

### Context

Sanaag region is on the north eastern tip of Somaliland and neighbors Sool and Togdheer regions. The population of Sanaag region is estimated at 270,367 (UNDP 2005), with more than 79% living in the rural areas. Some part of Sanaag region is claimed by both Somaliland and Puntland – particularly areas bordering Puntland, which are predominantly inhabited by clans who have close kinship affinity with the clans in Puntland. However, Somaliland controls the majority of the districts in the region. The region is divided administratively into four districts of Erigavo, Ceel Afweyn, Badhan and Laas Qoray.

In terms of livelihoods, Sanaag is predominantly pastoral with pockets of agro-pastoral areas. Cultivation of frankincense is a livelihood activity for small number of people in the region. The region, like most of the neighboring regions, experienced recurrent droughts for many years which severely depleted livestock herds and resulted in urban migration. For better protection, displaced people from drought-affected regions moved to areas where their sub-clans reside and where humanitarian assistance and other public services are available. The exact number of people displaced by these droughts is unknown because most have integrated into host communities.

Humanitarian access and security remain a huge challenge to the overall humanitarian effort in Sanaag due to the political dispute of administrative ownership of the region between Puntland and Somaliland. The main humanitarian issues in the region include lack of adequate livelihood sources, especially among drought-affected pastoralists and urban poor; and hyperinflation, which affects the purchasing power of the most vulnerable groups.

### Humanitarian Needs

**Food Security:** Pastoralism, which is the main source of livelihood in Eastern Sanaag region, was seriously constrained by prolonged droughts in the region. According to the 2012 Post Gu Food Security and Nutrition Assessments, 56,000 people are in *crisis* while 13,000 are in *emergency* in the region. The food security situation in East Golis livelihood deteriorated from *serious* in Deyr 2011/12 to *crisis* in 2012 Post Gu. This led to a reduction in income and purchasing power for food and other items.

**Nutrition:** The nutrition situation in the Nugal Valley livelihood in Sanaag deteriorated from *critical* phase in Deyr 2011/12 to very *critical* in Post Gu 2012. Assessments in Nugal Valley livelihood in Sanaag in September 2012 indicated a GAM rate of 20.1% and a SAM of 5.4% (compared with a GAM rate of 16.3% and a SAM of 5.2% recorded in post Deyr 2011/12). Furthermore, the FSNAU 2012 post Gu assessments indicate 7,250 cases of acutely malnourished and 1,450 cases of severely malnourished in Sanaag region. The nutrition situation in East Golis did not improve from the *serious* levels of Deyr 2011/12.

**Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH):** In the districts of Laasqoray and Ceergaabo, only 20-40% of the population has access to improved sanitation, and the same proportion have access to a protected water source (FSNAU 2009-2011). The situation in Ceel Afweyn district is better, with 40-60% of the population having access to improved sanitation, and the same proportion with access to a protected water source.

**Protection:** As part of its fight against armed rebels along the Galgala Mountains, the Government of Puntland has imposed an embargo on some areas along Galgala Mountains and coastlines. This has adversely affected a large portion of the population. The people directly affected are located in Maraje, Ceelayo, Xamur, Harweyn, Huliya and Maqar. Households have limited market supplies, forcing them to deplete their stocks and in some cases flee the area.

**Shelter & NFIs:** The shelter situation of IDPs in the different districts is appalling. IDPs and other rural and urban poor people are living in make-shift huts made from local sticks and plastic sheets. The environment surrounding the settlements where IDPs are living is heavily deforested. As a result, strong summer winds affect the makeshift huts. Some IDPs in urban areas have either rented huts or are staying with their relatives.

## **Response & Gaps**

**Food Security:** As at September, the Food Security Cluster partners assisted 55,225 people with improved access to food and safety nets and 44,616 people with livelihoods investment activities. Partners are also implementing a livelihood project (cash for work) in the district of Badhan and its surrounding drought affected locations. Following the release of the FSNAU-led *Gu* seasonal assessment report, the cluster is supporting key populations in crisis with general food distributions, protecting livelihoods and increasing productive assets through food for assets and food for training activities. It is also supporting TB and HIV/AIDS patients through institutional feeding programmes, supporting school aged students through emergency school feeding (daily hot meals and an oil incentive for girls).

**Nutrition:** A number of OTPs, including 7 fixed OTP sites and 69 outreach sites, and 28 TSFP sites have been supported by UNICEF and WFP in the region through its implementing partners (SRCS, Medair, IMC, MOH, Muslim Aid, and ARDA). Cluster partners treated 8,078 acutely malnourished under-five children and provided 16,269 under-five children and pregnant and lactating women with preventive food-based assistance as at September 2012.

**WASH:** WASH activities which are implemented in Sanaag region include rehabilitation of boreholes, construction of shallow wells, rehabilitation of *berkads*, construction of communal latrines, hygiene kit distribution, pipe rehabilitation and soap distribution. As at September, these interventions have resulted in 28,458 people gaining sustained access to water and 8,689 people obtaining temporary supply of safe water. In addition, rehabilitation of 11 dams is underway in Badhan, Dhahar and Xingalool districts by a joint initiative of WASH and Food Security Clusters through food for asset program. This is a pilot program which is expected to be rolled out in other parts in the region, if it is successfully implemented.

**Health:** The referral hospital in Badhan town is small and sometimes faces irregular or inadequate supply of drugs and services. Based on the diverse and remote nature of the region, the existing health services are inadequate and need to be scaled up. In April, the Health Cluster partners immunised and vaccinated 37,374 children during Child Health Days. As of September, 4,667 received primary/ and or basic secondary health services which makes the coverage 51 % of midyear targets, while the number of under-five children and women of child bearing age that were vaccinated reached 83,808, which is 69.7 % of the end-year target.

**Shelter/NFIs:** Horn Relief and DRC provided NFIs to 292 IDPs, but huge gaps remain and more assistance is needed.

### **Likely Developments:**

The number of people in crisis and emergency food security situation in the region is high. These affected populations will need several normal seasons to recover from the impact of prolonged and recurrent droughts. The food security situation may improve if pasture and water conditions improve as expected due to good *Deyr* rains. In addition to this, livestock prices are expected to increase during the *Hajj* period (Oct-Nov), with a consequent improvement in the Terms of Trade (ToT) for pastoralists. However, access and security in districts like Badhan along the disputed border areas between Somaliland and Puntland will remain a challenge for humanitarian organizations.

### **Operational Partners:**

**Food Security:** WFP, FAO/FSNAU, DRC, CARE

**Nutrition:** WFP, IMC

**WASH:** UNICEF, DRC, OPT

**Education:** UNICEF

**Health Sector:** UNICEF, WHO

### **Sources**

1. UNDP population Figure - 2005
2. Presentation: Northwest Region Gu 12 presentations (FSNAU)
3. Cluster 3W data for the region (OCHA)
4. Nutrition Analysis Post Gu 2012, Technical Series Report No VI. 47, September 26, 2012

5. Food Security and Nutrition Analysis, Post Gu 2012, Technical Series Report No VI. 48, October 18, 2012
6. Single Reporting Format- September 2012

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