

In this issue

Risk of famine in 2017 persists P.1

Humanitarian Response Plan revised P.2

Malnutrition soar among children P.3

Disease outbreaks continue P.4

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 6.7 million Somalis need humanitarian assistance
- Some 1.4 million children projected to be malnourished in 2017
- Disease outbreaks not slowing down



Scarcity of water has contributed to the spread of disease outbreaks across Somalia. Photo: Mustafa Dhere/WOCCA

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: www.fsnau.org (February 2017)	
# of internally displaced people before November 2016	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1.2m
Source: UNHCR	

Humanitarian Appeal

FUNDING

1.5 billion

requested in the revised 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$539million

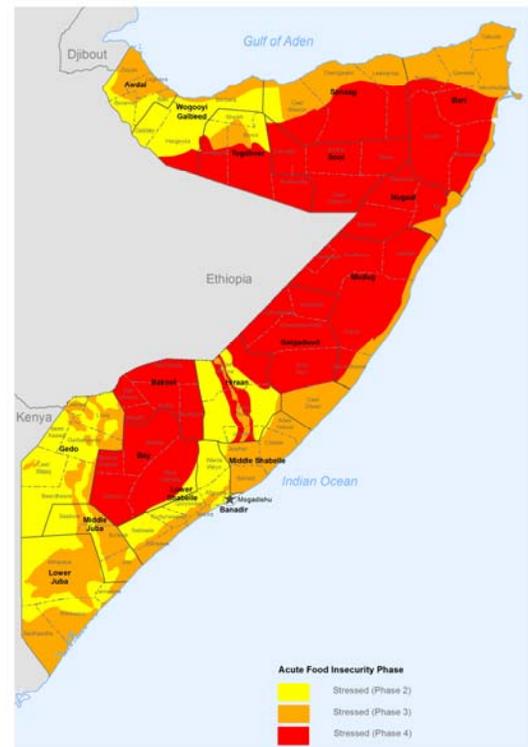
Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 31 May 2017)

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

Humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased to 6.7 million people, up from 6.2 million people, according to the latest projections by the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit. The situation continues to deteriorate and the FSNAU report warns of an elevated risk of famine (IPC Phase 5) in some areas due to severe food consumption gaps, high acute malnutrition, high disease burden and a reliance on food aid. Approximately 2,510,000 people will be in Crisis and 700,000 in Emergency levels of food insecurity by June. The prolonged drought has led to lack of water and the largest outbreak of cholera Somalia has seen in the last five years with nearly 42,721, cases and almost 715 deaths as of 27 May 2017, according to WHO. With the beginning of the rainy season and projected flooding, these numbers are expected to increase to 50,000 cases by the end of June. Cases of measles are also on the rise with over 8,000 cases reported this year, with 65 per cent of the cases being children under age 5.



With a projected below average *Gu* production, food security outcomes are only expected to improve modestly in July/August. The prices of local staples remain above average. However, many markets have seen food prices ease due to large-scale humanitarian assistance leading to better food access among households compared to the projections made in February.

Drought driven displacements continue. An estimated 714,000 people have been displaced since November 2016 due to drought, according to the UNHCR-led Protection and Returns Monitoring Network. Of these, nearly 131,000 were uprooted in April 2017 alone. More than 26,000 people were displaced between 1 and 19 May, including nearly 3,000 who were displaced into Baidoa town alone. Some 159,000

BASELINE

Population (UNFPA 2014)	12.3m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1.9 per day (World Bank 2016)	52%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

CLUSTERS

Lead and co-lead organizations

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

people have since arrived in Baidoa since November 2016. The month of May recorded a significant decrease in new drought-related displacements compared to previous months. Reports from partners indicate that people might be opting to remain in their areas of origin to cultivate their farms while other reports indicate that the rains have made some roads impassable. Some of the remaining livestock may also be too weak to walk.

Meanwhile, the *Gu* rains started two weeks later than normal and has so far been below average in all areas, except in the northeast where rainfall totals have been near average, according to the FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). Pasture and water resources are expected to gradually improve and so are the livestock body conditions. More rain is expected in parts of Puntland and the coastal areas. The river levels are also expected to rise. The SWALIM rainfall forecast for 25 May points to light to moderate rains in Puntland, parts of Somaliland and coastal areas of Central and South Somalia. No risk of flooding is foreseen along the Juba region. Flooding in Middle Shabelle has been reported in Madheere Village and has caused damage to large amounts of cropped area and some displacement.

2017 Humanitarian Response Plan revised

Humanitarian partners have revised the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan and are seeking US\$1.5 billion to reach 5.5 million people with life-saving assistance from January to December. The Revised Plan was issued on 10 May and presented to international partners at the London Conference on Somalia on 11 May in a session chaired by President Farmajo, UK Secretary of State Priti Patel and the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres.



Humanitarian partners are continuing response to avert the loss of lives in Somalia. Photo: Mustafa Dhere/WOCCA

The revised Humanitarian Response Plan reflects an extension of the scaled-up response to the end of the year, given the likelihood of below normal performance of the *Gu* rains. The response plan incorporates increased needs, related response interventions and requirements from the Operational Plan for Famine Prevention and realigns the 2017 HRP with the current level of needs. The overarching strategic objectives from the 2017 HRP remain intact, but more emphasis is now being placed on famine prevention through an integrated response across all clusters, intensified scale-up and response in rural and hard-to-reach areas, as well as strengthened response to gender-based violence (GBV). To ensure that the scale-up continues to be effectively managed and led, the Humanitarian Country Team will continue monthly reviews of the scale-up and the overall context as reflected in the monthly Dashboards. A full review of the response and its impact is also foreseen following further needs assessments and as the crisis continues to evolve, another revision to this HRP may be required.

Meanwhile, the London Somalia Conference which was hosted by the Government of the United Kingdom called for strong partnerships and additional funding for humanitarian assistance to avert famine and bolster humanitarian response. It brought together international partners to accelerate progress on security sector reform, build on the international response to the current drought and humanitarian situation and

agree on the strengthened partnerships to keep Somalia on course to prosperity and peace.

Expanding cash based assistance

The expansion of cash-based programming is central to the prevention of famine, as outlined in the revised Humanitarian Response Plan. In April, humanitarian partners continued to scale up cash-based humanitarian interventions (cash and vouchers) reaching more than 2.4 million people, and disbursing over \$34 million to drought-affected people.

The majority of cash transfers, benefitting some 2.2 million people, has been in support of food security interventions. WASH partners have reached an estimated 578,000 people with water vouchers; shelter partners have assisted some 62,000 people; multi-sector cash grants reached 31,300 people; and protection and education partners 17,400 and 3,700 people respectively. No Cash interventions were reported by Nutrition partners in April.

Overall, 82 per cent of cash transfers have been “unconditional.” A conditional transfer requires beneficiaries to undertake a specific action/activity in order to receive assistance, the most common one in Somalia is “cash-for-work”, which in April supported near 300,000 people. Furthermore, 60 per cent of the people reached in April received “unrestricted” cash transfers. Restriction is defined as pertaining to limits on the utilization of a transfer, after it has been received by a beneficiary, with vouchers being by default restricted transfers.

In terms of cash delivery mechanisms, “e-vouchers” (WFP SCOPE card) is the method used most extensively, reaching over 808,000 people, followed by “mobile phone transfers” (672,000), “cash-in-hand” (488,000), “physical vouchers” (48,000), and “e-payments” (24,500).

Humanitarian partners continue to monitor reactions of markets to the scale-up in cash-based interventions. Monitoring of over 40 markets throughout the country indicates that market-based interventions remain feasible. The latest Cash Working Group “Dashboard for Cash and Markets” is available at: <http://www.cashlearning.org/somalia>

Malnutrition cases on the rise among children

Number of acutely malnourished children could reach 1.4 million in 2017

UNICEF estimates that 1.4 million children are or will be acutely malnourished, including over 275,000 who have or will suffer life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in 2017. This is a 50 per cent increase compared to the previous projections. Severely malnourished children are nine times more likely to die of killer diseases like AWD/cholera and measles, which are spreading. During the 2011 famine that killed an estimated 260,000 – over half of them young children – the main causes of death among children were diarrhoea and measles. The nutrition situation has deteriorated more rapidly than projected. Preliminary results from FSNAU’s assessments conducted in specific locations (IPC Phase 3 and 4) in April 2017 indicate critical levels of acute malnutrition among rural pastoral populations of Sool, Sanaag, Bari, Nugaal regions and agropastoral populations of Bay region, as well as among IDPs in Baidoa and Mogadishu. Mortality has also increased in all of these locations. The prevalence of GAM is expected to increase atypically through June across Somalia because of low cereal stocks, limited milk availability, high prices, and increased morbidity.

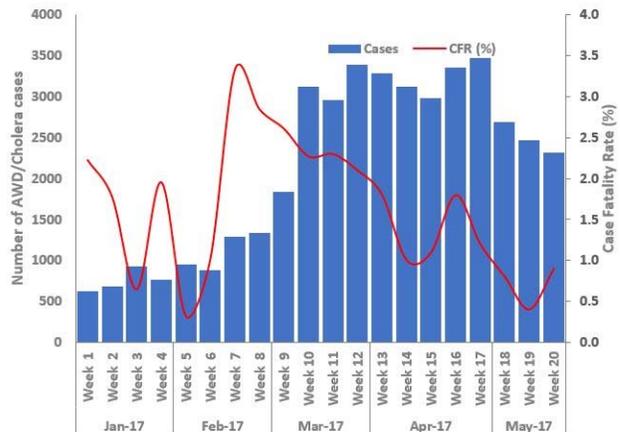
The prevalence of GAM is expected to increase atypically through June across Somalia because of low cereal stocks, limited milk availability, high prices, and increased morbidity.

Humanitarian partners respond to fight malnutrition

In April, Nutrition Cluster partners treated some 339,382 beneficiaries for malnutrition, 81 per cent of the total targeted beneficiaries for the month of April. The partners also reached 398,427 beneficiaries with nutrition preventive services, 28 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries. In the same month, over 680,000 children and women received preventative and curative nutrition assistance.

Disease outbreaks not slowing down

Widespread lack of water and malnutrition coupled with a weak health system has seen an exacerbation of disease outbreaks, especially acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and measles. As of 21 May, nearly 42,721 cases of AWD/Cholera and 715 related deaths had been recorded from 41 districts in 14 regions, according to the UN World Health Organization. The number of cases and deaths are



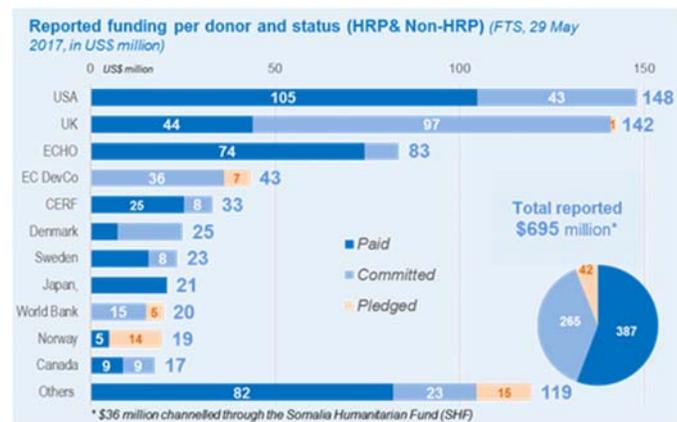
The onset of the Gu rains might exacerbate disease outbreaks

likely to be significantly higher due to compromised reporting and limited access to health services caused by insecurity in most of the affected areas, according to WHO. While the overall Case Fatality Rate has decreased, the current 1.7 per cent is still significantly above the emergency threshold. The overall trend shows that the AWD/cholera outbreak is not slowing down. The outbreak is spreading to new villages and districts. AWD/cholera outbreak alerts are being reported from Bakool, Galgadud, Gedo, Middle Juba and Togdheer regions as well as from other inaccessible areas. More cases were recorded among people living in displacement settlements. Response preparations for another cholera outbreak along the main rivers are ongoing due to the start of the rainy season and likely flooding. The spread of measles is also a major concern, with more than 8,390 cases reported since the start of 2017. More than half of the cases are children under age 5. Measles and other viral respiratory infections, AWD/cholera, malaria and water-borne diseases are likely to spread further with the *Gu* rains, particularly in new, congested IDP settlements due to overcrowding, poor sanitation facilities and insufficient access to safe water.

Funding streaming in but needs grow

As of 29 May, donors have contributed US \$695 million to scale up famine prevention in Somalia. The funding includes \$520 million contributions towards the 2017 HRP and \$175 million for activities outside the HRP.

Of the \$695 million available, an estimated \$387 million or 56 per cent has already been disbursed to



humanitarian partners, while \$265 million is committed and \$42 million pledged.

The revised 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has so far received \$520 million or 35 per cent of the requested \$1.5 billion.

Pooled funds have boosted the implementation of famine prevention activities in Somalia. Combined, pooled funds have disbursed \$60 million to support the implementation of humanitarian activities. An additional \$6.5 million from SHF is being programmed to support response to critical needs in Baidoa and Mogadishu.

For further information, contact:

Tapiwa Gomo, Head of Communication, gomo@un.org, Tel. + 252-616-548-007

Antonette Miday, Public Information Officer, miday@un.org, Tel. +254-731-043156

Abas Abdi, Public Information Officer, Mohamud3@un.org, +252619150457

Kenneth Odiwuor, Public Information Officer, odiwuor@un.org, Tel. +254-734-800120