

HIGHLIGHTS

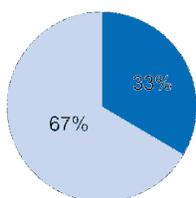
- Major food security assessment launched by WFP in Djibouti
- Relief food needs to increase significantly in parts of Ethiopia
- Over 100,000 now affected by floods in Kenya
- Over 7,000 Congolese seek refuge in Rwanda
- Rains in Somalia now expected to be 60-85 per cent of average

HORN FUNDING

2.79 billion requested

33% funded

■ Funded ■ Unmet



UNHCR/A. Bronee

Congolese refugees arrive at the Nkamira Transit Centre, Rwanda

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Djibouti: Food security assessment launched

WFP and partners have launched a rural Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) in Djibouti. The process began with a food security and data collection training for enumerators and partners held from 30 April to 3 May, followed by data collection in the five regions from 5-13 May. Preliminary findings will be presented in June. The aims of this in-depth assessment are to: (i) estimate the proportion of the rural food insecure in the five regions of Djibouti; (ii) further substantiate the main causes of food insecurity; and (iii) provide broad, feasible and appropriate recommendations on response options for improving food security. The household questionnaire is designed to provide quantitative data in the following areas of interest: (a) food security profiles and socio-economic characteristics; (b) household expenditures; (c) household food consumption patterns (frequency, diversity and source); (d) access to food, health, water, sanitation and education services; (e) household exposure and response to risk, including coping strategies; (f) assets and livelihoods; (g) normal and abnormal migration patterns; (h) seasonality of food insecurity and employment; and (i) screening for acute malnutrition using mid-upper-arm-circumference (MUAC).

The food security situation in Djibouti is poor. The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted by all food security partners in December 2011 placed about half the country under Phase II "Stress" with the other half under Phase III as "Crisis". According to FAO, the situation has not changed much since then, as a result of the poor start of the coastal rains. This is expected to have negative effects on pasture regeneration and replenishing of water levels, which were already at extremely low levels. The food security situation will hinge greatly on the performance of the coming diraac/sougoum (March to May) rains. However the poor start of rain season, along with high and rising staple food prices, is already pushing households towards higher levels of food insecurity, particularly in the north-west and south-east pastoral livelihood zones.

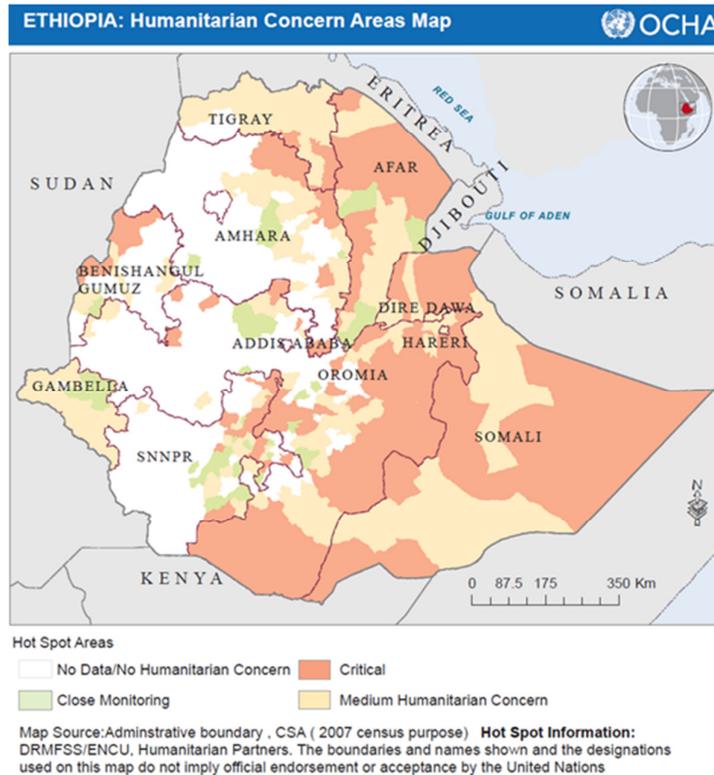
Ethiopia

Relief food needs likely to increase between April and September

In Ethiopia, relief food needs are expected to increase significantly in *belg* crop-producing parts of Ethiopia between April and September 2012. According to the latest Food Security Outlook issued by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS-NET) and WFP, poor households in *belg*-receiving parts of southern and north-eastern Ethiopia (southern and eastern Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Region [SNNPR] and Oromia, southern Tigray, eastern Amhara and north-eastern Afar) are expected to become increasingly food insecure due to poor crop and livestock production resulting from the late onset and below-average performance of the mid-February to May rains, which arrived between two and eight weeks late, depending on location. The impact of

the poor anticipated production in 2012 is likely to be exacerbated in many *belg*-receiving areas by the lack of sufficient recovery time, since vulnerable households' assets and other coping mechanisms were depleted during the 2011 crisis.

Late and poor rains will adversely affect food security in several areas of Ethiopia



Timely rains in southern and south-eastern lowlands have boosted water sources and browse for livestock

In the southern and south-eastern pastoralist lowlands, the timely onset of the *gu/ganna* (April to June) rains has brought a much-needed respite from previous acute water shortages. As a result, surface water sources have been recharged and pasture and browse are re-generating. However, food security conditions are likely to remain precarious in the pastoralist areas due to the lingering impact of repeated drought events in 2010 and 2011. Moreover, if the overall forecast for below-normal rainfall in these areas holds, conditions will start to deteriorate with the renewed onset of the dry season in July. Livestock-to-cereal terms of trade are relatively stable at present, but can be expected to decline as the next dry season sets in.

Food price rises are likely to continue between May and September nationwide in view of the poor prospects for the *belg* harvest and depletion of remaining stocks from the last harvest. The major *belg*-cropping areas in southern and north-eastern Ethiopia, and particularly the sweet potato-growing parts of SNNPR (the sweet potato harvest experienced an 80 to 100 per cent failure this year), will be among the areas most affected by growing food insecurity.

Government calls for increased aid in light of poor harvest prospects

In view of the situation, the Government has called on the donor and humanitarian communities to do more to mobilize the resource requirements identified in the 2012 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), and has identified an additional \$10 million in requirements in the past week. This brings the total net requirement for humanitarian assistance between January and June 2012 to US\$179 million.

Relief food dispatch continues, but behind schedule

Second round (2012) relief food dispatches targeting 2.9 million people reached 69 per cent as of 1 May, including 63 per cent dispatched to areas covered by the Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector (DRMFSS), 70 per cent to WFP-covered areas

Government and humanitarian partners identify priority interventions in light of deteriorating food security situation

(Somali Region) and 80 per cent to areas covered by the NGO consortium Joint Emergency Operation (JEOP). The third round relief food dispatch, which targets 3.2 million people nationwide, has also started, with 10 per cent of total allocations dispatched as of 1 May. However, dispatch of the third round relief food assistance was scheduled to start in March. Addressing delays in the dispatch and distribution of relief food assistance, which are contributing to growing food insecurity in already-vulnerable parts of the country, and expanding coverage of the Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme were among the priority interventions jointly identified by the Government and humanitarian partners when reviewing the deteriorating food security situation last week. The Government also agreed to increase the number of relief food beneficiaries in SNNPR by 41,743 (in addition to the initial 97,830 approved in January 2012) from May to June and put some 190,000 additional people on 'close monitoring'. However, the joint mission dispatched to SNNPR in early April had proposed to increase relief beneficiaries by 93,822 people, with some 236,446 to be put on close monitoring.

Meningitis, measles and AWD among primary health concerns

Mass meningitis vaccination campaign planned for areas reporting highest caseloads

New suspected cases of meningococcal meningitis continue to be reported from *woredas* in Kembata Tembaro and Wolayita zones of SNNPR, with a total of 139 cases reported since the beginning of the outbreak in early March. The Regional Health Bureau (RHB) has identified 120,000 people between the ages of 2 and 30 years in Kachabira *woreda*, Kembata Tembaro zone to be targeted by a mass meningitis vaccination campaign planned for areas reporting the highest caseloads. The initial vaccinations in SNNPR have been funded by WHO (vaccine procurement) and the Humanitarian Response Fund (operational costs for the immunization campaign). Additionally, a CERF grant has been secured by WHO to cover the procurement of additional vaccines for an expanded, national immunization campaign. New suspected cases of measles were also reported from SNNPR (16), Oromia (13) and Afar (2) over the past two weeks. The respective RHBs and health partners continue to implement case investigation and management in affected areas. In Somali Region, 15 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) were reported from Degahabur zone over the past two weeks, bringing total cases reported since the beginning of the outbreak (20 March 2012) to 299. Having originated in Degehabur town, the outbreak spread to Gunagado and Birkot districts (Degehabur zone) a month ago. Separately, 34 AWD cases were reported from six districts of Sidama zone (SNNPR) two weeks ago. Neighbouring districts of Oromia Region were put on alert for response to potential AWD outbreaks by the RHB.

Gu rains bring relief to water shortages – water trucking scales down

No recent rainfall has been recorded in the areas of Afar, where water trucking is ongoing

With the improved *belg/gu/ganna* rainfall (both in coverage and intensity) over recent weeks, water availability continues to improve in most chronically water-insecure areas, with a further reduction in ongoing water trucking operations to 26 trucks deployed. All water trucking operations have stopped in Amhara, SNNPR, Somali and Tigray Regions, and have decreased in Oromia to 14 (out of 30 trucks required). However, trucking activities have increased in Afar, to 12 trucks operational out of 15 required. No recent rainfall has been recorded in the areas of Afar, where water trucking is ongoing. Maintenance of dysfunctional water schemes and construction of new ones in hotspot locations remain the priority intervention areas for the Government.

Preparedness for new refugee influxes intensifying

With tension ongoing between Sudan and South Sudan, UNHCR is preparing for increased influxes of refugees into Ethiopia

Some 3,000 Sudanese refugees were newly registered in Beneshangul Gumuz Region in April, an increase of 3.5 times over registrations in March. New arrivals were reported from Sudan's Blue Nile State, and individuals previously staying with host communities in border areas also continued to request refugee status and transfer to the camps. The new arrivals are being accommodated in Ad-Damazin Transit Centre prior to being relocated to the camp at Bambasi, which is expected to open on 21 May (Bambasi is the third camp to be opened in the area). In view of the prevailing situation between Sudan and South Sudan, UNHCR is preparing for increased influxes into the same part of Ethiopia, which is currently hosting 34,000 refugees. The refugee agency is also

preparing for possible influxes into Amhara and Tigray Regions to the north of Beneshangul Gumuz.

Refugee influx has strained resources in Gambella, and greater support is needed

To the south, in Gambella, UNHCR and the Government refugee agency, ARRA, continue distribution of core relief items (i.e. household kits) to some 15,000 people from South Sudan's Lou Nuer community who crossed into Ethiopia's Wanthowa district in mid-February 2012. About 3,500 of the new arrivals have been relocated to Fugnido refugee camp in Gambella, and 5,000 more people currently staying at the Gambella way station have been pre-screened for relocation. A joint assessment in March 2012 led by the Regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Office indicates that the influx has strained resources in host communities along Gambella's border with South Sudan. In particular, an increase in the price of staple foods was observed, and a decline in food availability. The existing water, sanitation and health infrastructure is insufficient to meet needs and respond adequately in the event of disease outbreak. Additional support for provision of safe drinking water, food, core relief items and immunization services are needed. WFP plans to start food distribution in Wanthowa district for both the new arrivals and the host community in the coming week.

New arrivals from Somalia continue at a rate of about 80 per day, with a sixth camp now required

To the east, 150,923 Somali refugees were hosted in the five refugee camps and transit centre in Dollo Ado (53 per cent female) as of 30 April. With a population of 17,735 people, Boramino – the fifth and newest camp opened on 30 November 2011 – is nearing its full capacity of 20,000. As new arrivals from Somalia continue at a rate of approximately 80 per day, ARRA and UNHCR are exploring options to open a sixth camp in the area.

Kenya

Over 100,000 now affected by floods nationwide

Kenyans warned to stay alert for flash floods

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) reports that over 100,000 people nationwide have now been affected by heavy rains and floods in numerous regions across the country. KRCS officials have alerted families living in the lowlands along the Tana, Nyando and Nzoia Rivers to move to higher ground as rivers continue to swell due to ongoing rains. KRCS spokeswoman Nelly Muluka warned that the humanitarian situation in many parts of the country was worsening as heavy rains in many areas continued. According to Muluka, KRCS has activated its flood watch system and prepositioned its non-food item (NFI) stock as part of early action and preparedness for early recovery and less impact. KRCS is supporting those affected by floods through rescue, creation of awareness, provision of NFIs (tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, jerrycans). Meanwhile, the Kenya Meteorological Department has predicted the current Long Rains would continue this month and warned Kenyans to be prepared for flash floods.

Nutrition sector update

Sector warns of possible nutritional deterioration in Turkana, Garissa, Marsabit and Tana River

The nutrition sector gap analysis and response plan has been finalized and disseminated. Mandera, Wajir, Garissa and Turkana were classified as high priority counties based on a set of factors including acute malnutrition rates, food insecurity, High Impact Nutrition Indicators and level of insecurity. The aforementioned counties also require high intensity response. Elsewhere, the current nutrition survey results for Meru North (7.8 per cent global acute malnutrition rate - GAM) and Mwingi (2.8 per cent GAM) are within the normal ranges for the region. Given current food insecurity projections, there is a possibility of deterioration in north-east Turkana, Garissa, eastern Marsabit and Tana River.

Water and Environmental Sanitation (WESCOORD) sector updates

Gap analysis identifies 22 priority districts

The Water and Environmental Sanitation Coordination (WESCOORD) Sector is currently undertaking a gap analysis of interventions and has identified 22 districts/counties that are affected by emergencies as priority districts for the exercise. The areas were selected

on the basis that they were drought-affected, flood-prone, cholera endemic and prone to conflicts (the latter of which increases vulnerability to WASH-related diseases as it limits access to WASH services).

Meanwhile, a 4Ws (Who does What Where and When) data collation cycle was recently carried out with 37 WESCOORD partners reporting their activities in 11 priority districts. Some of the WESCOORD partners are however leaving out some vital information in reporting like population targeted/reached and funding start/end dates, making it difficult to report and analyze quantitative data. Follow-up support is being provided to partners to ensure that they are completing the 4Ws properly.

An analysis of WASH data collected from 110 health facilities acting as Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) centres in priority districts concluded that 40 lack a reliable source of water. A similar analysis of information from 1,035 schools in the same districts reported that some 51 per cent (530) of schools do have access to water supplies; 29 per cent (300) do not have access; and nearly 20 per cent (205) need to be assessed further.

Measles outbreak continues; new Dengue Fever cases reported

Investigation underway to determine extent of Dengue outbreak

According to WHO, the measles outbreak continues in the country. Most of the cases are concentrated in Western, Central, Coast and North Eastern Provinces. From January to the first week of May 2012, a total of 971 cases had been reported and are being investigated. Planning for a national measles vaccination campaign in the middle of the year continues with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS). Meanwhile, there are new cases of Dengue Fever being reported from Mandera County, North Eastern Province. This follows increasing number of malaria cases not responding to treatment. Six out of eight cases investigated for Dengue by the Kenya Medical Research Laboratory were positive for the disease. An investigation by the MoPHS WHO is ongoing to determine the magnitude of the disease and the geographical spread. Meanwhile, health promotional activities are ongoing and disease surveillance is being scaled up in the affected county. There were no cholera cases reported within the week.

2012+ EHRP Mid-Year Review launched

2012+ EHRP Mid-Year Review to take place on 22 May in Nairobi

A one-day workshop for the mid-year review of the 2012+ Emergency Humanitarian Response Plan (Consolidated Appeals Process) will be held in Nairobi on 22 May. It will provide an opportunity for humanitarian partners and other key stakeholders to review and measure progress towards the 2012+EHRP strategic objectives. Sectors will also have an opportunity to update their respective information (indicators and respective sector response plans) and review implementation to date and remaining needs. The Humanitarian Country Team will then adjust the humanitarian strategy and other general parameters as needed. The 2012+EHRP appeal document can be found at: <http://unocha.org/cap/appeals/by-country/results>

Decline of Infant Mortality in Kenya

Kenya's infant mortality rate has fallen by 7.6 percent per year

According to a new Working Paper from the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit, Kenya's infant mortality rate has fallen by 7.6 percent per year, the fastest rate of decline among the 20 countries in the region for which recent demographic and health survey data is available. Kenya's rate of post-neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births fell by more than half over a five-year period, dropping from 47 to 22, as measured using data from the 2003 and 2008-09 demographic and health surveys. Among the possible causes of the decline are various targeted new public health initiatives and improved access to water and sanitation. Increased ownership of insecticide-treated bednets in endemic malaria zones explains 39 percent of the decline in postneonatal mortality and 58 percent of the decline in infant mortality. Changes in other observable candidate factors do not explain substantial portions of the decline. The portion of the decline not explained may be associated with generalized trends such as the overall improvement in living standards that has taken place with economic growth.

Kenyan authorities state they are investigating allegations of abuse

Kenyan security forces accused of abusing ethnic Somalis

A new report from Human Rights Watch accuses Kenyan security forces of committing widespread human rights abuses against ethnic Somalis “with total impunity”. According to the report, between November 2011 and March 2012, Kenyan police and soldiers arbitrarily arrested and mistreated Kenyan citizens and Somali refugees in North Eastern Province in response to attacks by militants suspected of links to Somalia’s Islamist armed movement al-Shabaab. The 65-page report, “Criminal Reprisals: Kenyan Police and Military Abuses against Ethnic Somalis,” provides detailed documentation of human rights abuses by the Kenya Defence Forces and the Kenyan police in apparent response to a series of grenade and improvised explosive device attacks that targeted both the security forces and civilians in North Eastern Province. “Rather than conducting investigations to identify and apprehend the perpetrators, both the police and army responded with violent reprisals against Kenyan citizens and Somali refugees,” says the report. In response, Kenyan authorities have given assurances that they are investigating the allegations.

Rwanda

Over 7,000 Congolese seek refuge from fighting in North Kivu

Following a recent outbreak in fighting in North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), more than 7,000 refugees have crossed into neighbouring Rwanda since 27 April, according to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR. Most are women, children and the elderly coming from North Kivu's Masisi and Walikale territories, where fighting between rebel soldiers and government forces has left tens of thousands internally displaced.

Shelter is a major concern as the capacity of the Nkamira Transit Centre is surpassed

After crossing into Rwanda at the border town of Gisenyi, the new arrivals have been transported by UNHCR and partners to the Nkamira Transit Centre, 22 km to the east. They are provided with food and items such as plastic mats, jerry cans, and crockery. However, according to UNHCR, shelter is a major concern as the transit centre was only built to accommodate 2,600 people. While the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and partners are working to scale up response, UNHCR has warned that if people continue arriving at a high rate, there would soon be critical gaps in humanitarian assistance.

Rwanda is already hosting some 55,000 Congolese refugees who live in three already crowded camps across the country.

Meanwhile, in neighbouring Uganda to the north, UNHCR reports that no major influx of refugees has arrived from the DRC since post-election violence in the Congo several months ago. As of end-April, new arrivals from the DRC totaled 2,028; as of 7 May, the arrival figure stood at 268.

Somalia

Poor Gu rainfall impacts agropastoralists

In its latest Food Security Outlook for Somalia (April to September 2012), FEWS NET reports that under the most likely scenario, rains in Somalia are expected to be about 60 to 85 per cent of average, with erratic distribution in both time and space. In the worst case scenario, forecasts suggest there is a 30 per cent chance that rains will be about 60 per cent of average, or below. Gu rainfall will have a significant impact on food security for poor, agropastoral households dependent upon rain-fed crop production. Southern/central agropastoral and inland rain-fed cropping areas of Somalia, including areas still recovering from the 2011 Famine (IPC Phase 5), will experience a deterioration in food security due to anticipated poor Gu crop production in July and the limited number of saleable livestock over the course of the scenario period. Meanwhile, due to increasing debt levels, reduced fishing labor opportunities, a limited number of saleable livestock,

Poor households are only meeting their basic food needs through loans and gifts to prevent the complete liquidation of remaining assets

overstretched social support networks, relatively poor milk availability, Serious or Critical malnutrition rates, and livestock holdings that are significantly below baseline levels, food security for poor, pastoral households in the Nugal Valley, Sool Plateau, and Coastal Deeh livelihood areas of the north-eastern and central regions are deteriorating. Poor households are only meeting their basic food needs through loans and gifts to prevent the complete liquidation of remaining assets.

FAO, UNICEF, WFP draft strategic plan on resilience

Following the UN Country Team's endorsement of the FAO/UNICEF/WFP concept note on resilience in Somalia, the three agencies are jointly working on a strategic plan to be discussed at the International Conference on Somalia in Istanbul in June 2012. The three agencies have discussed the note with relevant partners across Somalia to build consensus and support for the current process. The document resulting from this consultative process will form the basis of WFP's long-term strategy for Somalia.

New influx of IDPs to Doolow

Newly arrived families in Doolow need shelter, water, sanitation and food

An influx of newly displaced families arrived in Doolow in the Gedo region during April after fleeing conflict in Bay and Bakool. Prior to the influx, the estimated number of IDPs in Doolow was 7,600. According to the IDP working group, more than 1,200 newly arrived families have set up home on the periphery of the two biggest settlements, Qansahley and Kabasa. They are in need of shelter to protect them from the *Gu* (long) rains, water, sanitation and food. Newly arrived IDPs in Luuq, Belet-Xawa have similar needs. OCHA Somalia is coordinating the response to the immediate life-saving needs of the displaced.

Meanwhile, Food Security Cluster (FSC) members continue to monitor the situation in Doolow in order to provide improved access to food and nutritional support to households with malnourished children under age 5. Examples of the variety of interventions provided include daily cooked meals, snacks for children in schools, food vouchers to allow people access to food from traders, and a combined assistance package of nutritionally dense products to allow malnourished children under age 5 to recover and a household food support package for the remaining household members who are food insecure. As the influx stabilises, cluster members will work to identify longer term responses to support IDPs and food insecure households with an emphasis on tools to rebuild their livelihoods.

Evictions in Mogadishu

Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator receives assurances that no further unplanned evictions will occur

The involuntary evictions of 400 IDP families took place on 30 April in Al Adalla and Korsan IDP settlements, located close to Mogadishu airport. Authorities justified this eviction with the need to secure the area for the ongoing conference of the Elders. The IDPs have temporarily relocated to other nearby areas and were expected to be allowed back to the settlements once the conference was finished. The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator received assurances that no further unplanned evictions would take place and that authorities would work with humanitarian partners to ensure that further evictions would be in line with agreed standards and principles.

Land tenure sought for IDPs in Puntland

Shelter cluster expertise specializing in housing, land and property rights recently visited Bossaso, Puntland, to examine different shelter projects in the area. The type of service provided by the shelter cluster members, which range from emergency assistance packages to permanent shelter, depend on the security of the land tenure held by IDPs. Newly displaced IDPs who settle on land without permission usually receive emergency shelter. For those who have freehold agreements, the cluster will aim to provide a durable solution in the form of brick housing. Linking the form of shelter to the typology of the land tenure is a key strategy of the cluster. As authorities become more engaged in finding durable solutions for the displaced, the cluster is looking at ways to harmonize land tenure agreements negotiated by cluster partners in favour of more stable agreements so

as to increase the protection of IDPs and ensure a more sustainable donor investment. A full report on the project will be available shortly on the cluster's website.

For the latest information on humanitarian action in Somalia, go to:
<http://ochaonline.un.org/>

Regional

New video explains regional precipitation shortfalls

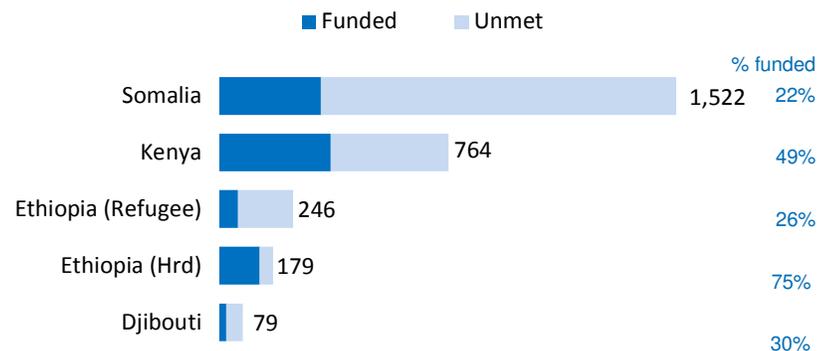
In a new video from the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (<http://portal.iri.columbia.edu>), IRI explains more about the key climate factors that affect rainfall patterns over eastern Africa. Using observations and climate model simulations, they linked the decreased eastern African rainfall to similarly abrupt changes in sea-surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. "Unfortunately, current ocean conditions suggest that the poor performance of the Long Rains is likely to continue," says IRI. "This is in keeping with a recurrent pattern we've been seeing in eastern Africa over roughly the last decade." The IRI was established as a cooperative agreement between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Program Office and Columbia University. It is part of The Earth Institute, Columbia University.

Current ocean conditions suggest that the poor performance of the Long Rains is likely to continue

Funding

2012 Horn of Africa Crisis Funding in USD (as of 11 May 2012)

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an e-mail to fts@un.org



NB: In addition to the resources presented above, which show funding against the net requirements appealed for in the 2012 Humanitarian Requirements Document, Ethiopia's total funding for 2012 includes some \$76.9 million in food aid contributed in 2011 for 2012 and counted as carry-over against the gross funding requirements originally identified in the 2012 HRD, as well as a further \$117.5 million in other food and non-food funding carried over from 2011 to 2012.

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