



# ACTED DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT – SOOL, SANAAG AND TOGDHEER POST DEYR RAINS 2021





# POST DEYR 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT: OVERVIEW

Poor performing *Deyr* rains in late 2020 in Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer have led to concerns that many communities who are already experiencing elevated IPC<sup>1</sup> classification at *crisis-* and/or *emergency* needs, will also face drought conditions and water scarcity in 2021, further exacerbating dire humanitarian conditions on the ground. The Somali WASH cluster has already noted significantly increasing prices for 200-liter barrels of water, with some areas of Sanaag and Togdheer seeing rates as high as \$3 to \$5 per 200 liters (Somali WASH Cluster, January 2021).

The poor and erratic rainfall in late 2020 will therefore likely serve as one of the primary drivers of food insecurity across Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer in 2021, with as many as 2.7 million people facing IPC Phase 3 or above through mid-2021 without humanitarian assistance (FSNAU Technical Release, February 2021).

## METHODOLOGY & APPROACH

In anticipation of Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer Regions already being in the onset of a drought crisis, ACTED has carried out a *Drought Needs Assessment* between 8 and 12 February in these three areas; covering nine (9) districts and 32 individual sites (see KII breakdown in **Table 1** below). The assessment was conducted by a team of ACTED program staff based in Badhan and included **95 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)** with community committee members (24%), community leaders (35%), community elders (11%), religious leaders (1%), representatives of women’s groups (26%), and others (3%).

To accommodate timing and resource constraints, three (3) and in some cases four (4) 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.

## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Among the respondents, **34% were female and 66% were male**; 43% were Internally Displaced People (IDPs), while 25% and 32% respectively were Rural and Urban Non-IDP respondents from host communities.

When given the option to select multiple criteria, **92% of respondents considered themselves as pastoralists**, while a smaller proportion considered themselves as either *agriculturalists* (14%), or *agro-pastoralists* (11%).

**Table 1: Breakdown of Site Assessments by Region and District**

Region	District	Site Names	# of KIIs	# of Sites in Ea. District	% of Site Total
Sanaag	Badhan	Afgeed, Hamar, Bandar_Same, Cawsane, Haylan, Hingalol, Midigale	18	6	19%
	Dhahar	Baraagaha Qol	3	1	3%
	Elafwayn	Laasdomare	4	1	4%
Sool	Erigavo	Ardaa, Dawaco, Jidali, Yube	12	4	13%
	Garadag	Garadag	2	1	2%
	Aynabo	Aynabo, Bali Caraale, Oog, Waridaad, Xood	15	5	16%
Togdheer	Hudun	Hudun	3	1	3%
	Buhodle	Balli Docol, Daarasalaam, Gocondhaale, Shangalle	11	4	12%
	Burao	18 May A, 18 May B, Alla-Aamin, Barwaqo, Ceeg, Dhooboweyne, Nabad Iyo Nasiye, Warabeye, Xayir Cali	27	9	28%
<b>3 Regions</b>	<b>9 Districts</b>		<b>95 / 100%</b>	<b>32 Sites</b>	<b>100%</b>



The map above provides an overview of sites and districts included in the assessment.

## LIMITATIONS

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 and regional levels. 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.

Another limiting factor is that, in the interests of a timely deployment and due to limited availability of resources for conducting this assessment, field teams did not engage in deeper investigation through focus groups or semi-structured qualitative interviews. However, ACTED has relied on some of the general observations from field team members / ACTED Program staff to provide additional contextual references with regard to the overall findings herein.



# POST DEYR 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT: POPULATION MOVEMENT & FOOD SECURITY



## PROPORTION OF RESIDENTS SEEN AS ABLE TO MEET FOOD NEEDS

Between 50% to 75%  
3%

Between 35 to 50%  
16%

Less Than 35%  
81%

83%

*Of Respondents Identify the shortage of water during the Deyr rains as contributing the food shortages and general deterioration in food security.*

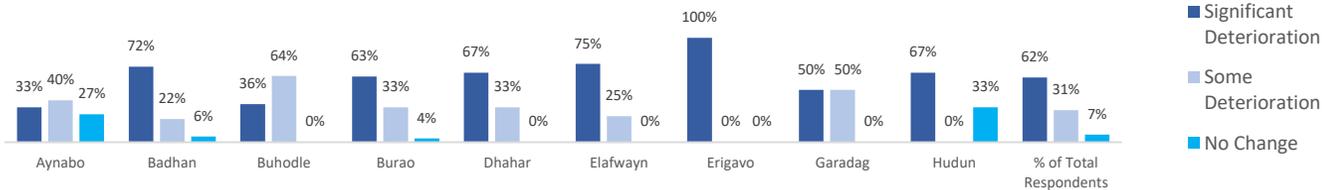
### POPULATION MOVEMENT:

Respondents' feedback regarding population movements indicated a strong upward trend in new arrivals at the assessed sites, with **71% of respondents mentioning that there was an increase in the number of arrivals over the past three (3) months**, while only 41% found that households had left the sites. The primary reason for displacement was given as **"loss of livelihood due to drought" (65.3%, see Graph 1 at right)**.

Sites ranged in size from several dozen to a *few hundred*, and *several thousand* households. The **sites visited under this Drought Needs Assessment represent a population of over 13,000 households (approximately 80,000 individuals)**. Respondents saw the number of residents leaving the camps as being more proportional to the size of the camp. Households leaving could range from a few dozen to several hundred depending on the location.

Respondents in **Aynabo, Badhan, Burao districts** 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: *Alla-Amin, Ceeg and "15"*) generally as being **underequipped and with significant water needs**.

**Graph 2: Level of Deterioration of Food Security in the Past 3 Months**

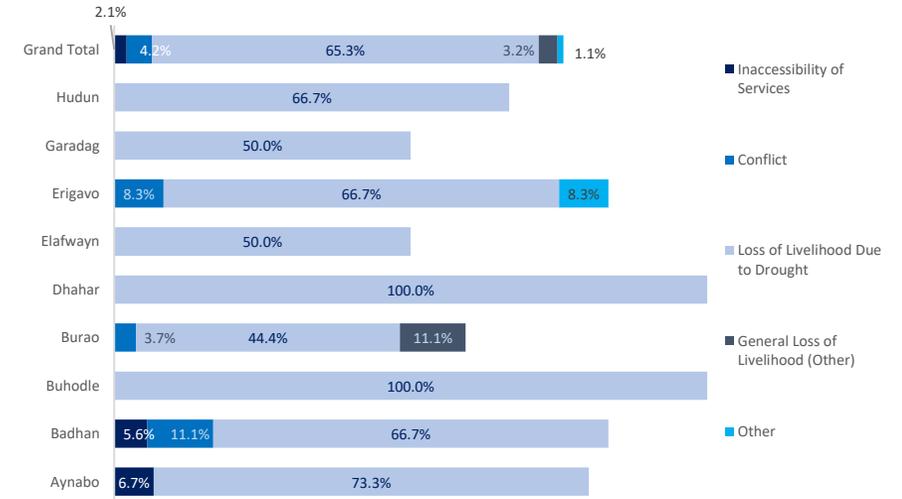


### FOOD SECURITY:

Generally, respondents (60%) seemed to anticipate that **the food security situation would not improve in the coming 1-3 months**, either significantly deteriorating (36%), or showing some deterioration (24%). However, a larger proportion felt that the food security situation would largely stay the same in the coming 1-3 months as opposed to the previous 3 months.

Most respondents felt that within the previous one month (78%), as well as over the past three months (93%) the food security situation deteriorated either significantly or slightly (see **Graph 2** above), but that there was a marked consideration across the districts that by-and-large the availability and accessibility of food was strained. 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—**61% of respondents observed that prices had increased** compared with the previous month.

**Graph 1: Main Reasons for Displacement**



*Note: Graph 1 excludes the percentage of respondents who did not answer (24%) for clarity in presentation. The excluded portion from each district are the remaining proportion of respondents who chose not to provide an answer for the reasons of their displacement.*

### FOOD SOURCES & CASH PROGRAMMING:

As a percentage of overall household access to food, respondents identified three (3) primary food sources: food purchase (28% of HH food consumption); own livestock production (28%); and gifts or charity (22%). Respondents identified agricultural production as less than 1% of the total proportion of food sources.

Respondents in 5 out of 9 districts identified the presence of unconditional cash transfer (UCT) assistance or programming. However, the proportion of respondents overall was around one-third (34%).



# POST DEYR 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)



*Water point is not functioning* 23%

*Water point is under strain* 72%

*Produces enough water for drinking* 12%



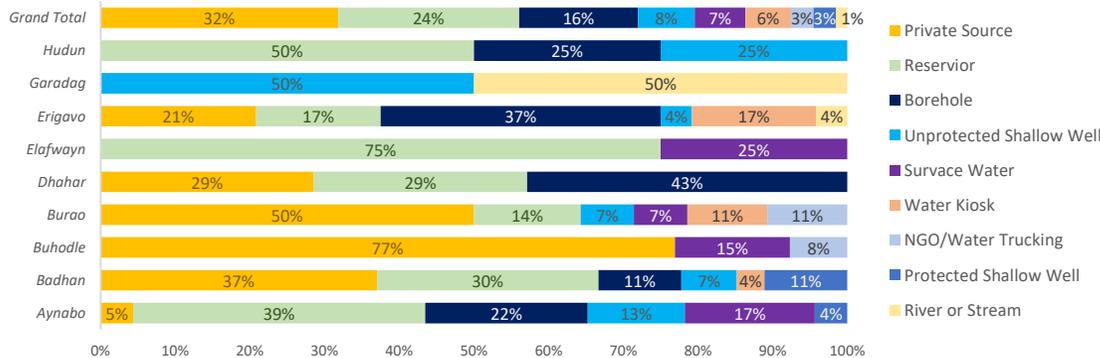
### WASH: WATER ACCESS

Respondents identified a total of 132 water points—also specifying that only **77% were functioning while 72% were under strain**. In total, **86% of respondents felt that the availability of water WOULD NOT improve** over the coming 1 month; while only 40% felt that water availability would not improve within the coming 3 months (i.e. indicating some anticipated improvement of water availability between 1 and 3 months in the future).

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 5 20L jerry cans of water utilized per day to 2 jerry cans on average per household). This signifies a reduction from around 17L to almost 7L per person per day on average; significantly below Sphere Standard recommendations of 15L per person per day.

Respondents identified that around one-third of their communities' households do not have sufficient water access. The largest proportion of Respondents identified that **88% of the water points did not produce sufficient water for drinking**, with 83% not producing enough water for any other purpose as well.

Graph 3: Respondent Sources of Water



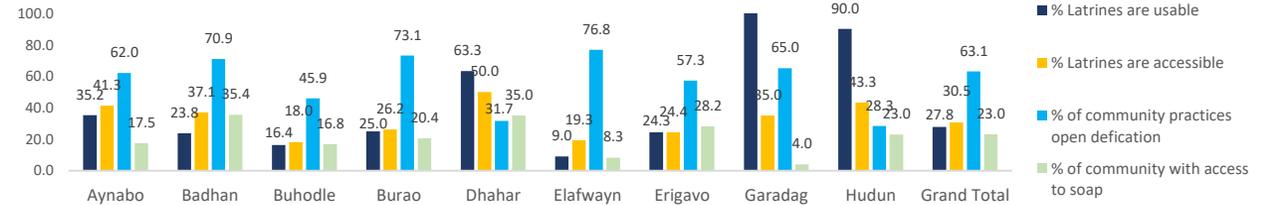
Graph 3 above shows a breakdown of the sources of water identified by respondents—with the most prevalent sources of water being those owned privately or on private property (32%); reservoirs (24%); boreholes (16%); and unprotected shallow wells (8%). Water trucking (3%) made up a very low proportion of respondents' sources for accessing water.



### WASH: SANITATION

The average number of users per latrine according to respondents' estimates may be as high as **148 people per latrine** across all sites included in the assessment. 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, less-than one-third (**28%**) of latrines were viewed as "usable", while **31% were viewed as "accessible"**. The proportion of **community members practicing open defecation was identified at 63%** on average.

Graph 4: Latrine Status



While there may be some available skepticism as to the accuracy of the data reported by key informants as to the specific features of latrines within the assessed sites, generally respondents identified certain deficiencies regarding how latrines were equipped. Table 2 below shows that on average, latrines are almost never gender segregated; they are almost never well lit (i.e. lighting at night for safety); and only around half of the latrines have some sort of locking mechanism.

Table 2: Latrine Features

	Latrines Are Gender Segregated	Latrines Have Locks	Latrines are Well Lit
Aynabo	0%	46%	20%
Badhan	0%	49%	0%
Buhodle	0%	57%	23%
Burao	0%	65%	1%
Dhahar	0%	12%	0%
Elafwayn	0%	n/a	0%
Erigavo	7%	n/a	3%
Garadag	0%	8%	3%
Hudun	0%	60%	0%
Grand Total	0%	50%	8%



# POST DEYR 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## LIVELIHOOD IMPACT: PASTORALISM & AGRICULTURE

### PROTECTION & SAFETY

### HUMANITARIAN ACTORS & IMMEDIATE NEEDS



#### LIVELIHOODS: PASTORALISM

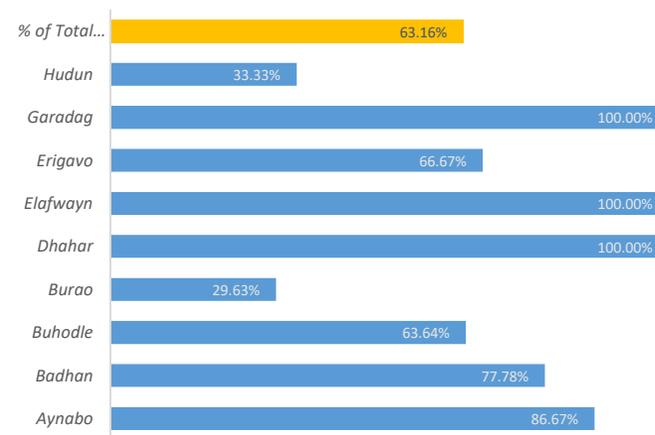
Most respondents identified the primary focus of pastoral livelihoods (92%) as an income source. However, the percentage of respondents identifying the depletion of pastureland for grazing over the previous 6 months was varied depending on the district where the respondent was located—overall, only **44% of respondents on average identified pasture depletion** (i.e. due to drought) as being present/relevant.

However, **100% of respondents from Badhan, Dhahar and Erigavo identified pasture depletion** as occurring—where 89% of respondents from Badhan estimated proportion of pasture that was depleted as being between 50-75% over what was available the previous year. Respondents from Dhahar and Erigavo cited the same percentage of depletion among **67% and 83% of respondents respectively**—with two (2) respondents in these areas placing pasture depletion at 75% to 100%.

**Lack of rains, locusts and flooding** were cited as the top three (3) reasons for pasture erosion (44%, 41% and 44% of respondents respectively). Overgrazing was identified by 21% of respondents as a reason for pasture depletion. **44% of respondents identified livestock loss** as being prevalent in their locations, with Badhan and Erigavo showing the strongest response as to the presence of livestock loss. Across all locations, **63% of respondents** identified pastoralists were moving more in search of pasture and water (see **Graph 3** above).

Asked if the drought affects and pasture depletion were creating inter-communal tensions, the majority (87%) either did not reply or answered “no”. However, about one-third to one-half of respondents from El Afwayn, Dhahar and Buhodle (50%, 33% and 36% respectively) answered that drought conditions were creating tensions between communities.

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



#### LIVELIHOODS: AGRICULTURE

There was not a prevalence of feedback among KII respondents regarding agricultural livelihoods. This is observed to be related to the fact that **there were not a significant number of key informants who were engaged in agriculture**. Therefore, the impact on drought conditions related to water shortages on local agriculture production was not directly evident from the analysis of respondents’ KII data.

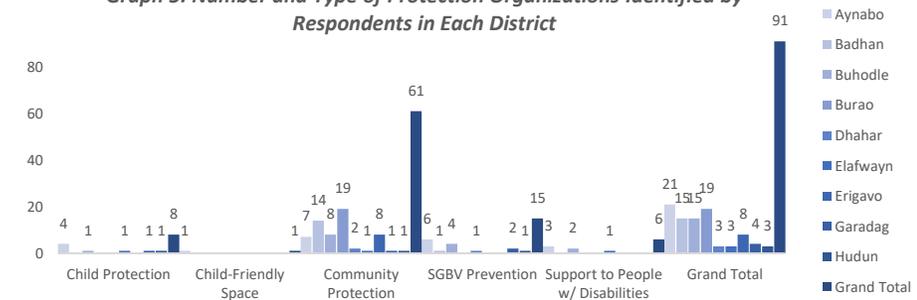
When asked about the previous long-rain (“Gu”) growing season, **only 11.6% of respondents identified crop failure as occurring**. Very few respondents (8.4%) felt that there was a future threat of crop failure anticipated for the 2021 harvest following this year’s Gu rains.



#### PROTECTION & SAFETY:

Key informants were able to identify the presence and/or **existence of 91 protection-related organizations**, with the majority (67%) being **community-based protection organizations**. Organizations specialized in SGBV prevention were present in 6 out of 9 districts. **Child protection organizations and child-friendly spaces** were identified, but were much less frequently cited by respondents (see **Graph 5** below) indicating they may be less prevalent.

**Graph 5: Number and Type of Protection Organizations Identified by Respondents in Each District**



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:

Respondents in 7 out of 9 districts were able to identify an established presence of humanitarian actors (6 INGOs and Government actors). On average, only **23% of respondents were able to identify that newly arrived humanitarian actors** or agencies came to their areas in response to drought/emergency conditions. **Water (65%), Food (33%) and Cash (55%)** were identified by respondents as the most immediate needs of communities across all areas.



# POST DEYR 2021 DROUGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

## KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Drought conditions and lack of rains have placed immediate strain on water assets, water access and livelihoods related to livestock.
- Displacement has been marked by increases in IDP new arrivals at sites and with out-migration of pastoralist communities in search of water and suitable land for grazing.
- Loss of livestock and strain on pastoral livelihoods due to drought conditions persists in negatively impacting household resilience, income and food security—particularly regarding household water access and availability.
- Water assets and hygiene facilities are also under stress and are often limited in access, are in disrepair or most often are not available (e.g. high number of users per functioning latrine).
- In addition, market price instability (price inflation) for basic and staple commodities has contributed to food insecurity.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Rapid response to alleviate stressed household food security and livelihoods should focus on cash-based assistance.
- Community water asset rehabilitation and/or construction should be implemented to restore and increase capacity of existing water assets. 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 to mitigate the widespread practice of open defecation and the limited access to latrines in the assessed areas. Construction of gender disaggregated latrines and handwashing stations should also be considered.

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