



## Highlights

- Around 536,000 people have been displaced in Somalia due to drought since November 2016. Around 70,000 have arrived in Baidoa and around 72,000 in Mogadishu in March alone, in search of food and water.
- Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)/cholera continues to increase, particularly in Bay, Bakool, Banadir, Gedo and Lower Shabelle regions. Middle Juba and Bakol regions are reporting alarming cumulative Case Fatality Rates of 14.1 and 5.1 per cent respectively, far above the emergency threshold of 1 per cent (75 deaths out of 533 cases in Middle Juba and 143 deaths out of 2,823 cases in Bakol reported since 1 January 2017).
- The spread of measles is also of serious concern, with 3,829 suspected cases reported since the beginning of the year.
- National and international NGOs and UN agencies have worked together to reach more than 1.1 million people with safe water in March alone. Further scale-up is ongoing across all clusters. Priorities include treatment and prevention of AWD/cholera and prevention of measles, improved access to food and safe water, nutritional treatment for malnourished children, protection, shelter and non-food support to newly displaced.
- Donors have moved quickly to generously support scale-up of response and over US\$558 million has been made available or pledged for humanitarian assistance since January.

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|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>6.2m</b><br/>People in need. <b>2.9m</b> in IPC Phase 3 and 4</p> | <p><b>536,000</b><br/>Internally displaced due to drought since November 2016 as of 2 April</p> | <p><b>1.1m</b><br/>People reached in 2017 as of 31 March with improved access to water</p> | <p><b>3,829</b><br/>Suspected Measles cases in 2017 as of 26 March</p> | <p><b>21,664</b><br/>AWD/cholera cases reported in 2017 as of 4 April</p> | <p><b>\$558m</b><br/>Total humanitarian funding in 2017</p> |
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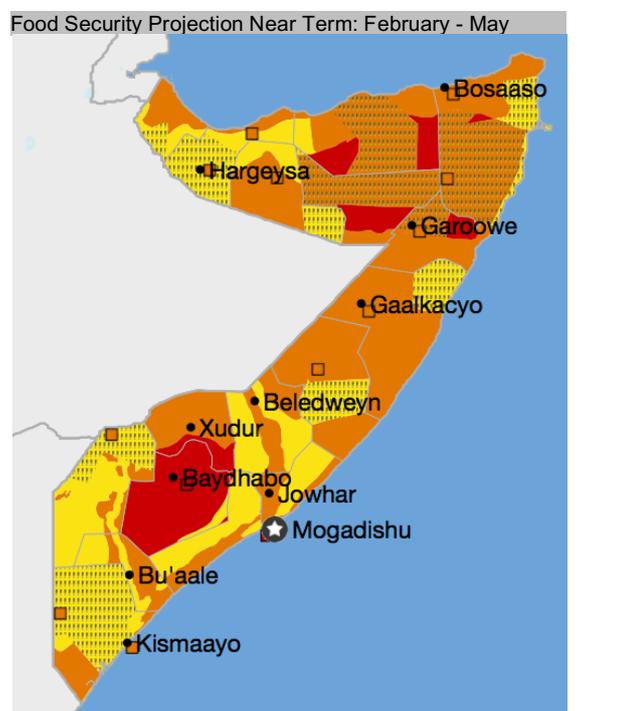
## Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with massive displacement and diseases continuing to spread, causing extensive human suffering and deaths. The projections for the coming six months are not encouraging, with continued deterioration foreseen for the coming three months till the end of June, and only a slight improvement during the following three months from July through September.

The food security situation has further deteriorated in the month of March, which is usually the peak of the pastoral lean season according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Food security is expected to only improve slightly from July through September following the *Gu* harvest and improvement in livestock conditions.

Drought-related displacement continues to rise almost exponentially. Regions with the highest arrivals include Baidoa, Mogadishu, Sool and Sanaag. In March, Baidoa and Mogadishu received 70,000 and 72,000 new arrivals respectively. Over 536,000 people have been displaced since November 2016 as of 31 March, with 52% of overall drought-induced displacement occurring in the month of March.

The drought is also pushing people across borders, with at least 2,000 new arrivals reported in Dadaab refugee settlement in Kenya between 1 December 2016 and 1 March 2017, according to UNHCR. Preliminary information received so far suggests that more may already be on their way, mainly from Sakow, Buale, Jamame, Baidoa/Bay region and Jilib. Close to 100 of the arrivals in Dadaab were among those assisted through the voluntary returns programme initiated in December 2016.



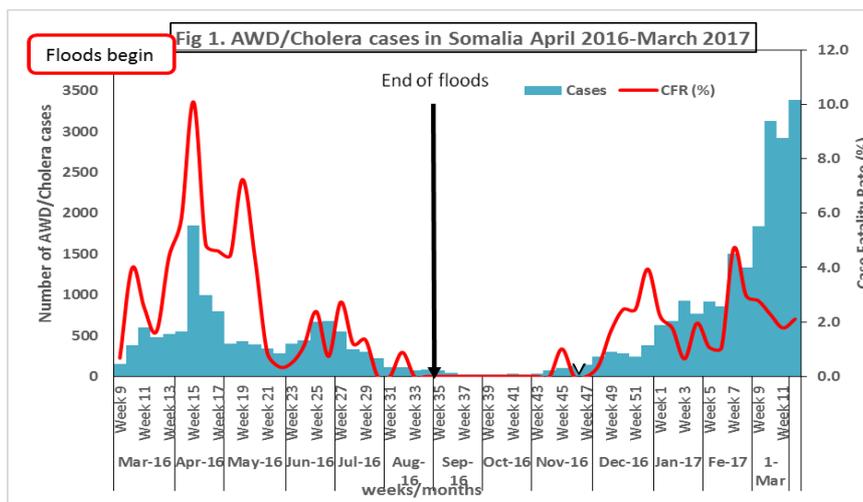
**IPC 2.0 Acute Food Insecurity Phase**  
 1: Minimal 2: Stressed 3: Crisis 4: Emergency 5: Famine  
 ! Would likely be at least one phase worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance

Source: FEWS NET

According to WHO, the total number of reported Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)/cholera cases as of 4 April are 21,664, hereof 1,729 additional cases in the last week (since 29 March), with 7 regions reporting cases during that week. The cumulative Case Fatality Rate for 2017 is at 2.3 per cent, significantly above the emergency threshold of 1 per cent. The Bay region alone accounts for 51 per cent of the total cases in the country (10,736 out of 21,319), Middle Juba and Bakol regions are reporting alarming cumulative Case Fatality Rates of 14.1 and 5.1 per cent respectively, far above the emergency threshold of 1 per cent (75 deaths out of 533 cases in Middle Juba and 143 deaths out of 2,823 cases in Bakol reported since 1 January 2017). Additionally, over 3,800 suspected cases of measles have been reported, with the region of Banadir accounting for almost 29 per cent of all suspected cases. The increased outbreak of suspected measles cases is of serious concern and requires urgent attention of humanitarian partners.

## Humanitarian Response

### Improved Access to Safe Water and Sanitation remain priority

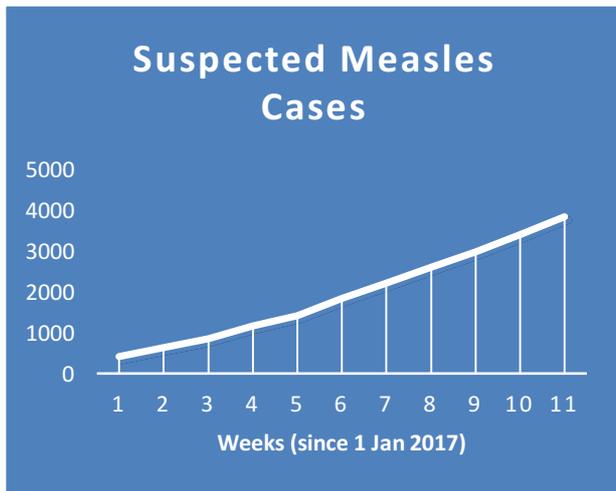


From 1 January until 31 March, WASH partners have significantly scaled up response with priority given to immediate supply of safe water, reaching 1.1 million people with temporary access to safe water. This has been done through water trucking, water vouchers and supply of water bladders and storage tanks. To translate the immediate supply of safe water into more sustainable access to safe water, WASH partners have rehabilitated strategic water sources, supplying access to almost 250,000 people. WASH partners have stepped up additional efforts to prevent further spread of AWD/cholera, reaching nearly 360,000

people, hereof 248,000 in southern and central Somalia, 53,000 beneficiaries in Puntland and 58,000 in Somaliland with hygiene promotion, including distribution of hygiene kits and chlorination, and campaigns targeting communities, displacement settlements and schools.

WASH partners have responded quickly to new AWD/cholera cases in the remote villages in Bay region and have provided 40,000 liters of safe water to over 6,000 people, and reached additional 103,500 people with hygiene promotion and the distribution of hygiene kits. They have set up temporary shelter to admit and treat AWD/cholera cases. Partners on the ground have emphasized the importance of social mobilization to sensitize the communities on the importance of hygiene and sanitation. The role of the community in such rural areas is crucial to successful response to the various drought-induced challenges. The regions of Bay and Bakool combined account for 64 per cent of all reported AWD/cholera cases nationwide.

NGOs and UN humanitarian organisations conducted a mission to Xudur and Waajid, two of the most affected areas by AWD/cholera, to meet with communities affected by drought, authorities and partners on the ground. Authorities reported that an estimated 36,000 and 25,000 drought-displaced people have moved to Waajid and Xudur towns respectively since January 2017. Some 80 per cent live among the host communities. Improved hygiene and sanitation practices are needed in both towns following the increased displacements to control further spread of the AWD/cholera outbreak, especially with the onset of the Gu rains expected in the coming days. Open defecation has already been witnessed among the community.



Since the beginning of 2017, around 3,829 suspected cases of measles, a viral respiratory infection that spreads through air and contact with infected mucus and saliva, have been reported. Banadir, Galgudud, Hirshabelle and Somaliland account for 88 per cent of all cases, with Somaliland alone reporting 1,401 suspected cases. Out of the 116 affected districts by measles, 77 are largely accessible, while 39 districts are more hard to reach, and the likelihood for underreporting of suspected measles cases is high. Measles can only be prevented through immunization, but once the disease has broken out, it is only possible to treat the symptoms, which include fever, cough, rashes and muscle aches. Particularly in malnourished children and people with reduced immunity, measles can cause serious complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhoea, ear infection and pneumonia. Women infected while pregnant are

also at risk of severe complications and the pregnancy may end in miscarriage or preterm delivery. In Somalia, 54% of all suspected measles cases have been reported in children between 1–4 years of age.

### Improved Protection to most vulnerable

With the increased number of displaced persons living in harsh conditions and makeshift camps, protection risks have also been on the rise across Somalia. Especially women and girls are at risk of gender-based violence in displacement settlements. The Protection Cluster has reached 121,500 drought-affected people (34% children, 66% adults) since 1 January 2017 with protection and prevention activities. Out of the total 121,500 people reached, 18,300 people (70% women and girls) were targeted specifically for gender-based violence prevention, response and capacity building, including legal, psychosocial, material and livelihoods assistance.

### Scale-up of response in K-13

UNICEF and partners have scaled up support to the K-13 displacement settlement outside Mogadishu. The settlement, which has received high numbers of new arrivals from surrounding areas, has been provided with two 10,000 liters bladder tanks to improve access to water, and has received hygiene kits. Additionally, an assessment is currently ongoing to identify existing boreholes and maintenance support, and the construction of a latrine will start shortly.

Emergency Life-saving Primary health care services have been provided to IDPs and their host communities, and 18,000 people, including 3,600 children under 5 and 720 pregnant and lactating women have been supported. Nutrition supplies were additionally provided to the facilities run by humanitarian partners and NGOs on the ground.

NGO and UN humanitarian partners have furthermore provided protection packages, including psychosocial, legal and medical protection, to 114 gender-based violence survivors, out of which 66 cases were physical assaults. Some 36 separated and unaccompanied children were identified, documented and provided with appropriate support, including reunification with their families. Mogadishu and surrounding areas has witnessed increasing number of unaccompanied and separated children, including children in the streets and a new phenomenon of child-headed households, as parents send their children to areas where they expect them to be able to access services, while they remain behind to look after livestock and property. An estimated 3,000 IDPs and host community members were reached with prevention messages on gender-based violence and family separation through a media programme aired on radio Kulmiye and via door-to-door visits.

### Opening of Drought Operations Coordination Centre in Garowe, Puntland

Following establishment of Drought Operations Coordination Centres (DOCCs) in Mogadishu on 27 February and in Baidoa on 19 March, a DOCC was opened in Garowe on 30 March by the government of Puntland and humanitarian partners. The Vice President expressed Puntland's gratitude for the establishment of the Centre and emphasized its importance in reinforcing accountability and transparency in aid delivery, and committed to closely working together with NGO and UN humanitarian partners. He furthermore urged cluster representatives in the DOCC to conduct a joint mission to Mudug/Gaalkacyo to assess the humanitarian situation there. This will be the first mission by humanitarians conducted through the Garowe DOCC.

In the DOCC's first situational update of 5 April, 32,000 drought-driven displaced people, primarily pastoralists, have been reported to have moved to urban and peri-urban locations in Puntland in the first half of March, according to Puntland's Ministry of Interior.

## Livestock Treatment continues to protect Livelihoods

In the first week of the newly launched initiative to protect assets, FAO and partners have provided livestock treatment to over 1,3 million animals, out of the 8 million targeted for round one, through veterinary support against parasites, respiratory diseases, wounds and blood parasites. Over 207,400 people benefited from week one of the supportive livestock treatment campaign that protects livelihoods of pastorals and agro-pastoralists.



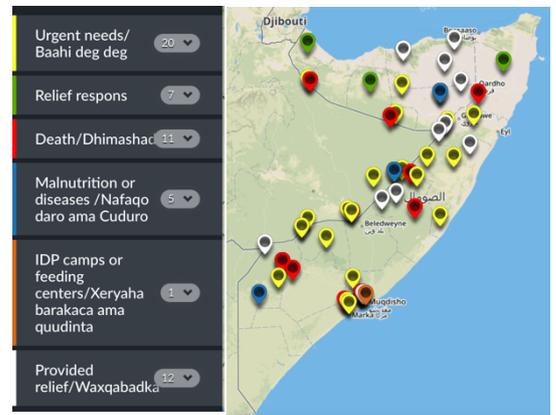
## Logistical Support to National Drought Response

Since the beginning of the year, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport via road, air, and sea of over 570 cubic meters of humanitarian aid supplies, and made available 22,240 cubic meters of storage space to humanitarian partners, including NGOs. The Logistics Cluster has supported the Government of Somalia with filling logistics gaps and airlifting life-saving food, nutrition and medical supplies to hard-to-reach areas in Somalia.



## Somali Civil Society mobilizes to support Drought Responders

Extensive mobilization of local communities and youth initiatives to respond to drought is ongoing throughout Somalia. Most recently, a group of volunteers from Somali civil society have launched an aid-mapping platform to 'support relief responders and connect them with drought victims' on <http://abaaraha.org>. The platform maps urgent needs, relief response, drought-associated deaths, malnutrition or diseases, and IDP camps or feeding centres. The platform offers users (volunteers, humanitarian partners, local NGOs and the larger International Community) the ability to report on their response or on cases of malnutrition, displacement, etc. – while also collecting data from wide range of sources, including social media. The founders have established tools and approaches to assess the accuracy and relevance of incoming crowd-sourced reports via text, e-mail, photo, video and social media reports, and verify the incoming information through different sources.



Other initiatives have additionally helped to mobilize various support from people and organizations from all over the world, such as the Website 'Famine Resisters' (<https://www.faminessisters.com>), who showcase efforts of local and diaspora communities to support drought victims.

## SRSG Michael Keating visits drought-stricken Somaliland

During a visit to Somaliland on 2 and 3 April 2017, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General (SRSG) for Somalia, Michael Keating, visited communities affected by the drought in Laaca village, located about 70 kilometers west of the Somaliland capital of Hargeisa. He visited a water distribution site established by a local non-governmental organization called Health Education Agro-pastoralist Liaison (HEAL) with funding from UNICEF and humanitarian partners. The partnership is providing safe drinking water and hygiene kits to local schools and approximately 16,200 people.

SRSG Keating also met with President Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud Silanyo and senior government officials, members of the National Drought Response Committee, civil society representatives, NGOs and UN agencies. The discussions focused on how to scale up and improve coordination of ongoing drought response activities to help meet the needs of affected communities. "The people of Somaliland should not have to go through this again. We have been talking about recovery and resilience plans, how the UN can contribute to the work of Somaliland Government and civil society. We have also been talking about the role of the UN more broadly here in Somaliland," said Mr. Keating during a press conference after he met with President Silanyo.



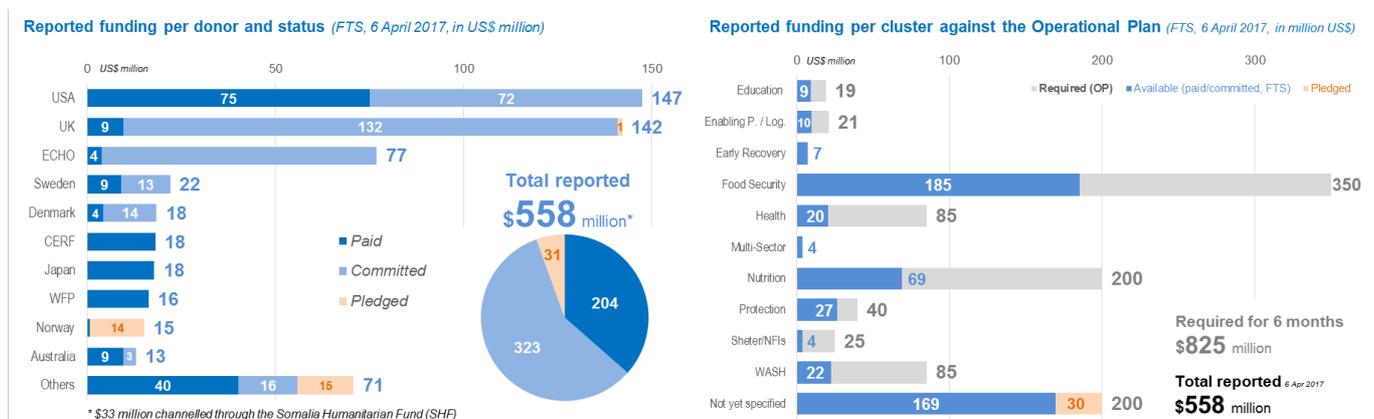
# Funding

## Reported funding

Donors have continued to provide generous funding to scale up famine prevention activities. Almost \$558 million has already been paid, committed or pledged. An estimated \$204 million has already been disbursed to humanitarian organizations as of early April, with additional \$331 million committed and \$30 million pledged. Combined resources made available represent almost 68% of the requirements of the Operational Plan for Famine Prevention issued on 18 February, which is seeking \$825 to reach 5.5 million people affected by drought with life-saving and livelihood support in the first six months of 2017. Donors are encouraged to continue fast-tracking disbursement of pledges and commitments to ensure that partners have the necessary cash at hand for their operations.

## Pooled funds

Funding from pooled funds – Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) – has been critical for international and national partners. In addition to more than \$50 million combined since December 2016, additional rapid response CERF funds are set aside for health, nutrition, WASH, shelter and logistics clusters. The funds will be used for life-saving activities in the most food insecure areas and to beef up the response to cholera outbreak. Further funds are also being sought for channelling through the SHF.



Real-time information sharing about the available resources is essential for ensuring the overall efficiency of humanitarian response in Somalia.

Donors and recipient agencies are strongly encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS – <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions. Reporting can be done through the [online reporting form](#) or by e-mailing the [reporting template](#) to [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org).

This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued on 14 April 2017.