

## Somalia

February 2017 | Issued on 7 March 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Somalia declares drought a national disaster
- Partners scale up response to avert a famine
- Funding contributions and commitments boost drought response
- Access challenges hamper effective response

### FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian 'emergency' and 'crisis'	2.9m
# of people in food security stress	3.3m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	363,000
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

**\$864 million**  
requested for 2017 (US\$)

**8.5%** (\$73 million)

**105 million**  
Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 7 March 2017)

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



Khadija Muuse, 70, is among tens of thousands of Somalis displaced by drought Photo

### In this issue

- Drought conditions worsening P.1
- Humanitarian partners step up response P.2
- Drought-related displacement on the rise P.3
- More resources boost response P.4

## Somalia declares drought a national disaster

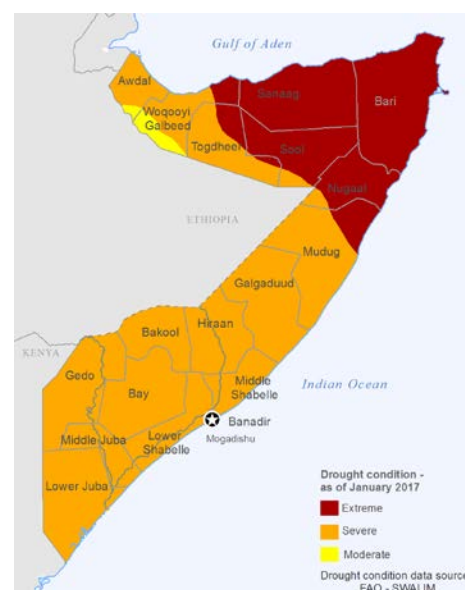
### Situation could degenerate into a famine

The President of the Federal Government of Somalia declared a national disaster as drought conditions continue to deepen affecting millions of Somalis across the country. Addressing a High Level Roundtable on Drought Response on 28 February in Mogadishu, the President called on the international and national stakeholders to redouble their efforts to avert the worst.

The humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating and famine is possible in 2017. Half of the population - 6.2 million people – are now facing acute food insecurity, up from five million people in September 2016. Of these, nearly 3 million need urgent life-saving assistance, another drastic increase from 1.1 million six months ago.

Worsening drought conditions have led to widespread water and pasture shortages forcing people to migrate in search of food and water for domestic and livestock use. Some are already selling their assets, and borrowing food and money to survive. Displacement, malnutrition and drought-related diseases are all on the rise. School children are dropping out due to the drought.

Prices of key staples such as maize and sorghum continued to surge in January and at very high levels, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In Mogadishu, the prices of coarse grains increased up to 35 per cent in January and February. In most markets in the key maize producing region of Lower Shabelle, maize prices surged in January by between 32 and 41 per cent, according to FAO. Overall, prices of coarse grains in January in key markets of central and southern Somalia more than doubled their levels when compared to 12 months ago. Food prices are likely to spike further in the coming months, as an earlier than usual stock depletion will be compounded by poor *Gu* 2017 forecast. Pasture shortages have led to a deterioration of livestock body conditions. Livestock prices declined by up to 60 per cent compared to one year ago. Declining livestock prices and increasing cereal prices have sharply depleted the terms of trade for



## 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)	52%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
Under 5 mortality (FSNAU 2016)	0.52/10,000 /day
% population using improved water sources (KAP Survey 2015)	30%

## CLUSTERS

### Lead and co-lead organizations

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

pastoralists over the past 12 months. The severe drought has also caused a sharp decline in milk production and a surge in milk prices.

## Humanitarian partners step up response

### Operational Plan outlines steps required to prevent famine

Humanitarian partners have stepped response across the country to mitigate the impact of the worsening drought. The number of people targeted by the Food Security Cluster with improved access to food and safety nets has tripled in less than six months. In January alone, the food security cluster reached more than 490,000 beneficiaries through its Improved Access to Food and Safety Nets (IASN) response objective. In addition, 73,000 beneficiaries received Livelihood Assets related support in January. In Puntland and Somaliland, WASH partners have reached 214,000 and 380,000 people respectively with services while some 108,000 people have received hygiene and sanitation services in southern and central Somalia. The Nutrition cluster assisted 64,500 acutely malnourished people with treatment services in January. Nearly 22,000 severely acutely malnourished (SAM) children were admitted to Outpatient Therapeutic Programme/Stabilization Centers from January to Mid-February. This is 15 per cent of the 200,000 children under age 5 targeted between January and June. Some 36,800 moderately malnourished children (MAM) and 5,800 malnourished pregnant and lactating women have been also treatment services in the same period. Nearly 122,000 people were reached with screening services for acute malnutrition while an estimated 5,100 children and 83,400 women were reached with food based and non-food based preventive services.

The protection cluster is stepping up assistance to address a sharp rise in need, in particular in Bay, Bakool, Sool and Sanag where people are moving from rural areas to IDP settlements in urban areas to seek humanitarian assistance. Nearly 63,000 drought affected people (25 per cent children and 75 per cent adults) were reached through protection and prevention activities in January, hereof 7,778 were girls, 7,669 boys, 26,456 women and 20,963 men. In January, the Shelter Cluster provided 6,350 people with emergency assistance packages and 900 people were supported with permanent shelter solutions. Additionally, 6,550 persons were supported with transitional shelter solutions. The Education Cluster supported 26,000 school children with education in emergency activities, including provision of school supplies, safe learning spaces and teacher support. An estimated 3,400 and 7,600 children in 16 primary schools were provided with water and hygiene promotion respectively in January. Some 2,300 children in Puntland are benefiting from water supply. Health cluster partners provided 108,000 people with primary and secondary health care services. They have also deployed emergency mobile health teams to IDP settlements and drought-affected host communities.

On 27 February, the Humanitarian Coordinator opened a Drought Operations Coordination Centre (DOCC) in Mogadishu to help strengthen coordination. The center will bring together cluster coordinators and humanitarian workers to one location to facilitate and coordinate response, strengthen information sharing and address gaps where possible. On 20 February, humanitarian issued an Operational Plan for Famine Prevention to immediately scale up humanitarian response to save lives and protect livelihoods. The plan reflects a significant shift from the drought response which has been ongoing since late 2015, to scaled-up famine prevention. The plan is seeking \$825 million to reach 5.5 million people with life-saving assistance until June 2017.

## Drought-induced displacement on the rise

The current levels of drought-induced displacement in Somalia have not been seen since the 2011 famine. It is estimated that drought has displaced more than 257,000 people inside Somalia from November 2016 to February 2017, according to the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). In addition, in Puntland, authorities estimate that more than 20,000 pastoralist families migrated to Bari region in December 2016. In many drought-affected areas, people are leaving their homes due to the drought, rising food prices, dry weather forecasts and ongoing insecurity. Most of the displaced are moving into

urban areas, while others are crossing into neighbouring countries. According to UNHCR, nearly 4,100 people have crossed into Ethiopia in January and February 2017. Authorities have appealed to humanitarian partners to provide assistance to people in places where they are staying in order to minimise the long and often dangerous journeys on foot.

The PRMN is a UNHCR-led project which identifies and reports on displacements (including returns) of populations in Somalia. The network also identifies and reports on protection risks and incidents underlying such movements. On behalf of UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and 39 local partners undertake data gathering primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants, and monitoring at strategic locations. Reports from local partners are verified by the NRC and outputs are reviewed by UNHCR prior to publication. Tracking and publishing these displacement summaries broadens insight into population movements for analytical and programmatic purposes. PRMN has the capacity to report on the more significant population movements across Somalia but the country context may limit the network's temporal and geographic coverage so numbers of actual displaced are likely to be higher than reported.

## River Shabelle dries up causing widespread water shortages

Poor rainfall experienced in the upper parts of the Shabelle basin during the previous rainy season, coupled with possible over utilization of the Shabelle River water in Somalia and Ethiopia, have led to a significant reduction in the water levels, according to the Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). The months of January and February usually experience the lowest amounts of river flow along the Shabelle River. However, January-February 2017 has seen significantly below normal levels along the river. Some parts of the river in the lower reaches have dried up. According to SWALIM, water availability for human and animal consumption will continue to deteriorate.

Where crop production has been poor, irrigated agricultural production has also been negatively affected as the water levels are too low to support irrigated farming. The current drought has had a devastating effect on most of the pre-existing water sources, leading to their progressive and then definitive drying-up. Faced with the drying up of their usual source of water, people are forced to buy water from private water vendors, usually at very high costs. Those who cannot pay for water, rely more and more on unprotected and unsafe water sources, with increased risk of water borne diseases like AWD/cholera. The use of unsafe water sources has seen a spike in AWD/cholera over the last few months in more than 35 districts. The unusual and very early drying up of the Shabelle River has deprived thousands of people living along the river basin access to water for domestic and agricultural use.

## Funding for scale-up

### Contributions and commitments to boost response

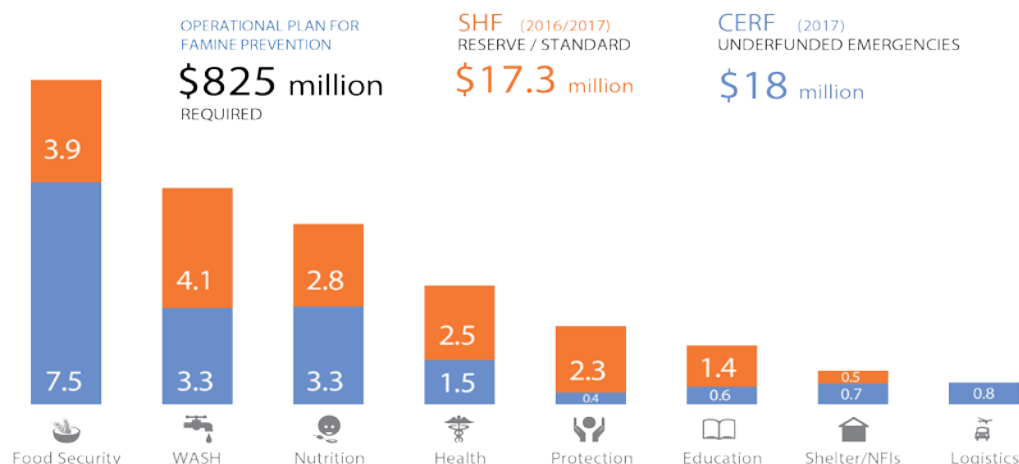
Humanitarian donors have moved quickly to provide additional funding and allow aid agencies to step up assistance. They have pledged to provide new resources against the \$825 million required for the operational plan in the first half of 2017 to avert a famine. This includes bilateral and multilateral contributions announced in January and February 2017 and funding allocated by pooled funds to assist the most vulnerable drought-affected communities – some \$35 million combined from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). With their timely commitments and disbursements, the two funds have been at the forefront of famine prevention response with critical funding being put to use already since early February by national and international partners.

Fast-tracking disbursement of pledges and commitments will be vital to ensure that partners can continue to scale up the response capacity quickly to avoid additional loss of lives and livelihoods. An integrated approach to allocations from these life-saving Funds

helps partners deliver a stronger collective response and ensures maximum impact of limited resources.

Donors and partners are strongly encouraged to expedite reporting of all pledges and projected funding to the Financial Tracking System on [fts@un.org](https://fts.unocha.org), and to remain in close contact with cluster coordinators on priorities and gaps, to enable coordination and prioritization throughout the scale-up. So far, \$105 million has been reported as committed or paid to the OCHA-managed Financial Tracking Services (<https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/528/summary>).

#### ALLOCATIONS BY SECTOR (US\$ millions)

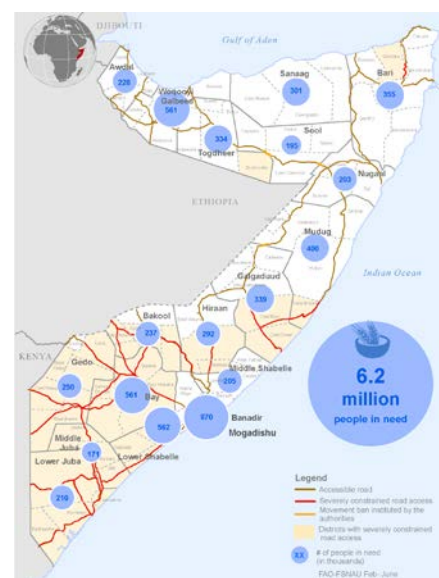


## Access challenges hamper effective response

Access constraints continue to impede humanitarian partners' ability to reach people in need in a timely manner. The first two months of 2017, recorded a spike in access related incidents mainly in southern and central parts of the country. Over 20 violent incidents impacted humanitarian organizations and led to the death of one, injury of six, abduction of three and arrest of two humanitarian personnel. Looting of humanitarian supplies was also reported in parts of Awdal region, Belet Weyne in Hiraaan region and Afyooqe in Lower Shabelle region. The incidents affected relief supplies of different organizations including during storage, transit and during distributions. In one of the incidents in Hargeisa, Somaliland, at least one person was shot dead and seven others were injured.

In Awdal region where looting of aid during distribution is common, an average of two to three incidents were reported monthly in 2016. Discussions have been initiated with the authorities to put in place measures to ensure incidents of aid looting are addressed to enable the relief supplies reach the intended recipients.

Movement restrictions due to increased illegal checkpoints and related extortions and harassments continue to impact the freedom of movement of civilians, humanitarian and commercial supplies along the Mogadishu-Afgooye-Wanla Weyne-Baidoa-Dollow main access road. Movements along the Mogadishu–Wanla Weyne and Dollow–Baidoa road have also been severely impacted due to increased number of non-static checkpoints





manned by state and non-state armed actors, increased patrols and vehicle inspections by non-state armed actors. Some humanitarian organizations are no longer able to move supplies by road from the Kenyan border to Baidoa whilst humanitarian missions from Mogadishu to Afgooye and Wanla Weyne have become increasingly challenging. There are reports of humanitarian partners being forced to cancel their missions. Car hijackings and passenger kidnappings have become common. On average, the impacted passengers or their relatives have had to pay a minimum of \$100 per person to secure their release.

Meanwhile, the majority of the residents of Ceel Buur in Galgaduud have moved out of the town due to crippling sanctions imposed by non-state armed actors. The town is no longer accessible by road or air. Further movements of humanitarian and basic commercial supplies between north and south Gaalkacyo continue to be impacted by the road blockade instituted by the authorities. Although humanitarian organizations are now moving supplies through alternative off-roads, they are not only long but are insecure, costly and could be inaccessible during the rainy season. Humanitarian organizations have continued to appeal to all parties to facilitate humanitarian access to people in need. Efforts to explore options to initiate further negotiations with all actors to secure humanitarian space will be enhanced in the coming weeks.

For further information, please contact: Tapiwa Gomo, Head of Communication, gomo@un.org, Tel. +252616548007 | Antonette Miday, Public Information Officer, miday@un.org, Tel. +254-731-043156. | Abas Abdi, Public Information Officer, Mohamud3@un.org, Tel. +252619150457 | Kenneth Odiwuor, Public Information Officer, odiwuor@un.org, Tel. +254-734-800120. OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at [www.unocha.org/somalia](http://www.unocha.org/somalia) |