Data analyzed from various partner reports show that drought and conflict in the region has had a negative impact on families, with women and girls bearing a heavier brunt because of prevailing gender roles and practices. Women in parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are struggling to keep their families alive amidst devastating drought caused by cyclical below-average rains. Conflict and displacement in the region has led to an increase of gender-based violence, especially among women and girls.

**FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS**
- Women receive only 5% of agricultural extension services in the region.
- During drought people adopt negative coping strategies such as skipping meals and reducing portion sizes. Cultural norms dictate that women and girls are often the last to eat.
- Most vulnerable households are now consuming one meal a day that often lacks any nutritional value.
- Livestock deaths and poor livestock conditions, have led to lack of milk for children.

**NUTRITION**
- Malnutrition rates increased among pregnant and lactating women (PLW). In Ethiopia nearly 1.8 million pregnant and lactating women are malnourished due to drought. In South Sudan 1 out of 4 PLW are malnourished.
- Malnutrition rates among children increased. In South Sudan 62.5% cases treated for malnutrition are girls.

**CONFLICT and DISPLACEMENT**
- Women and girls are more likely to be displaced and face protection risks.
- In Somalia 61% of households who exited the Country in last quarter of 2016 in search of food were women.

**HEALTH**
- 1 out of 18 women die during pregnancy in Somalia.

**EDUCATION**
- The drought has forced women to make agonizing decisions on whether children can continue to attend school. In Kenya, 180,000 children dropped out of school due to drought with a majority being girls. In South Sudan gender equality is a challenge with only 33% of girls in school.
- Women and girls fetch the majority of water for household uses in rural areas. Often this keeps girls from attending school and women from engaging in employment.
- Only one refugee girl in 10 makes it to high school in Kakuma.

**ACCESS TO WATER**
- In the region, over 90% of the work of gathering water and wood, for the household and for food preparation, is done by women. In some mountainous regions of East Africa, women spend up to 27% of their caloric intake on collecting water.
- Women and girls must travel long distances to water points in drought affected areas. Women walk 10 - 20 kms per day in Northwestern Kenya and in Sanaag region of Somalia, water points are reported to be up to 125km roundtrip.
- Women are primary caregivers to the millions of children and family members that fall ill each year from water-related illnesses. This reduces time spent working or on education.
- Travelling long distances to fetch water creates protection concerns for women and girls as they travel at night and early mornings to water points leaving them exposed to gender-based violence along the route.
- Violence / fights at water points are becoming more and more frequent due to the long wait times and the lack of water.
- An increase in household-level violence (primarily physical abuse) in the drought affected areas in parts of Somaliland and Puntland is reported.
- Male members of families are migrating with livestock to more fertile regions, leaving women and children behind unprotected.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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