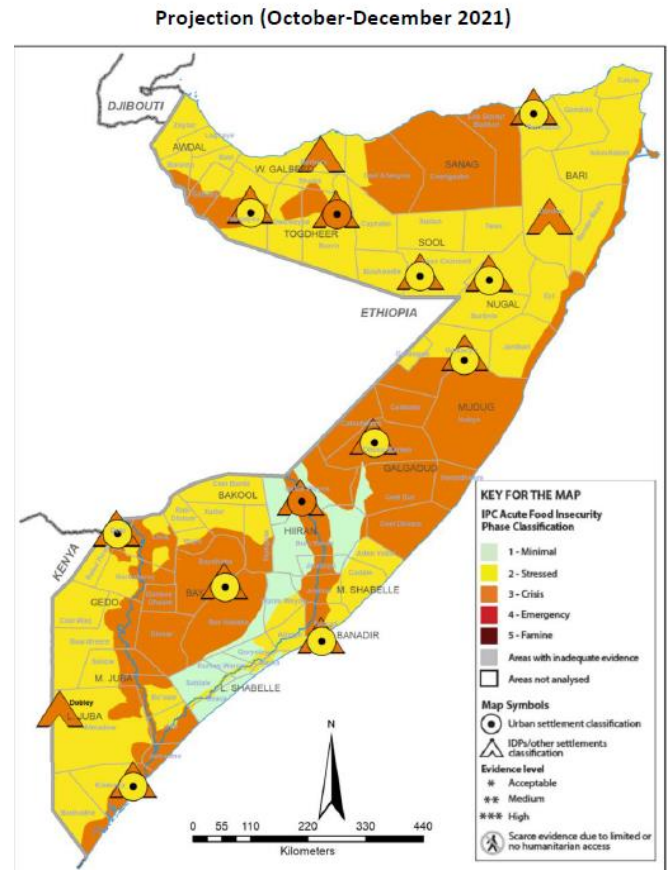


HIGHLIGHTS

- Prolonged drought conditions have impacted many parts of Somalia since June with Jubaland State being the worst affected. More than 125,000 people have been affected by water shortages and require urgent water assistance in Jubaland; the situation may worsen if no rain falls in coming weeks.
- Thousands have been displaced in Somaliland and Galmudug, raising concerns about the plight of those affected. Authorities, local communities and partners are assisting those affected.
- Durable solutions interventions have the potential to be replicated and upscaled across Somalia, providing medium-term low-cost solutions to displacement and avoiding increased vulnerability and humanitarian costs that usually follow multiple evictions and protracted displacement.
- In Hirshabelle, through a local flood committee, river embankments and dykes are being constructed alongside retaining walls to protect farmland from recurrent flooding. So far, 65 out of 300 breakages have been repaired.



Somalia Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview. Source: FAO

KEY FIGURES

5.9M

people in need of humanitarian assistance

2.9M

people displaced by conflict and natural disasters across the country

1.2M

children likely to be acutely malnourished

3.5M

Without assistance, people projected to experience acute food insecurity

21K

cases of COVID-19 reported since March 2020

337K

people received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine

THOUSANDS IMPACTED BY PROLONGED DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Partners are scaling up responses to meet growing needs

Many parts of Somalia are experiencing prolonged drought conditions and water shortages since June, with thousands of people affected, according to the WASH Cluster. The hardest hit state is Jubaland where the situation is likely to worsen if no rain comes in the coming weeks. Pastoralist families are reportedly already migrating closer to main rivers. According to the WASH Cluster¹ more than 125,000 people have been affected by water shortages as of 10 October including at least

¹ WASH Cluster: Flash Update on Water Shortage Crisis in Somalia. 17 October 2021.

8,200 households (49,200 people) in Afmadow districts and its surrounding villages, 2,912 households (17,472 people) Belet Xaawo district, 4,638 households (27,828 people) in Luuq district, 1,040 households (5,240 people) in Doolow and Over 4,456 households (26,736 people) in Badhadhe district. Those affected have no access to safe drinking water, improved sanitation facilities and good hygiene practices. A significant scale-up of sustained WASH assistance across Jubaland state, particularly in Afmadow district, is required to prevent waterborne diseases.

The authorities have appealed for assistance, especially water, food and health support. Partners are distributing food voucher and cash transfers to 250,000 people, of whom 72 per cent are in Kismayo, Garbaharey, Doolow, Afmadow, Ceel Waaq and Belet Xaawo districts. Humanitarian organizations are also trucking water for 144,000 in Ceel Waaq and Doolow (84 per cent of those targeted), and 23,000 people in Kismayo, Afmadow, and Belet Xaawo. In addition, partners are drilling boreholes and rehabilitation of existing wells is underway, targeting 30,000 people. Nutrition interventions are also reaching 67,000 people (62 per cent of the total targeted) in Kismayo, Luuq, Badhaadhe, Afmadow, Baardheere, Ceel Waaq, Belet Xaawo. According to Fewsnet, pasture and water availability in southern Somalia has been affected by poor *haqaa* (July to September) rains, and there are reports of atypically high livestock disease incidence (*trypanosomiasis* and tickborne diseases).

In South West State approximately 17,263 households (103,578 people) are facing devastating water shortages in several districts including Ceel Berde, Rabdhure, Hudur in Bakool region, Qansax Dhere, Dinsoor, Berdale, Burhakaba and Baidoa in Bay region Wanla Weyne, Barawe and Merka in Lower Shabelle district. Most of those locations solely depend on rainfed earth dams or shallow wells which at risk of running dry.

In Puntland, locals particularly in the coastal areas of Bari, Nugaal and Mudug are facing water shortages. Drought conditions have reportedly affected nearly 36,000 people in Dangoroyo and Qardho district in Bari region, with local authorities appealing for humanitarian assistance. Reports indicate that the area received below average rains in the last season. In Galmudug State, local authorities have reported that several rural villages are experiencing water crisis in Dhuusamarreeb, Cabudwaaq, Gaalkacyo, Hobyo and Cadaado districts.

Forecasts indicate an increased likelihood of below-average rainfall in October to December, which will adversely affect food security and nutrition outcomes. In the absence of humanitarian assistance, the FSNAU estimates that nearly 3.5 million people across Somalia will face food consumption gaps or depletion of livelihood assets indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes through the end of 2021. In addition, approximately 1.2 million children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including nearly 213,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished.



Emaciated cattle due to water shortages in Jubaland. Photo: WASH Cluster.

CONCERNS OVER NEW DISPLACEMENT IN SOMALILAND AND GALMUDUG

Humanitarian partners are concerned about the recent displacement of thousands of people in Somaliland and Galmudug. More than 7,000 people have recently been forcibly displaced from Laas Caanood and surrounding areas in Sool region, according to UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). Since 2 October, more than 3,300 of those affected have arrived in Gaalkacyo, of whom 986 have proceeded to South West State, Hirshabelle and Banadir. Since 10 October, 561 displaced families (3,366 people) have arrived in Baidoa.

The forced displacement has raised protection concerns. The displaced have reported separation of families, child abandonment and loss of property. Protection Cluster partners in Gaalkacyo reported that seven separated minors have now been reunited with their families. Authorities, local communities, the Somali diaspora and business entities in Ba'adweyn and Gaalkacyo have scaled up assistance, providing food, water, shelter and other necessities to the new

arrivals. However, humanitarian response in Baidoa is reportedly limited despite the urgent needs of assistance. A joint multi-cluster needs assessment is being organized.

In Galmudug, thousands of people have reportedly been displaced by ongoing conflict in Guri Ceel district. Most of the displaced are reportedly women, children and the elderly who have moved to settlements in nearby villages or are living with relatives. Local authorities have appealed for urgent humanitarian assistance, particularly food, water, shelter and health interventions. However, there is limited humanitarian activity in Guri Ceel due to insecurity. Recently, three partners have suspended road movements due to escalated conflict. Partners are planning a needs assessment to determine the exact numbers of affected people and needs.

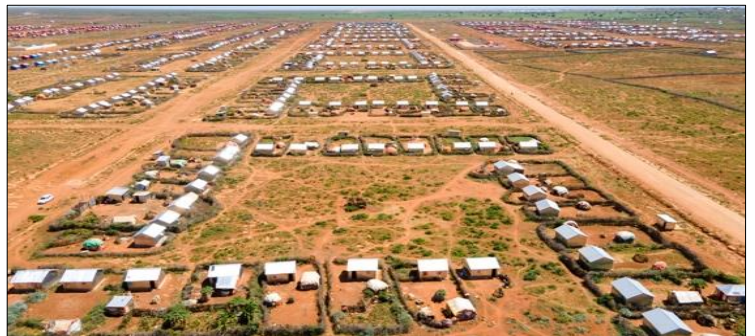
PILOTING DURABLE LAND TENURE SOLUTIONS

The project relocates IDPs at highest risk of eviction

The 'Danwadaag' durable solutions programme² in Banadir Regional Administration, Jubaland and South West States is piloting innovative ways to implement housing, land and property approaches to provide land tenure security for the most vulnerable as this is seen as a [core component for durable solutions](#). In a successful pilot, Danwadaag has approached landowners of sites hosting IDPs at highest risk of eviction and leveraged investments into basic service infrastructure to negotiate longer tenure security agreements. In Kismayo, this has led to granting to more than 1,000 people four- to five-year written rent-free leases while a recent negotiation secured tenure for a further 600 households.

In parallel, Danwadaag strengthens collaborative dispute resolution structures and land governance mechanisms in all locations. In October, Danwadaag will be piloting a site decongestion approach in Banadir, which aims at redesigning five IDP sites to improve the overall living conditions in-situ. Rationalization of space to ensure improved hygiene will be accompanied by negotiation of tenure agreements. These interventions have the potential to be replicated and upscaled across Somalia, providing medium-term low-cost solutions to displacement and avoiding increased vulnerability and large humanitarian costs that usually follow multiple evictions and protracted displacement.

To complement this, the Danwadaag programme relocates IDPs at highest risk of eviction to government-allocated land when possible (e.g., [Barwaqo relocation site in Baidoa](#)), while collaborating closely with other actors to ensure integrated and layered implementation across the humanitarian, development and peace nexus. This site hosts 2,009 households (over 12,000 people) and is in line with the Baidoa city extension plan. Land title deeds will be provided to the families at the end of October.



Barwaqo relocation site in Baidoa, also called 'the new town of Baidoa' ©IOM/Foresight

The Girible Village Local Integration Project, east of Bossaso, is another example of a successfully completed activity following the acquisition of land to accommodate 300 households (1,800 people), with additional space to accommodate at least 200 permanent shelters. An additional 82 transitional shelters in Girible Village have been constructed to cope with increasing demand. Key gaps still outstanding in Girible Village include lack of health facilities; lack of education facilities and the provision of livelihood assistance to nearly 300 people with small business grants and cash transfer assistance.

TACKLING RECURRENT FLOODING IN BELET WEYNE

The closure of river breakages has saved farmland from floods

Zahra and her husband Osman Idole are among the many farmers who have suffered high annual crop losses for several years, due to seasonal river floods that inundate their farm in Hodely Village on the outskirts of Belet Weyne town, in Hiraan Region of Somalia. In 2021, the couple reported some reprieve, following the repair of the nearby river breakage points

² Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium programme (2019-2022) is a three-and-a-half-year UK Aid-funded programme with the International Organisation for Migration as lead agency, Concern Worldwide, Norwegian Refugee Council, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat and local partners GREDO, SHACDO and Juba Foundation.

through a [FAO](#) project. Through a local flood committee, river embankments and dykes are being constructed alongside retaining walls.

“We have been relieved,” Zahra said, pointing at lush bananas, paw paws, watermelons and tomatoes growing on the 10-acre farm. “This year, the *Gu* [April to June] season floods did not affect us. Instead, we now pump water from the river to irrigate the farm,” she added. The closure of the river breakages has, so far, saved over 2,000 hectares of farmland from floods, thereby boosting agricultural productivity.

“We have three projects in Belet Weyne and expect to close another 27 breakages by the end of 2001,” said Ahmed Mohamed Aden, FAO’s engineer in Belet Weyne. “The projects cover river embankment and construction of canals as well as dykes. We have so far closed 65 out of 300 river breakage sites in Hirshabelle. The closed sites are completely fixed and have not flooded since the *Guf* floods. An inter-agency assessment is ongoing to determine the likely impact of upcoming *Deyr* rains.” With funding from local communities and the Somali and Djibouti Governments, the construction of the Waraboole canal is also underway to divert the river water away from Belet Weyne town. In addition, a system has been developed to disseminate early warning information to response agencies, the Somali Government and vulnerable communities, allowing for early action. It includes an SMS alert warning for observers to report flood-related incidences.

Thousands of flood-displaced people still living in temporary shelters

Belet Weyne town in Hirshabelle State, located on a lowland by the Shabelle River, is one of the areas hardest hit by seasonal floods in Somalia. In April and May, heavy seasonal rains displaced nearly 22,000 people, destroyed 1,235 hectares of farmland and raised the risk of waterborne diseases. Thousands of the people displaced are still living in temporary shelters in Belet Weyne, and the authorities are making efforts to relocate them to permanent settlements. In the meantime, the displaced people depend on humanitarian assistance for survival.

“Our main problem is water, food and shelter,” said Hassan Barqadle, an IDP leader at Kutimbo settlement, which hosts more than 500 people (100 families) displaced by floods to Belet Weyne. “We received trucked water for a month after the floods, but that stopped.” The frequency of floods has increased in Somalia over the past 20 years,

disrupting people’s livelihoods and the economy. Climate change – compounded by other factors including low ability to adapt, a rapidly growing population, poor infrastructure, weak river embankments and poor soil structures – has worsened the flood damage. In some cases, riverbanks are broken by communities to release water for irrigating crops.

“Flooding is a major problem in Belet Weyne,” said Ahmed Osman, Deputy Governor of Hiraan region. “We need durable solutions.” Overall, the April and May floods affected about 400,000 people in 14 districts across Somalia, of whom 101,300 people were displaced from their homes, according to partners. Jowhar District in Middle Shabelle was worst affected, with floods displacing 66,000 people from 27 villages, destroying over 40,000 hectares of farmland, disrupting learning in 12 schools and damaging 82 per cent of WASH infrastructures.

In April, more than 80 per cent of the country was facing drought conditions then the rains hit, triggering floods. Since 1990, Somalia has experienced more than 30 climate-related hazards, including 12 droughts and 19 floods – triple the number experienced between 1970 and 1990. The heavy precipitation in the Ethiopian highlands is responsible for more than 80 per cent of the flow in the Shabelle River according to [FAO](#).

Upon completion of the flood protection projects, over 41,200 hectares of farmland will be saved from flooding in the five districts of Bulo Burto, Jajalaqsi, Mahadaay, Jowhar and Balcad, according to humanitarian partners. In addition, ahead of the *Deyr* rainy season in October, partners have pre-positioned 100,000 sandbags in Belet Weyne and are undertaking a community stakeholder mapping of breakages and major weaknesses of the riverbanks, in collaboration with the



Local community members closing river breakages in Jowhar. Photo: OCHA

community. Partners are also rehabilitating retaining walls in flood-prone areas along the Shabelle, sensitizing communities against dumping waste in the river, implementing a disaster risk reduction project and developing a master plan for water management.

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