribute 1,000 solar lamps and 500 plastic sheets to affected people. The Galmudug authorities will distribute 800 metric tons of assorted food stuff to displaced people in south Gaalkacyo. WASH partners are targeting some 60,000 people with hygiene kits, aqua tabs and hygiene promotion activities to minimize the impact of water borne diseases such as AWD/cholera.

Kenya extends Dadaab refugee camp closure

More than 27,000 Somalia have returned home since start of 2016

The Kenyan government announced on 16 November that it will extend the closure of Dadaab refugee camp by six months to allow more time to address the situation. The Tripartite agreement has now been extended to May 2017. Over 27,000 Somalis have voluntarily returned to Somalia from Dadaab camp since the start of 2016 under the framework of the Tripartite agreement, according to UN Refugee Agency. The 2013 agreement between the governments of Kenya and Somalia and the UNHCR set out the legal framework for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Kenya to Somalia and stresses the voluntary nature of the returns and the safety and dignity of the returnees. The agreement expired in mid-November 2016 and modalities for renewal are underway. The majority of the returns took place after the announcement by Kenyan authorities in May 2016 to close the camp.

The extension of the closure of Dadaab refugee camp by the Kenyan Government is welcomed

The main areas of return are urban areas, particularly to Baidoa, Kismayo and Mogadishu. Since mid-2016, the package that returning refugees receive was augmented to include cash allowances, six months food rations, NFIs and up to \$1,000 conditional shelter packages per family. Humanitarian partners conducted an inter-agency assessment in Lower Juba region to identify the needs and gaps of the returnees. The arrival of returnees from Dadaab has put pressure on limited resources available in urban areas and IDP settlements in the region.

Strategic approach to access challenges

On 14 November, the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) endorsed a humanitarian access strategy and action plan for Somalia to be implemented over a one year period. It aims to contribute to an effective and principled humanitarian response by ensuring improved humanitarian access to people in need in hard-to-reach areas. A number of pilot initiatives to address operational challenges related to the gatekeeper system, and checkpoints are already ongoing. Efforts to expand access to areas under the control of non-state armed actors including access negotiations, and dialogue with the authorities to address impediments and checkpoints' related challenges are also ongoing. In 2017, the HCT Access taskforce will scale up systematic and collective approaches to tackle humanitarian access constraints. This will be achieved through ensuring accurate and timely evidence-based analysis, detailed attention to humanitarian access issues and by stepping up engagements with key stakeholders through advocacy and support to access negotiations' efforts.

Partners scale down due to lack of funding

While the humanitarian situation in Somalia has become increasingly fragile towards the end of 2016, funding for the remainder of the year continues to be outpaced by growing needs, with the 2016 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) funded at only 47 per cent (\$412 million) of \$885 million requested. Adequate funding remains critical if humanitarian partners are to effectively respond between now and early 2017. This is against a backdrop of increasing humanitarian needs due to drought conditions, conflict and continuing refugee returns. These are increasingly putting a strain on depleted humanitarian supplies.

Due to the underfunding of the 2016 HRP and the 'Call for Aid', launched in March 2016, partners have not been able to mount and maintain a scaled up response until the end of the year. Livelihood and resilience programmes have been sacrificed out of necessity in the face of life-saving requirements and limited resources. Some partners have had to scale back some of their programmes, prioritizing the provision of emergency life-saving food assistance and treatment for moderate acute malnutrition for children under age 5 and pregnant and nursing mothers. For example, the World Food Programme (WFP), they will be forced to suspend most of their livelihoods and school meal programmes by end of November, and will run out of resources for emergency relief assistance by December 2016, in the absence of immediate funding. WFP is only able to reach less than half of those who are affected by the drought and require relief assistance. In addition, WFP's livelihoods programmes have been reduced to minimal levels in November and December, which is likely to continue into 2017 given the ongoing drought response and prioritization of resources. These funding constraints and projected programme suspensions are worrying during a fragile election period and with an influx of returns from Dadaab, many of whom left in 2011/12 due to extreme food insecurity.

The 2016 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan is funded at 47 per cent (\$412 million) of \$885 million requested



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