



**ACTED**



**RACIDA**

# ACTED DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT SOMALI REGION, ETHIOPIA, POST SHORT RAINS 2021





# POST SHORT RAINS 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT: OVERVIEW

In the Somali Region of Ethiopia, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are facing dire emergency conditions due to recurrent drought and poor performing rains that have affected livelihoods and food security for millions of households throughout Ethiopia; with the IPC estimating that as many as 8.5 million people (7.1 million classified as Phase 3 Crisis, and 1.4 million at Phase 4 Emergency) may be highly food insecure through June 2021. COVID-19 and Desert locust are exacerbating the negative effects on food security in Ethiopia.

As a result of below-average hagaya/deyr rainfall between October and December 2020, poor availability of pasture and water has resulted in significant Belg production losses in southern pastoral areas—which has also contributed to “the decrease in livestock prices, coupled with the high staple food prices, is resulting in low purchasing power for poor households” (FEWS NET, 2020).



## METHODOLOGY & APPROACH

ACTED carried out a *Drought Needs Assessment* between 15 and 26 February in the Somali Region of Ethiopia, and within the Woredas of **Dollo Bay, Bokol Manyo, Dollo Ado** and **Filtu**; covering and 10 individual sites (see KII breakdown in **Table 1** below). The assessment was conducted by a team of ACTED local partner staff (RACIDA) based in Dollo Ado, and included **20 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with community committee members (5%), community leaders (55%), community elders (20%), religious leaders (5%), representatives of women’s groups (10%) and gatekeepers (5%).

To accommodate timing and resource constraints, one (1), two (2) and in one case three (3) KIIs were conducted at each site. KIIs were guided using structured questionnaires delivered through face-to-face surveys that used an open data kit (ODK/KOBO) mobile-based application and hand-held mobile devices/smartphones for data collection.

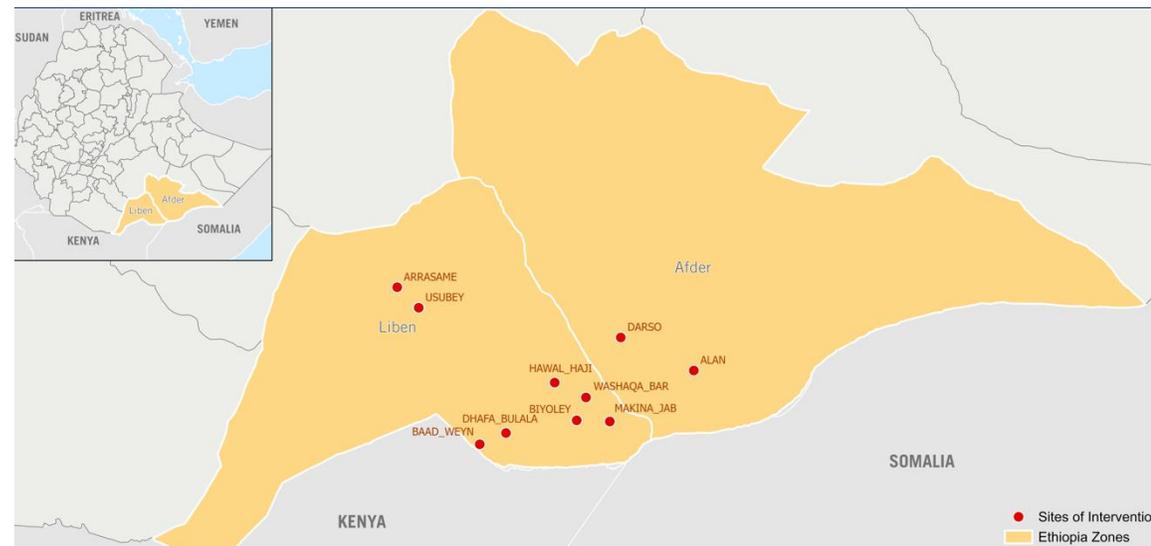


## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Among the respondents, **10% (n=2) were female and 90% (n=18) were male**; 10% were from Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps, while 90% were Rural Non-IDP respondents from host communities. When given the option to select multiple criteria, **respondents considered that 74% of their respective populations were pastoralists on average**, while a smaller proportion were considered either *agriculturalists* (9%), *agro-pastoralists* (10%), or other (7%).

**Table 1: Breakdown of KII Site Assessments by Zone, Woreda and Site**

Zone	Woreda	Site	# of KIIs	Percent of Total KIIs
Afder	Dollo Bay	Alan	2	10%
		Darso	2	10%
	Bokol Manyo	Baad Weyn	1	5%
		Dhafa Bulala	3	15%
		Hawai Haji	2	10%
Liben	Dollo Ado	Biyoley	2	10%
		Makina Jab	2	10%
		Washaqa Bar	2	10%
	Filtu	Arrasame	2	10%
		Usubey	2	10%
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>20</b>	<b>100%</b>



The map above provides an overview of sites and woredas from Afder and Liben Zones included in the assessment.



## LIMITATIONS

The findings of this assessment are meant to provide an accurate portrayal of the realities on the ground but should be considered as generalizations more broadly of the overall and immediate circumstances and issues facing the communities where respondents were interviewed. As data was collected using KIIs, it should be stressed that the figures provided here should not be considered as statistically representative of the assessed populations, either at the site level or district or regional levels.

A major limiting factor was that to ensure a timely deployment with the limited availability of resources for conducting the assessment, ACTED’s implementing partner could not engage in deeper investigation through focus groups or semi-structured qualitative interviews. However, ACTED has relied on observations from its local partner and ACTED Program staff to provide additional context and references regarding the findings.



# POST SHORT RAINS 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## POPULATION MOVEMENT & FOOD SECURITY

RESPONDENTS ESTIMATING % OF RESIDENTS ABLE TO MEET FOOD NEEDS

Between 50% to 75% of residents

Between 35 to 50% of residents

Less Than 35% of residents

3%

16%

95%



80%

of Respondents Identify the shortage of water during the short rains as contributing to the food shortages and general deterioration in food security.



### POPULATION MOVEMENT:

Respondents' feedback indicated a strong upward trend in population movement, as **65% of respondents report population movements mainly due to the loss of livelihoods as a result of the droughts in the past three (3) months**. New arrivals at the assessed sites over the past three (3) months were also reported by 45% of respondents, while 50% found that households had left the sites. The primary reason for displacement given was **"loss of livelihood due to drought"** (85%, see **Graph 1** at right).

Sites ranged in size from a *few hundreds to thousands* of households (877 households on average, ranging from 300 to 3500 households per site). The **sites visited under this Drought Needs Assessment represent a total population of over 11,344 households (approximately 77,074 individuals)**. Respondents who saw the number of residents leaving the camps, shared it represented on average 20% of the sites population. Households leaving (Dolo Oddo, Bokol Mayo and Filtu) could range from a few dozen to several hundred depending on the location.

Respondents in **Dollo Bay** and **Filtu** also observed that **new camps** were being created to deal with the influx of newly displaced households. However, respondents viewed that these new camps (named: *Alan IDP, Darso IDP and Golbo*) generally as being **underequipped as missing all basic needs, and with significant water and shelter needs**.



### FOOD SECURITY:

One quarter (25%) of respondents felt that within the previous month, as well as over the past three months (30%), the food security situation deteriorated either *significantly* or *slightly* due to lack of animal pasture and loss of livestock as a result of the droughts. Most respondents show that there was a marked consideration across the districts that by-and-large the availability and accessibility of food was strained, as almost all (95%) respondents believe that less than 35% of the population are regularly able to meet their food needs.

Generally, respondents seemed to anticipate that **the food security situation would either not change (65%) or deteriorate (20%) in the coming 1-3 months**. Furthermore, there was also significant feedback regarding the observation of continued food price inflation making it more difficult to purchase foods in addition to unavailability or shortages of many common staples—90% of respondents observed that prices had increased compared with the previous month. Markets were also reported to have limited accessibility by almost all respondents (90%).

A vast majority of respondents reported the droughts as being the main challenge for communities to meet their food needs (see **Graph 2** at right).

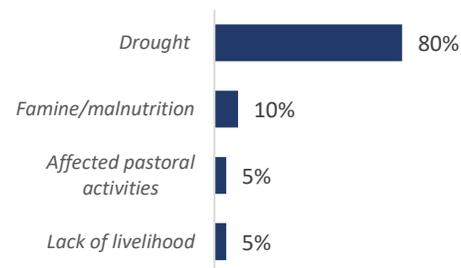
Graph 1: Main Reasons for Displacement

GRAND TOTAL		85%	15%
Filtu	Usubey	50%	50%
	Arrasame	100%	
Dolo Bay Dolo Oddo	Makina Jab	100%	
	Biyoley	100%	
Dollo Bay	Darso	100%	
	Alan	100%	
Bokol Mayo	Hawal Haji	100%	
	Dhafa Bulala	100%	

■ Loss of Livelihood due to the droughts ■ Inaccessibility of services

Note: Graph 1 excludes the percentage of respondents (35%) who did not report any population displacement in their location (n=7).

Graph 2: main challenges communities face in meeting their food need (share of respondents)



### FOOD SOURCES & CASH PROGRAMMING:

As a percentage of overall household access to food, respondents identified three (3) primary food sources: food purchase (55% of HH food consumption); own livestock production (24%); and food aid or food for work (10%). Respondents identified agricultural production as only 4% of the total proportion of food sources.

None of the respondents identified the presence of cash assistance or programming (cash for work, unconditional cash or food vouchers).



# POST SHORT RAINS 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

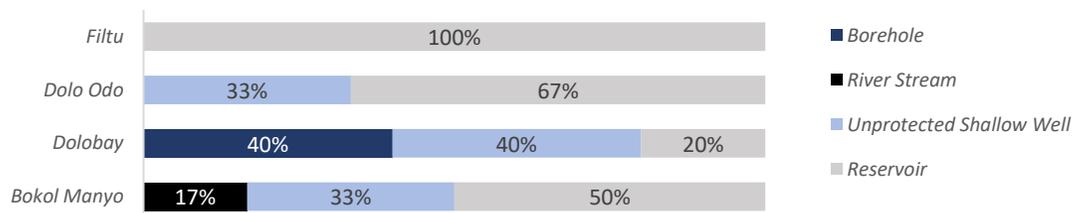


### WASH: WATER ACCESS

Respondents identified a total of 21 water points—also specifying that only **52% were functioning while 67% were under strain**. In total, **90% of respondents felt that the availability of water WOULD NOT improve** over the coming 1 month; while 85% felt that water availability would not improve within the coming 3 months (i.e. indicating little anticipated improvement of water availability between 1 and 3 months in the future). The largest proportion of Respondents identified that **81% of the water points did not produce sufficient water for drinking and** for any other purpose as well.

Respondents identified that, on average, **there was as much as a 60% reduction in water consumption by households** given water shortages (i.e. specified as a reduction from 7 20L jerry cans of water utilized per day to 2 jerry cans on average per household). This signifies a reduction from around 23L to almost 7L per person per day on average; significantly below Sphere Standard recommendations of 15L per person per day. Moreover, respondents identified that at least one-quarter of their communities' households do not have sufficient water containers.

Graph 3: Sources of Water



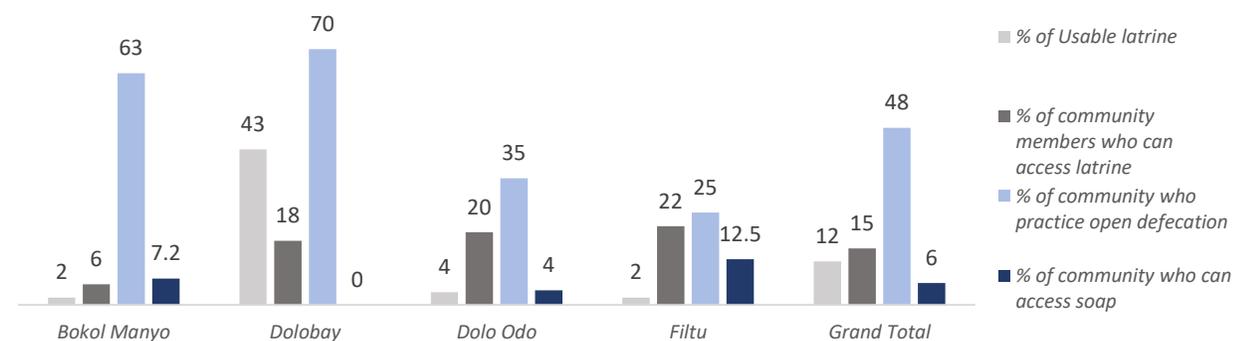
**Graph 3** above shows a breakdown of the sources of water identified by respondents—with the most prevalent sources of water being reservoirs (57%); unprotected shallow wells (28.5%) and boreholes (9.5%). River streams (5%) made up a very low proportion of respondents' sources for accessing water.



### WASH: SANITATION

The majority (85%) of the sites included in the assessment had latrines. Unfortunately, these sites had a very small number of latrines. The average number of users per latrine according to respondents' estimates may be as high as **215 people per latrine** across all sites with the exception of one outlier – a site that had 3500 households but only two latrines. **Graph 4** Below provides a cross-section of respondent estimates on latrine status or community practice as a proportion of all latrines or population at that site. On average, **12% of latrines were viewed as "usable"**, while **15% were viewed as "accessible"**. The proportion of **community members practicing open defecation was identified at 48%** on average.

Graph 4: Sanitation/ Latrine Status



Generally respondents identified certain deficiencies regarding how latrines were equipped. **None** of the latrines are gender segregated; they are never well lit (i.e. lighting at night for safety); and only around 14% of the latrines have some sort of locking mechanism.



# POST SHORT RAINS 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## LIVELIHOOD IMPACT: PASTORALISM & AGRICULTURE



## PROTECTION & SAFETY



## HUMANITARIAN ACTORS & IMMEDIATE NEEDS



### LIVELIHOODS: PASTORALISM

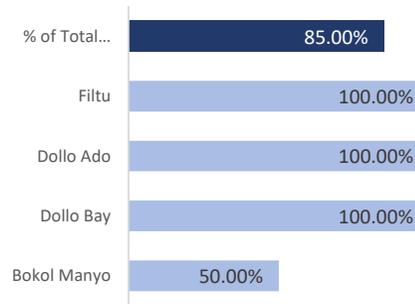
Most respondents identified that pastoral, or agro-pastoral livelihoods (74% and 10% respectively) were the primary income source of households from the assessed sites. The percentage of respondents identifying the depletion of pastureland for grazing over the previous 6 months was high and ubiquitous across woredas with **85% of respondents identifying pasture depletion** (i.e. due to drought/lack of rains) as being present/relevant across all woredas.

Most respondents (**71%**) estimated that **between 50 and 75% of pastureland for grazing was depleted**; with around **29% of respondents identifying that between 75 and 100% of pastureland had been depleted**. The primary two causes were seen as being predominantly **due to the lack of rains (94% of respondents)**, and flooding (6%). However, respondents identifying pasture depletion due to flooding were only from Bokol Manyo.

**Neither locusts** nor overgrazing were cited as a cause of pasture erosion. Across all locations, **85% of respondents** identified pastoralists were moving more in search of pasture and water (see **Graph 3** at right). **65% of respondents identified livestock loss** as being prevalent in their locations, with Dollo Bay and Filtu showing the strongest response as to the presence of livestock loss. Of the respondents who provided a reason for why pastoralists were experiencing livestock loss, 39% cited disease; while an equal proportion (39%) also cited the cause as primarily being related to drought, lacking access to water and/or vegetation.

Respondents were asked if the drought affects and pasture depletion were creating inter-communal tensions. More than half of respondents (**53%**) identified that **tensions were increasing** within communities due to the drought conditions and water shortages—with 100% of KIs from Dollo Bay citing an increase in inter-communal tensions.

Graph 3: Respondents who believe pastoralists moved from their area to other locations in search of pasture and water



### LIVELIHOODS: AGRICULTURE

Across all woredas, 10% of the population depend on agro-pastoral activities according to the key informants.

When asked about the previous long-rain growing season, **a vast majority of respondents identified crop failure as occurring (86%)**. Almost half of respondents (43%) also felt that there was a future threat of **crop failure anticipated for the 2021 harvest** following this year's long rains, while 28.5% did not think this would occur and 28.5% did not have an opinion on the matter.

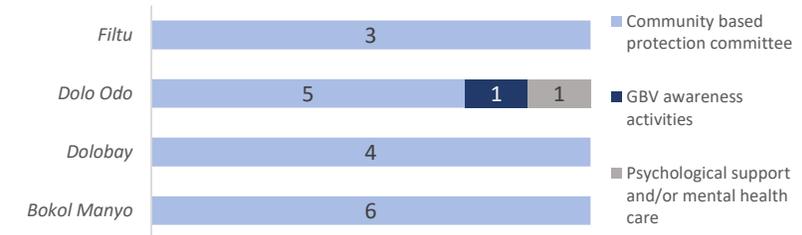
While one respondent from Bokol Manyo reported the past crop failures were due to flooding, all other respondents (83%) shared it was due to the past droughts. Lack of rains was reported to be the main reason to think crop failure would persist (reported by 100% of respondents).



### PROTECTION & SAFETY:

Key informants were able to identify the presence and/or **existence of 20 protection-related activities**, with the majority (90%) of the services being provided by **community-based protection organizations**. SGBV prevention activities and mental health care were present in 1 out of 4 woreda (see **Graph 5** below) indicating they may be less prevalent.

Graph 5: Type & Number of Protection Activities per Woreda



General safety concerns were not identified as being prevalent, with over 80% of respondents reporting that they did not have any safety or security issues in accessing food (i.e. going to market, fetching water, etc.). However, the **nearly 20% of respondents who did identify safety concerns almost always identified the threat of SGBV** against women who travel outside of the home to conduct any of the previously mentioned activities.



### HUMANITARIAN ACTORS & IMMEDIATE NEEDS:

All the respondents indicated the lack of presence of humanitarian actors in their woreda **Food & cash (100%), Water (95%) and health (60%)** were identified by respondents as the most immediate needs of communities across all areas.



# POST SHORT RAINS 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



### KEY FINDINGS:

- Loss of livestock and strain on pastoral livelihoods due to drought conditions, lack of access to water and suitable grazing pastures were prominent features of the feedback received from KIs.
- Much of the displacement was cited as being due to drought, with 65% of respondents reporting population movements as a result in the past three (3) months. New arrivals at the assessed sites were also reported by 45% of respondents, while 50% found that households had left the sites.
- 90% of KIs observed continued food price inflation over the previous month, making it more difficult to purchase foods in addition price increases creating shortages of many common staples.
- 52% of water points were observed by KIs to be functioning while 67% were seen as being under strain. 90% of respondents felt that the availability of water WOULD NOT improve over the coming 1 month; while 85% felt that water availability would not improve within the coming 3 months. Average water consumption was less than half (i.e. 7 L/P/D) of the Sphere Standard recommendation of 15 L/P/D.
- Only 12% of latrines were viewed as being usable, while 15% were viewed as being accessible. The proportion of community members practicing open defecation was identified at 48% on average.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Rapid response to alleviate stressed household food security and livelihoods should focus on cash-based assistance in order to offset livestock loss and/or mitigate household income shortfalls.
- As water access remains below SPHERE standards, water asset rehabilitation should be prioritized in order to reduce the number of households reliant on unprotected and unsafe water sources and to increase overall supply of water from existing assets.
- Water supply activities should also be coupled with hygiene promotion activities such as clean water storage and treatment (possibly coupled with NFI distribution of water containers/Jerry Cans, soap, etc.).
- Latrine rehabilitation/construction should create gender segregated latrines with handwashing facilities wherever feasible (in tandem with increased water supply from water point rehabilitation/construction).

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