

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian partners target 3 million people in 2020
- 4.1 million people face acute food insecurity
- Somalia declares national emergency over locusts
- UN and Somalia Government launch Durable Solutions Strategy

### FIGURES

# of food insecure people (FSNAU: Feb. 2020)	4.1m
# of people in food insecure at emergency and crisis levels (IPC Phases 3 and 4, Sept. 2019)	1.3m
# of people in stress (IPC Phase 2, Sept. 2019)	2.8m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.0m
# of internally displaced persons	2.6m

### FUNDING

#### \$1.03 BILLION

requested in the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

#### \$0 MILLION

Funding received for the 2020 HRP

Source <http://fts.unocha.org>, 09 February 2020



FAO Desert Locust Situation Update, Jan 2020

### In this issue

- Humanitarian Response Plan launched - P.1
- Food consumption gaps in Somalia - P.2
- Desert locust infestation in Somalia - P.3
- Durable Solution Strategy for Banadir- P.4

## Humanitarian partners to assist 3 million people in Somalia in 2020

The Federal Government of Somalia, the United Nations and humanitarian partners launched the 2020 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on 22 January, with an appeal for US\$1.03 billion to provide life-saving assistance and livelihood support to 3 million people out of 5.2 million who need assistance this year. The people targeted for assistance include 1.7 million people who were displaced by conflict, insecurity, forced evictions as well as droughts and floods.

The 2020 HRP funding requirement has decreased by 11 per cent (\$120 million) from \$1.08 billion in 2019 although the total number of people in need has increased by 19 per cent (1 million people) from 4.2 million people in 2019. However, the total targeted population has decreased by 12 per cent (400,000 people) from 3.4 million in 2019 due to better prioritization and targeting in response planning.

The response plan focuses on four core objectives: (i) reduce the prevalence of acute malnutrition and health needs; (ii) meet the basic needs of people across 74 districts; (iii) strengthen protection, right to safety and dignity; and (iv) enhance capacity of IDPs and non-IDPs to cope with significant shocks. The HRP aims to provide food assistance monthly to 2.1 million people, support access to education for more than 300,000 children, provide health assistance to 2.5 million people, deliver safe water to more than 1.2 million people and non-food items to 1.24 million people, as well as address conflict-related protection concerns, including the risk of gender-based violence.

*“As we launch this plan, we must reflect on the nature of humanitarian crises that Somalia continues to suffer,”* said Mr. Adam Abdlemoula, Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. *“While Somalia remains a protection crisis, climatic shocks — mainly drought and flooding — have become a major driver of humanitarian need. Since 1990, Somalia has experienced 30 climate-related hazards, 12 droughts and 18 floods, three times as many*

#### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN SOMALIA

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME CYCLE 2020 (2020 JANUARY - 2021 JANUARY)



Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan, Jan 2020

*climatic events as between 1970 and 1990. We would be foolish not to expect that this cycle of hazards will continue in the coming years."*

### Need for durable solutions to address underlying challenges

The HRP recognises that long-term durable solutions are required in Somalia to break the cycle of humanitarian crises. Humanitarian interventions will alleviate short-term needs but the focus must be on addressing the underlying development challenges as well.

In 2019, donors provided 87 per cent of the requested funds for the HRP (\$879.8 million). However, the funding was imbalanced across clusters, with some clusters like Shelter and Health much less funded than Food Security and Nutrition. With the available funding, humanitarian partners were able to reach at least 2 million people every month.

For example, WFP in December reached about 2.3 million women, men and children in communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity with more than half of them receiving cash-based transfers worth nearly \$12 million. In addition, about 538,000 pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-59 months received preventive and curative nutrition assistance.

## 4.1 million people face acute food insecurity-assessment

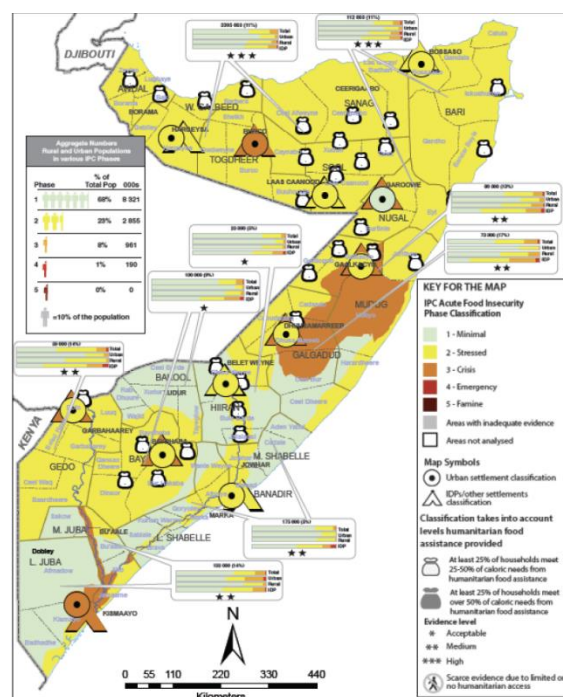
Despite above-average national cereal crop production and improved livestock production following a largely favorable Deyr (October-December) rainy season, an estimated 4.1 million people are facing acute food insecurity in Somalia. Of this number, 1.3 million people are expected to face a food insecurity at crisis level or worse (IPC Phase 3) if humanitarian assistance is not provided through June 2020 and 2.8 million people will be stressed (IPC Phase 2) therefore requiring livelihoods support. These findings are reflected in the latest assessment report by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FSNAU), the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and partners.

An estimated 4.1 million people are facing acute food insecurity in Somalia; of whom 1.3 million are expected to face a food crisis (IPC 3) or worse

High levels of acute malnutrition persist across many parts of Somalia, according to results from

48 separate nutrition surveys conducted during the assessment in November and December 2019. This was attributed to high morbidity, low immunization and vitamin-A supplementation, poor care practices and food insecurity. At the national level, the median prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in the 2019 Deyr was found to be 13.1 per cent, indicating a sustained Serious phase compared to 2019 Deyr (12.6 per cent).

Urgent treatment and nutrition support are required for approximately 963,000 children under the age of five years (total acute malnutrition burden), who will likely face acute malnutrition through December 2020, including 162,000 who are likely to be severely malnourished.



Somalia Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview (Jan-Mar 2020).  
Source: FAO

At least 2.6 million people in Somalia have been displaced due to conflict, drought, floods and other factors.

## Humanitarian assistance is preventing a more severe situation

Sustained, large-scale humanitarian assistance is currently preventing more severe outcomes in many areas of Somalia. However, deterioration is expected in the food security situation in April to June 2020 in some areas where food and income sources are not expected to be sufficient to meet minimum kilocalorie requirements. Prior to the start of the Deyr 2019 season, many poor households in northern and central Somalia were still recovering from the loss of food and income during the severe 2016/2017 and 2018/2019 droughts. In addition, at least 2.6 million people in Somalia have been displaced due to conflict, drought, floods and other factors.

A total of 11 major IDPs settlements were found to be at Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Stressed (IPC Phase 2) levels in the presence of humanitarian assistance. In most urban areas, food security outcomes are Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Minimal (IPC Phase 1). Households in urban areas in Burao (Togdheer) and Kismayo (Lower Juba) regions are facing food consumption gaps and are classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3), due to the high cost of living and limited income-earning opportunities.

Climate forecasts show a greater likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall performance across most of Somalia during the coming March-May *Gu'* rainfall season, which could improve pasture and water availability, crop cultivation, livestock production and reproduction, and access to agricultural employment. However, heavy rainfall could cause flooding and disruption to agricultural activities and trade flows in riverine and low-lying areas. It could also encourage further breeding and spread of locusts, thereby affecting food security.

## Somalia declares national emergency over desert locust upsurge

FAO estimates that following the rapid spread of the locusts in Somalia, up to 180,000 ha. of pasture and farmland require control interventions

Desert locusts have spread to large parts of Somalia, prompting the Federal Government to declare a national emergency on 2 February. The infestation, the worst in 25 years, is a major threat to the country's already fragile food security situation. According to the Government, the scale at which the locusts are spreading is beyond the control capacity of the Government. In December, the first wave of locust swarms destroyed about 100,000 hectares (ha) of farmland and pastures in Somalia.



A swarm of Desert Locusts in Chidhi village, Salal region, Somaliland. Photo/FAO

FAO estimates that following the rapid spread of the locusts in Somalia, up to 180,000 ha. of pasture and farmland require control interventions, including in remote and insecure areas where control capacity is limited and access is challenging. Across the country, the risk of locust damage to both pasture and crops will remain high and critical, given the ever-expanding areas affected, continued hatching and formation of hoppers and swarms.

The most affected areas are Somaliland, Puntland and Galmudug states. Initial field reports indicate that households in Belet Weyne, Luuq, Baardheere, Garbahaarey, Belet Xaawo, Doolow, Ceel Barde, Xudur, Waajid, Rab Dhuure, Buur Hakaba and Qansax Dheere (Hiraan, Galgaduud, Bakool and Bay regions) are the most affected by desert locust swarms.

Recent weather conditions in several East African countries including Somalia have created conditions that favour rapid locust reproduction. Left unchecked, the swarms -



potentially containing hundreds of millions of individual locust -- can move 150 km a day, devastating rural livelihoods in their relentless drive to eat and reproduce. A desert locust devours its own weight in food per day - about two grams- and is considered the most destructive migratory pest in the world. A small swarm covering one square kilometer can eat the same amount of food in one day as 35,000 people.

*"Given the severity of this desert locust outbreak, we must commit our best efforts to protect the food security and livelihoods of Somali people," Agriculture Minister, Said Hussein said. "If we don't act now, we risk a severe food crisis that we cannot afford."*

FAO is in the process of quantifying these losses and is supporting the Government through a multi-pronged effort to contain the situation and mitigate severe impact on food security and livelihoods. Urgent funding is required to ensure that the required action can be taken before the *Gu'* rainy season starts in March or April.

In light of the severity and scope of the locust outbreak, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated on 6 February US\$10 million from Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to FAO for locust control operations in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia) to combat the outbreaks, to prevent the impact of widespread crop and pasture losses on food security and to protect rural livelihoods.

## UN and Somalia Government Launch Durable Solution Strategy for Banadir region

The Durable Solutions Strategy is a tool to address the next steps in solving the challenge of urban displacement in the region.

The UN Integrated Office in Somalia supported the launch by the Banadir Administration of its Durable Solutions Strategy, a tool to address the next steps in solving the challenge of urban displacement in the region. The launch on 20 January was convened by the Mayor of Mogadishu/ Governor of Banadir and attended by a number of high-level national and international partners led by the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mr. Adam Abdelmoula.



Somalia Government, UN and EU officials at the launch of Durable Solution Strategy in Mogadishu, Jan 2020. UN photo

Mogadishu's local administration developed an IDP policy in 2019 and established a Durable Solutions Unit in the mayor's office. More recently, the Federal Government created a Durable Solutions Secretariat (DSS) that includes all ministries and federal institutions, and adopted a national IDP policy, accompanied by National Evictions Guidelines designed to ensure that IDP evictions are carried out in a planned and legal way that protects the rights of displaced people, including by providing alternative land and housing options. In November 2019, the Somali government ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance for IDPs in Africa (otherwise known as the Kampala Convention)—a legally binding instrument that affirms the rights of IDPs in Africa.

For further information, please contact: Ogozo, Erich Opolot, Head of Public Information, [ogozo@un.org](mailto:ogozo@un.org), Tel. +252 616 548 007. Mursal Ali Ahmed | Public Information Officer, [mursalali@un.org](mailto:mursalali@un.org), Tel: +252619150457/ 252615679998. Ayub Ahmed | Public Information Officer | Mobile: +252619150463 | [ayub.ahmed@un.org](mailto:ayub.ahmed@un.org), Yahya Dahiye | Public Information Officer | Mobile: +252613372216 | [Yahya.dahiye@un.org](mailto:Yahya.dahiye@un.org), Muno Gedi | Public Information Analyst | [muno.gedi@un.org](mailto:muno.gedi@un.org), Tel: +252612922131/+252615927374. OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at [www.unocha.org/somalia](http://www.unocha.org/somalia) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)