



WFP East & Central Africa

Horn of Africa Drought Crisis Situation Report #02

20th February 2017

Highlights

- The drought in the Horn of Africa is generating a humanitarian crisis of alarming proportions. The number of people in crisis and emergency food insecurity levels Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) 3 or above in Somalia (2.9 million), Ethiopia (5.6 million) and Kenya (2.6 million) now stands at over 11 million people.
- Global acute malnutrition (GAM) levels among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant women and nursing mothers remain a serious concern, with levels of over 25 percent GAM being reported in some parts of Somalia and Kenya.
- There is a risk of potential famine in parts of Somalia if the upcoming 2017 Gu rain season (April– June) also fails, creating a drought crisis even worse than in 2011.
- Governments are leading the planning, implementation and funding of the drought response in Kenya and Ethiopia, with support from humanitarian and development partners.
- This drought is evolving against a backdrop of escalating needs in South Sudan, with close to 5 million people also in need of urgent assistance. This is in addition to over 1.5 million South Sudanese refugees who have fled to neighbouring countries.
- At both regional and country levels, WFP is working very closely with UNICEF, FAO, OCHA, UNHCR and INGO partners, to support common situational analysis. WFP also works closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is playing a key role in advocating for rapid mobilization of resources by member states

Situation Update

- The deteriorating food security situation follows the effects of consecutive below-average rainy seasons in 2016 across the Horn of Africa.
- The regional consensus climate outlook for March - May 2017 season indicates an increased likelihood of below to near normal rainfall over eastern and coastal Kenya; southern and north-western Somalia; north-eastern, eastern and southern Ethiopia; southern parts of South Sudan; and north-eastern Uganda .
- Pasture and water resources are critically low across the region, resulting in significant livestock deaths and crop production losses in Ethiopia, Somalia and northern and coastal Kenya.
- In drought affected areas, cereal prices are rising, while livestock prices and casual labor wage levels are both decreasing due to poor livestock conditions and limited agricultural labor opportunities. As a result, household purchasing power is falling sharply.
- Inter-communal conflict is expected to rise in drought-affected areas as pastoralists trek further afield with their animals looking for water and grazing. Distress migration is being reported between Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan.
- There is growing pressure on the grain markets in Uganda as regional traders face diminishing availability, following the export bans that have taken effect in Tanzania and Kenya.

Country Profiles

Somalia:

- The food security situation has deteriorated significantly, with an increasing number of people now facing IPC levels 3 (crisis) and 4 (emergency). In addition, there are 3.3 million who are “stressed”, who require urgent livelihood related support to help prevent them also falling into the crisis phase.
- Two consecutive below-average rainy seasons led to near total crop failure, widespread shortage of water and pasture, increased livestock deaths, and continued increase in food prices resulting in limited household food access.
- The geographical area affected by the current drought is significantly larger than in previous years, expanding from the northern areas of Somaliland and Puntland to the central and southern regions. An urgent operational scale-up is required to prevent a crisis becoming a catastrophe. WFP is scaling up relief assistance from 139,000 people to over 2 million in the coming months.
- Nutrition surveys conducted in November and December 2016 indicate that an estimated 363,000 children aged 6-59 months are acutely malnourished, including 71,000 who are severely malnourished. This number is expected to rise to 985,000 malnourished children and pregnant/breastfeeding women by June 2017.
- General Food Distribution (GFD) and Cash Based Transfers (CBT) scale up launched in Somaliland and Puntland together with UNICEF scale-up in delivering water vouchers with SCOPE. The scale up is focusing on

more complex areas like Baidoa, Dinsor, Wajid and Hudur in south-central is underway.

- WFP’s emergency drought response includes immediate relief assistance through unconditional in-kind and cash-based transfers to the most vulnerable people in IPC 3 and 4 in drought-affected areas of northern and south central Somalia. In addition, WFP provides life-saving curative and preventive nutrition services to children under 5, and pregnant and nursing mothers in the drought-affected areas.
- WFP is airlifting High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) in towns and routes where displacement is expected.
- Increased insecurity in southern and central Somalia continues to severely impact humanitarian operations and the delivery of critical assistance to drought affected households.
- WFP and other humanitarian partners have a critical window to respond to the growing needs in order to avert a possible famine, but we need to act fast.

Kenya:

- On the 10th February 2017 the Government of Kenya declared drought a “national disaster” and called international partners to come in and support the Government’s response efforts to address the situation.
- The below average short rains season (October – December) is affecting agricultural and livestock production, reducing food availability and increasing market prices in the marginal agricultural areas along the coast and south east, and the arid pastoral areas in the north.
- The number of food insecure people has more than doubled to 2.6 million people following the short rains assessment, up from 1.25 million in September 2016— January 2017.
- The prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition in northern Kenya is extremely critical (above 30%) in three counties (Turkana north, Mandera and Marsabit) and critical (15-29%) in five counties (Baringo East, Isiolo, Turkana South, West and Central) and the nutritional status of pregnant and breastfeeding women has deteriorated across counties. A total of 333,000 children are expected to require moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment, and a further 73,000 will require severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment.
- The national and county governments are responding with food assistance and are urging partners to scale-up relief and livelihood support. The Government has allocated approximately USD 90 million for multi-sector drought response.
- WFP food assistance is reaching around 650,000 people through asset-creation activities for resilience building in 15 arid and semi-arid counties in the form of in-kind and cash-based transfers. In addition, WFP is supporting the Government with the current emergency response by complementing the provision of nutrition commodities in Baringo, Garissa, Turkana and West Pokot counties and by providing technical assistance to the emergency nutrition operation.

- It is estimated that over 2 million school children are adversely affected by the drought, and the Government has highlighted school meals as a priority to mitigate the impact. However, due to funding shortfalls WFP is currently unable to provide school meals in Term 1 (January - April) to 458,000 children from Kenya’s most arid counties. The funding shortfall could not come at a worse time, and WFP is appealing for urgent resources from donors.

Ethiopia:

- On the back of one of the worst droughts in 2015/2016, parts of Ethiopia have again been hit by poor rains, with much of Somali, parts of Afar and some lowland areas of Oromia and Southern Nations Nationalities and People’s Regions (SNNPR) most affected.
- Water shortages, reduced pastures and livestock deaths continue to be reported in these areas because of late onset, erratic and poor autumn *Hagaya/Deyr* rains. A decline in livestock prices is limiting household income, and combined with reduced access to milk, is likely to cause food insecurity to deteriorate further by May 2017.
- According to the 2017 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD), an estimated 5.6 million people require emergency food assistance.
- Malnutrition remains a key challenge in addition to health and water and sanitation in most parts of the country, including the refugee camps. According to the 2017 HRD, the Government expects to treat 303,000 severe acute malnutrition and 2.7 million moderate acute malnutrition cases in 2017.
- In the refugee camps receiving Somali refugees, GAM levels among children aged 6-59 months are above the emergency threshold.

RESOURCING UPDATE

Country	Project	Type	US\$ 6 Months requirements		%
			Total	Net funding need	
Somalia	200844	PRRO	435,635,422	374,147,287	86%
Somalia	200924	UNHAS	15,220,911	3,300,000	21%
Kenya	200736	Relief	31,538,921	8,191,115	26%
Kenya	200737	Refugees	51,525,278	14,042,283	27%
Kenya		School Feeding	11,642,934	4,956,726	43%
Ethiopia	200712	Relief	477,745,511	255,719,729	54%
Ethiopia	200700	Refugees	58,855,927	11,065,979	19%
Ethiopia		Food for Education	2,012,240	1,522,106	76%

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