

1 March – 3 April 2019

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Drier than normal conditions prevail.
- Children on the move.
- Explosive devices impeding aid operations.
- Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia exit interview.
- Pooled effort prioritizes \$45.7 million, but more resources are urgently needed



By prioritizing those most in need of WASH aid, humanitarians are working to build more resilient communities in Somalia. Photo/OCHA.

### In this issue

- Dry conditions prevail P.1
- The *Tahriib* phenomenon P.3
- UN Mine Action P.3
- Outgoing HC interview P.5
- Humanitarian funding update P.6

### FIGURES

# of food insecure people	4.9m
# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis (IPC Phases 3 & 4)	1.5m
# of people in IPC Phase 2	3.4m
# of children projected to be malnourished in 2019	1.2m
# of people displaced internally by drought since November 2016	1.6m
# of people in protracted internal displacement	1.1m

### FUNDING

**\$1.08 BILLION**

requested in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

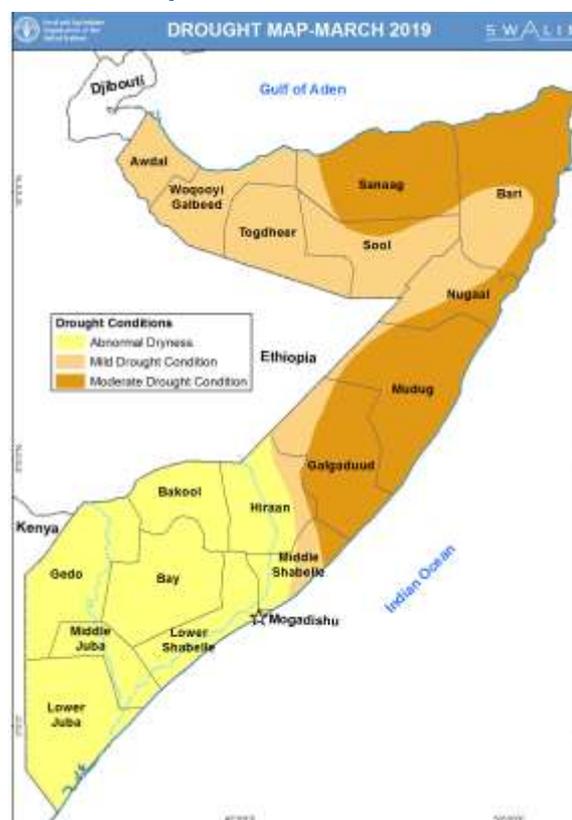
**\$135 MILLION**

Total humanitarian funding received towards the 2019 HRP

Source <http://fts.unocha.org>, 31 March 2019.

## Drier than normal conditions prevail

Significantly drier and hotter-than-normal conditions prevailed in March, with an increased likelihood of dry conditions and above-average temperatures continuing until the onset of the *Gu* rains in April, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET). The 2018 *Deyr* rains were not sufficient to sustain pasture through the harsh weather conditions of January to March 2019. Mild to moderate drought conditions are now imminent in many parts of northern Somalia, while southern areas are experiencing persistent abnormal dryness, according to the FAO-led Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM).



In Somaliland and Puntland, some of the worst affected areas are experiencing prolonged dryness, leading to severe water shortages and earlier-than-normal water trucking at hiked prices. Water and pasture shortages are causing livestock leaning and devaluing. On 12 March, Somaliland's Ministry of Water Resources Development declared a state of water emergency, and announced plans to start government-supported water trucking to Sool, Sanaag, parts of Togdheer and the coastal areas.

### Increase in water prices

In Puntland's most affected areas such as Bari, Karkaar, north Mudug and Sanaag, water price increases range between 10 and 25 per cent with the highest reported in Nugaal where 200 liters now cost US\$8, up from \$5 in January. Water shortages have also been reported in areas of central and southern regions of the country, mainly among pastoral communities. In Gamudug State's Hobyo and south Gaalkacyo districts, nearly 9,600 pastoralists and their livestock are experiencing water shortages due to worsening *Jilaa* season dry conditions. In Jubaland State, nearly 24,000 pastoralists in areas in Baardheere, are in a similar situation where the price of water has nearly quadrupled to \$7.50 from \$2 for 200 liters. The prices in the affected areas are likely to go up if the dry

Humanitarians are conducting assessments in the most affected areas to establish the extend of the crisis.

conditions persist and the next *Gu* rainy season delays. Local authorities have appealed to humanitarian partners to scale up livelihood interventions to expedite recovery for communities still dealing with the effects of the 2016/17 drought and assist find sustainable solutions to the perennial water shortages. According to a recent assessment, the prices of staple foods (sorghum, maize & cowpeas) in Ceel Barde is now 20 per cent higher compared to the same time last year. The Hiraaan regional authorities are concerned about the deteriorating situation in some rural areas where livestock body conditions and production has reduced. They have called for urgent assistance to protect livelihoods in order to strengthen communities' resilience.

In Banadir region, the number of IDPs without access to adequate water has continued to rise. This comes at a time when partners are scaling down water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities due to inadequate funding. Inaccessibility to sufficient water supply is likely to compound the AWD/cholera situation in Banadir, which continues to receive new IDPs from conflict-affected areas regions. Meanwhile, reports indicate that the Juba and Shabelle river levels are very low; parts of the middle and lower reaches of the Shabelle River are reportedly dry and therefore unable to support irrigation along the river.

#### Interagency assessments in affected areas

Humanitarians are conducting assessments in the worst affected areas to establish the extent of the crisis and identify pressing needs. In Bakool, an inter-agency assessment led by Ceel Barde district administration and OCHA, to Ceel Barde town, recommended urgent WASH and food assistance for nearly 9,000 IDPs. The estimated 35,000 local residents, who mainly rely on open and unprotected shallow wells - most of which have dried up – are forming long queues for water at the only functioning borehole in the town. Consecutive seasons of poor rains and livestock losses as well as poor crop harvest have resulted in high levels of food insecurity in the area. IDPs are most affected. According to an inter-agency assessment to Qardho and Garowe IDP sites in Puntland State, the dry conditions have led to the scarcity of water and pasture, and increasing malnutrition among children, pushing people into destitution. The IDPs are now forced to rely on water trucking at high costs. The price of water in most of the sites has increased from \$4 to \$10 for 200 litres.

#### Climatic Outlook

There is a probable change in the recent forecast by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum, which had predicted a greater likelihood of near normal to above normal *Gu* rainfall in most parts of Somalia. This is due to the developments of the tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean, which are influencing the current weather, according to the latest drought watch by SWALIM. The northward movement of the rain bearing rain zone – Inter Tropical Convergence Zone - has been delayed by the existence of cyclonic systems in the Mozambican channel, thus delaying the onset of rains in Somalia and neighboring Kenya.

## Children on the move; the *Tahriib* phenomenon

Somalia stands at the crossroads between Yemen, to the east, and Ethiopia, Sudan and beyond, to the west. This makes it a popular transit for thousands of migrants making their way through the country to Europe. An estimated 90 per cent of migrants are below the age of 25, some 15 and 13 per cent of whom are below age 15 and five, respectively. The word '*tahriib*' is mostly used to refer to the exodus of young men leaving for Europe via Ethiopia, Sudan and Libya, and then across the Mediterranean Sea. Unlike previous migrations, *tahriib* is unique as it is largely a youth phenomenon.



Young men during an electrical training targeting youth who have returned from *Tahriib* in Garowe. Photo/UNICEF.

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In January alone, IOM estimated that over 23,880 persons were either settling or transiting through Somalia. Of these, 31 per cent were children, while 43 per cent were female. Six per cent were unaccompanied children and another six per cent pregnant/lactating mothers while four per cent were people with disabilities. Children under age five made up nine per cent of the migrants. Child migrants particularly, face a myriad of problems along the way including violence, extortion and exploitation, as well as multiple forms of sexual and gender based violence (GBV).

UNICEF has been providing protection services to children on the move by establishing a network of 27 child protection desks along migration corridors and in IDP settlements in Somaliland and Puntland. These desks identify, screen, and provide interim care services in eight safe houses, psychosocial support, material assistance, referrals and family reunification for children who need protection services. In addition, up to seven GBV one-stop centers, have been established to provide psychosocial first aid and to refer complicated cases for treatment to three GBV recovery centers and hospitals. In 2018, some 5,687 children were assisted through UNICEF protection services.

## Explosive hazards impede aid operations

Decades of conflict have resulted in explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination (both unexploded and abandoned ordnance) as well as landmines in Somalia. This has continued to affect socio-economic recovery, access to services and protection concerns for civilians. The majority of mined areas are along the border with Ethiopia. Continuing armed violence is also leaving explosive material in the areas of conflict. Meanwhile, the use of improvised explosive devices (IED) in urban areas and along main roads has hampered the movement of civilians and humanitarian operations.



Maps of IED attacks and Explosive hazard area: UNMAS.

In 2018, some 215 civilians were killed by IEDs and 509 others injured. Overall, 44 per cent of the fatalities caused by IEDs (215 out of 490) were civilians, while 53 per cent (509 out of 956) of the those injured were civilians. Children are at a higher risk of ERW across the country.

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There is also growing evidence of community practices that increase risks, including harvesting of explosive material for money, domestic stock-piling and use of explosive materials for commercial activities such as quarry mining. These risky practices are aggravated by unemployment and lack of awareness. The Explosive Hazard sub-cluster led by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the Somali Explosives Management Authority (SEMA), under the Protection Cluster, are providing life-saving activities, including risk education and clearance in communities affected by the threat of explosive hazards.

In March 2019, the Government of Japan donated \$1million to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action to enable the UNMAS to reduce the threat of explosive hazards in Somalia. The contribution will support risk education programmes and provide

training to the Somali Police Force to clear and manage explosive devices. Over the past five years, Japan has contributed \$7.3 million towards mine action in Somalia.

## Interview with the outgoing Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia

After nearly four years, Peter de Clercq concluded his mission to Somalia where, in addition to other UN roles since 2015, he served as the Humanitarian Coordinator. The OCHA communication team interviewed de Clercq on his perspectives.

### After nearly four years in Somalia, how do you feel as you leave the country?

*I am never happy to leave behind situations I have been committed to. In as much as I believe there is positive progress in Somalia, I am concerned that I am leaving at a time when there is high turnover among the UN Country Team members. Seven members - who were part of the 2016-2017 success story are leaving and there is still a lot of work to be done on the humanitarian side. However, there is a new team, under a new leadership and they will pull that off.*



Peter de Clercq, the outgoing Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia during an interview.

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### What are the key highlights during your four years in Somalia?

*The biggest highlight was the commitment of the Somali authorities both at the federal and member state level. Several factors contributed to the success of the drought response and famine prevention efforts in 2016/2017. Some were internal to the UN; we were finally here in significant numbers and we had built good mechanisms to address humanitarian emergency that included cash systems and better coordination structures such as the Drought Operation Coordination Centers. We also had great advocacy for resource mobilization, including by the UN Secretary-General, who made his maiden field visit as SG to Somalia, and not just to the capital, Mogadishu, but also to Baidoa, which was the epicenter of the drought. All the external factors were important, but, for me, the most important was the engagement of the Somalis. Right from the beginning, they were very determined not to allow another famine, having lost more than 250,000 lives in 2010/2011. They were keen to work with the international community to build resilient structures. We saw a depth of engagement which we hadn't had seen for three decades.*

### What is your assessment of the humanitarian situation today?

*A lot of gains have been made, however, the humanitarian situation remains fragile and there are serious trouble spots where resilience levels are very low and people have already suffered for years. The climatic conditions, in these areas, are compounding the humanitarian situation, particularly further north towards Galmadug, Puntland, Sool and Sanaag. We also continue to pay attention to internally displaced persons who remain a source of concern.*

People need to be in an economy that supports them. That economy is increasingly an urban economy.

**How do you see the linkage between the gains made and resilience programming?**  
*Well, resilience is not a new concept. We have been working on resilience for almost 10 years particularly from a family and community point of view. The anecdotal evidence shows that it works. It took three failed rainy seasons in 2016 to reach pre-famine levels, whereas in 2010/2011, one failed rainy season brought people to the brink of starvation. The Resilience Recovery Framework (RRF) that followed the drought impact assessment focuses on the role of the state and the involvement of local authorities to build a more resilient state that is able to withstand cyclic humanitarian crises rather than having the international community drive the agenda.*

**How was the relationship between Somalis, humanitarian partners and donors during the 2017 drought response?**  
*There was confidence because we did converge in our determination not to let this (famine) happen. I think, the realization that the county, state and institutions could collapse, that, and national ownership of the problem, allowed all of us to rally behind government - led initiatives. And the government rose to the occasion. We saw a national development plan in 2016, that sought to address the underlying causes of the long-standing humanitarian crisis, including food security and displacement. We are still on track. We learnt that we must start to address humanitarian crises early. Food insecurity means people cannot provide for their own food and upkeep. It means people need to be in an economy that supports them. That economy is increasingly an urban economy but this doesn't mean there won't be agriculture, livestock and fisheries. The urbanization rate is fast and it took us long to realize just how rapid it was happening and the consequences. We therefore need to invest differently in development. And, the government must continue to embrace partnership and inclusivity while the international community must also realize that partnership is needed to move forward. A vital approach is not to sequence humanitarian and development action but to implement both at the same time. We have to keep people alive in order to make them resilient. If you do not do that, you are going to have to spend more money further down the road.*

**How can the international community work more effectively with Somalis?**  
*We need to listen to the beneficiaries. We made some attempts to work on accountability to affected populations, but we never really managed to properly create that space for the voice of those who are the focus of our attention - the people of Somalia.*

**How do you see the future for Somalia?**  
*Somalia is a place of great hope. We have to be optimistic and stand up for the people and the government. Yes, there are many things still not right, including major security problems, but we have also seen a lot of positive development. We have to remain positive.*

## Pooled effort prioritizes \$45.7 million, but more resources are urgently needed

Humanitarian partners are jointly prioritizing almost \$46 million for life-saving interventions from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the northern, central and parts of southern Somalia, due to dry conditions that are expected to worsen during the ongoing *Jilaal* dry season.

The resources made available from the two funds have been prioritized in close coordination to ensure complementarity and maximum impact in addressing the needs of the most affected population. Some \$12 million has been granted by CERF through the rapid response allocation modality for the most critically affected areas in the north, where the severely food insecure population is at the highest risk of sliding from Crisis (IPC3) to Emergency (IPC4): some \$4 million will be allocated to two UN agencies (FAO and WFP) for food security interventions in Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed; and \$8 million to five UN agencies (IOM, UNFPA, UNCEF, WHO, WFP) for nutrition response supported by health and WASH in Sool, Sanaag and parts of Bari, where the nutrition situation is critical.

Some 98 per cent of SHF funds will go to national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

While the joint CERF-SHF allocation of funds will provide a major boost for response, more resources will be urgently needed to sustain response through mid-2019.

The SHF funding from the first Standard Allocation (\$33.7 million) will complement CERF in the targeted areas in the north through coordinated interventions in the same clusters, but also provide critical funding for non-CERF supported activities such as education and protection. In addition, the SHF funding will also focus on central and targeted parts of southern Somalia, through cluster-specific and integrated interventions spanning across all clusters, including some funding to support the movement of humanitarian personnel and cargo (\$0.7 million for the UN Humanitarian Air Service). Some 98 per cent of SHF funds will go to national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

FUNDING ENVELOPE BY CLUSTER (million \$)



Prioritization of the available resources from the SHF and CERF has been largely driven by the post-*Deyr* food security and nutrition assessment results, led by the FAO's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), that highlighted an increase in food insecure people (from 4.6 to 4.9 million), with a shift in the IPC3 and 4 caseload to the North, despite the numbers remaining unchanged (1.5 million) due to below-average 2018 *Deyr* rains and lingering effect of the 2016-2017 drought in some areas. This comes on top of other drivers of humanitarian needs in prioritized areas such as conflict, insecurity, protracted displacement and limited access to basic services for large segments of population.

Humanitarians have been advocating for decisive early action and additional resources since late 2018, which had been reinforced by multiple appeals by local and regional authorities. While the joint CERF-SHF allocation of funds will provide a major boost for response, more resources will be urgently needed to sustain response through mid-2019 and provide life-saving humanitarian aid and livelihood support to millions of Somalis.

By the end of March, the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan was only 12.5 per cent or \$135 million funded, with additional \$50 million made available outside of the appeal. Timely donor contributions, weather through pooled funds or directly to humanitarian partners, will remain essential to respond to the existing needs that are driven by climatic shocks, conflict and other factors to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

For further information, please contact:

Tapiwa Gomo, Head of Communication, gomo@un.org, Tel. +252 616 548 007. Antonette Miday, Public Information Officer, miday@un.org, Tel. +252-619150461. Mursal Ali Ahmed | Public Information Analyst, mursalali@un.org, Tel: +252619150457/252615679998. OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at [www.unocha.org/somalia](http://www.unocha.org/somalia) | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)