



Humanitarian needs remain above the pre-crisis level from two years ago

### In this issue

Post-*Deyr* update P.1

\$1.08 billion appeal for Somalia P.2

Reduction in river levels P.3

NADFOR's role in aid response P.4

Humanitarian funding overview P.5

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1.5 million Somalis still face acute food security crisis or worse.
- 2019 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan launched.
- Major rivers' water levels below normal.
- NADFOR leading humanitarian coordination in Somaliland.
- Pooled funds produce results in 2018

### 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 estimated to be malnourished	0.9m
# of people displaced internally by drought since November 2016	1.6m
# of people in protracted (since 2011) internal displacement	1.1m

## Over 1.5 million Somalis still face acute food security crisis or worse

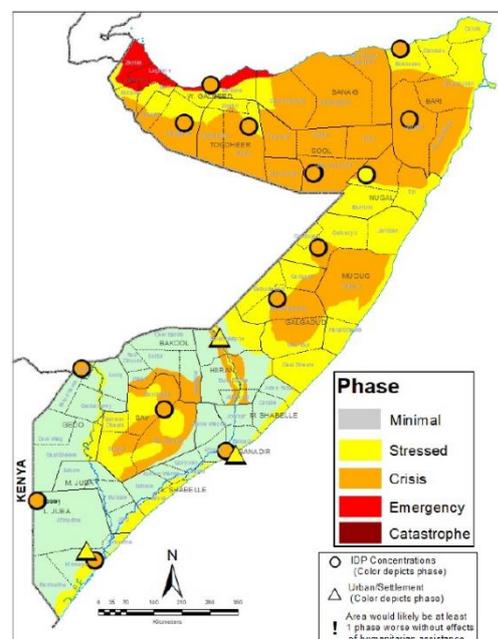
### Some 903,100 children anticipated to be acutely malnourished

More than 1.5 million people in Somalia are still facing acute food security crisis or worse, as a result of the below-average *Deyr* rainy season (Oct-Dec), displacement from the 2016/2017 drought and protracted conflict in some parts of the country. In addition, 903,100 children under the age of five are anticipated to be acutely malnourished in 2019. Overall, 4.9 million Somalis are estimated to be food insecure, an increase from 4.6 million people since last September, according to the post-*Deyr* analysis released on 3 February by the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET). An estimated 43 per cent of the total facing food insecurity are internally displaced persons, a reduction compared to previous assessments.

Despite recent improvements in the food security situation across the country, these results reveal a slight deterioration, particularly in northern and central pastoral livelihood zones. Many northern and central agropastoral and pastoral livelihoods will deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by April, when the *Gu* rainfall is expected to improve livestock productivity, increase saleable animals and improve agricultural labour opportunities. The forecast average *Gu* (April-June) rains and mostly favorable market conditions are essential to mitigate more severe deterioration in food security conditions through mid-2019. A more up-to-date *Gu* forecast is expected by the end of February.

As of January 2019, sustained and large-scale humanitarian assistance has prevented a major deterioration in the food security situation in many areas. Aid agencies have called for early funding to sustain the aid operation as well as scaled-up development interventions, especially in the north of the country where security and access are relatively good, to address the drivers of need.

FSNAU and FEWSNET have warned that in the absence of assistance, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone and to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in central Addun Pastoral, Northern Inland



Projected food security situation Feb to Jun 2019 (Source: FSNAU)

### FUNDING

#### \$1.08 BILLION

requested in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

#### \$14.5 MILLION

Total humanitarian funding received towards the 2019 HRP

Source <http://fts.unocha.org>, 30 January 2019.

Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral of Sanaag, northwestern Hawd Pastoral, Southern Agropastoral of Hiraan and Bay-Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral livelihood zones. Those facing acute food security Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse urgently need humanitarian assistance through June 2019 to prevent further deterioration. Livelihood support is also required for people categorized as Stressed or worse (IPC Phase 2 or higher).

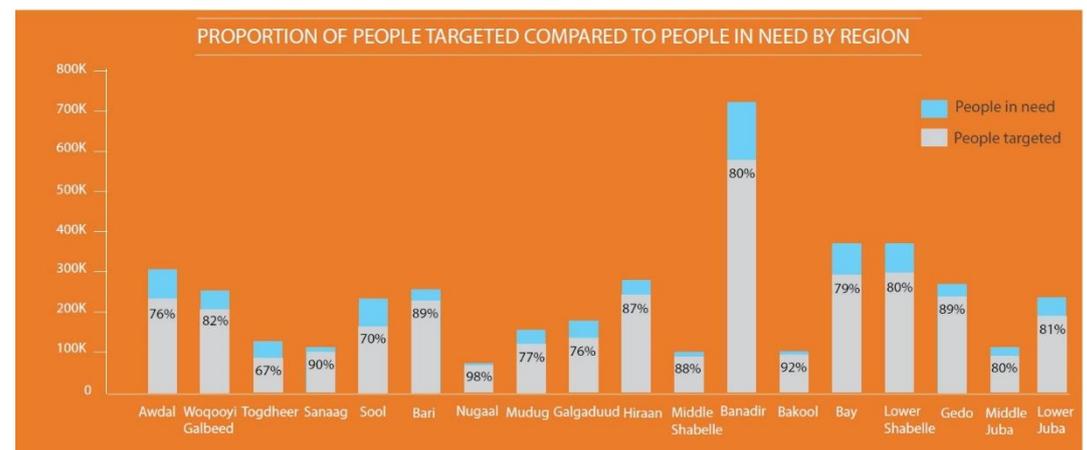
Surveys by FSNAU and FEWSNET also indicate that the overall nutrition situation in Somalia has improved due to better food security conditions, reduced outbreak of disease, and sustained humanitarian interventions. At the national level, acute malnutrition has remained stable due to relatively low morbidity and sustained nutrition and health-related interventions and support. The median prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) has remained at ‘Serious’ level (10–14.9 per cent) over the past three seasons (12.6 per cent in 2018 Deyr, 14.0 per cent in 2018 Gu and 13.8 per cent in 2017 Deyr). However, high levels of acute malnutrition persist in some areas due to a combination of factors, including food insecurity, high morbidity, low immunization and vitamin-A supplementation, and poor care practices. Urgent treatment and nutrition support is required for children who will likely face acute and severe malnutrition through December 2019. Integrated interventions should be sustained to encourage recovery and prevent deterioration in the nutrition situation.

## \$1.08 billion required in 2019

The Federal Government of Somalia and aid agencies operating in the country launched the [2019 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) on 21 January and called on donors to provide sufficient and early funding to sustain the aid operation in Somalia. The response plan seeks \$1.08 billion to provide life-saving assistance and livelihood support to 3.4 million Somalis affected by conflict, climatic shocks and displacement across the country.

The improvements in the food security situation due to good 2018 *Gu* rains, the sustained humanitarian response throughout 2018 and a more focused definition of needs have resulted in a 32 per cent reduction in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, from 6.2 million in 2018 to 4.2 million in 2019. However, continued conflict and climatic shocks threaten to reverse these gains.

Early funding is needed to sustain the aid operation.



*“Unless aid agencies can sustain the aid operation or immediately scale it up in some worst drought-hit areas early in the year, the progress made thus far is under severe threat, as Somalia remains in the grip of one of the most complex and long-standing crises in the world. Climatic shocks such as the recent poor Deyr rains coupled with the cumulative effects of years of the ongoing conflict and the resultant displacements continue to cause suffering and destroy people’s livelihoods,”* said Peter de Clercq, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. *“I urge the international community to continue providing early and sufficient humanitarian funding. Alongside life-saving support, a substantial investment in resilience-building and development solutions will be critical to ultimately end need and allow people to fend for themselves with dignity.”*

Substantial investment in resilience-building is critical to end need.

Humanitarian needs remain above pre-crisis levels from two years ago. Over 1.5 million people, mainly IDPs and rural populations, face acute levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 and above) and require immediate assistance. Of the people in need of assistance, almost two thirds are children. More than 2.6 million people are internally displaced persons (IDPs) and they live in vulnerable circumstances and are in need of multiple basic services. Those in the most vulnerable circumstances, including female-headed households, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and marginalized communities, are particularly at risk and face specific protection concerns.

While this year's HRP remains focused on the most pressing needs, it recognizes that there are now opportunities for development actors to strengthen the resilience of Somalis by implementing programmes that offer long-lasting, durable solutions. The Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, His Excellency Mr. Hamza Said Hamza, urged donors to prioritize programmes that tackle structural and chronic development challenges and reiterated the government's commitment to working with all partners to implement durable solutions through the Resilience and Recovery Framework. The HRP focuses on the immediate needs of the most vulnerable – IDPs, host communities, returnees and refugees from neighbouring countries. Guided by the Humanitarian Country Team's Centrality of Protection Strategy for 2018-2019, the humanitarian operations will focus on four core strategic objectives: to reduce acute humanitarian needs, reduce emergency levels of acute malnutrition, ensure protection of affected populations and to increase resilience capacity of at risk communities.

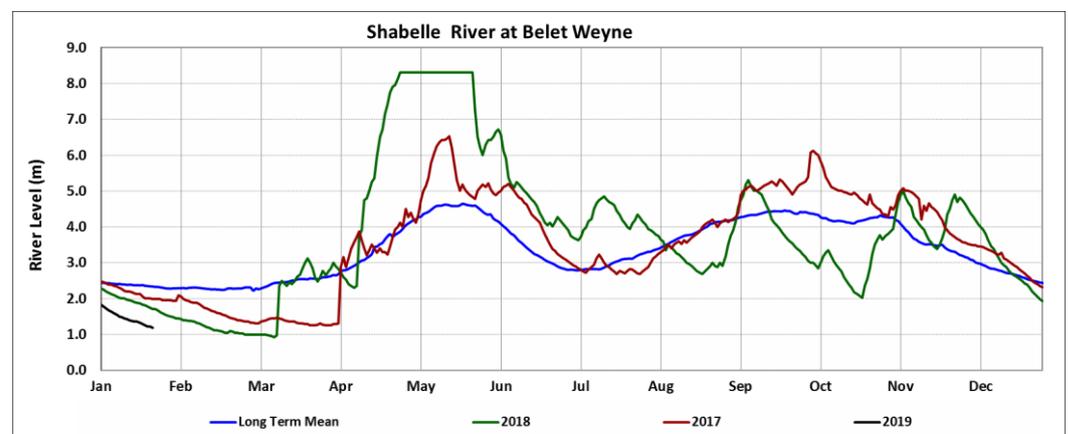
## Major rivers' water levels below normal

Lower river levels will affect off-season planting, pump irrigation and pastoral agriculture.

The poor Deyr rainy season resulted in the rapid depletion of water sources across the country in early 2019. Limited rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands has slowed down the river flow, consequently affecting the two major Somali rivers, the Juba and the Shabelle, according to Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) unit. Water levels in these rivers have been below normal since December, and are expected to drop further in the coming weeks due to the dry season. Besides the low rains in the basin, high sedimentation, lack of regular river maintenance and over-utilization of river waters has led to reduced river flow, which is inadequate for pump irrigation and impacts on agricultural production.

The Shabelle River in Belet Weyne was at its lowest by mid-January, according to Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) unit. If this trend continues, it will lead to another period of dry river beds, a recent phenomenon for what has historically been a perennial river. The Juba River level is also low and expected to decrease further.

Water shortages have been reported in Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West states.



Observed river levels at Belet Weyne (Source: SWALIM)

Water shortage alerts have already been issued in South West and Jubaland states. In the latter, authorities have reported that more than 6,000 families, living in Badhaadhe and Kismayo, are facing a serious water crisis. The Jubaland State Ministry of Minerals, Energy

and Water has launched an urgent appeal to mobilize resources as WASH cluster partners in Jubaland do not have adequate resources to address the current needs. Aid agencies are seeking \$104 million to assist 2.6 million Somalis with WASH assistance.

In Hirshabelle, WASH cluster partners reported water shortages in Hiraan region, particularly the rural areas of Belet Weyne and Matabaan districts. Most of the water catchment areas and *berkets* have reportedly dried up and the few boreholes in the area are producing less water. The water scarcity is worsening the hygiene and sanitation situation and will increase the risk of waterborne diseases such as Acute Watery Diarrhoea/Cholera.

## NADFOR leading humanitarian coordination in Somaliland

In January 2018, Mr. Faisal Ali Sheik Mohamed was appointed the Commissioner of the newly established Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR), which replaced the National Environment Research and Disaster Preparedness and Management Authority (NERAD). The OCHA communication team interviewed the Commissioner on the role of NADFOR, achievements and challenges.

### What is the role of the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority?

*NADFOR is responsible for the management of national food reserves, developing policies and strategies for disaster management, emergency preparedness, the establishment of early warning systems, mobilizing resources and coordinating humanitarian efforts in Somaliland. The change of name and mandate is due to the realization that effective disaster management is vital in achieving national development. In the context of Somaliland, without mitigating the effects of climatic shocks and conflict, the gains made on the development front would be at risk.*

### What is your assessment of the drought situation in Somaliland?

*The situation in areas such as Awdal, Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer is deteriorating. The 2018 Deyr rainy season was poor and some of these areas have experienced drought for several seasons. Families have lost their means of survival, while others are recovering from the damage caused by Cyclone Sagar. We are waiting for the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) analysis, which is supported by NADFOR to carry out data collection and analysis, and to understand the gravity of the situation. In the meantime, we are calling for urgent assistance.*



Mr. Faisal Ali Sheik Mohamed, the Commissioner of NADFOR.

### What are some of NADFOR's achievements so far?

*We have made progress in terms of disaster preparedness, coordination of humanitarian interventions and emergency response. We developed a disaster risk management policy and we are finalizing our five-year strategy, which encompasses national drought management. We have intensified efforts to raise awareness on disaster risk management reaching 40 communities that are prone to different types of disasters. As part of our efforts to strengthen our national food reserves, we have acquired land (2.5 square kilometers in Wajaale, Gabiley district) from the government to grow sorghum and maize. The yields and the fodder will be retained for strategic reserves for drought response. We are appealing to humanitarian and development agencies to support these preparedness efforts. Our coordination capacity is getting better and we have decentralized some of our services to the regional offices. This has enabled us to reach 64,000 families affected by drought and Cyclone Sagar with food assistance in 2018. With the construction of regional offices, and continuous training of staff, our capacity continues to grow, but more needs to be done.*

The situation in Awdal, Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer is deteriorating.

Early warning system is constrained by lack of resources.

### What do you see as the key challenges?

*As a newly established organization with an expanded mandate, we inherited an institution that had limited resources and presence to enable effective response to disasters. Our ability to ensure an effective early warning system continues to be constrained by lack of resources. While we have started constructing offices and warehouses, we need help to complete these projects. In addition, we do not have enough transportation, which affects our logistical capacity to deliver food and water to those in need. NADFOR is also advocating for the construction of strategic water reservoirs in drought-prone areas.*

### How is your working relationship with humanitarian partners?

*We have been working very well with UNOCHA and the various sectors, mainly in the coordination of response. This is one of the reasons our humanitarian coordination capacity has continued to strengthen. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage agencies to cooperate with us; there is more to gain by working together in Somaliland.*

## Pooled funds produce results in 2018

The Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), contributed eight per cent (\$70 million) of the total Somalia HRP funding received in 2018. Allocations from the SHF amounted to \$53 million, while the CERF contributed \$17 million. The CERF supported response to the drought and floods crises through its rapid response window. The grants were among the first to be received and provided the impetus needed to ensure that drought and conversely cyclone affected households in northern Somalia were able to meet basic needs, and that flood-affected communities in the south and central areas of the country had critical access to shelter, WASH and health care services. This funding also enabled the leasing of rotary-wing aircraft to transport personnel and cargo to affected areas.

Thanks to generous donor support, the SHF ensured effective humanitarian response through six allocation rounds that supported 120 life-saving projects carried out by 58 partners. The first \$22 million standard allocation boosted drought response, improved access to services in underserved areas and sustained response in IDP settlements. An additional \$13.3 million was channeled through multiple reserve allocations throughout the year to respond to emerging needs.

A \$1 million allocation to complement the CERF ensured that vulnerable children in three of the targeted regions were able to continue their education, including end-year exams that would have been missed otherwise. Some \$3.5 million was allocated in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Sagar in the Awdal region of Somaliland and \$7.5 million was directed to areas most affected by the drought in the north (Bari, Nugaal, Sool and Sanaag). Some \$1.3 million was allocated for shelter preparedness in Hirshabelle State. At the end of the year, a second standard allocation of \$18.6 million was released to sustain critical life-saving interventions and to help address emerging gaps in underserved and hard-to-reach areas.

The fund continued to promote an integrated response and the localization of aid agenda. By the end of 2018, close to half of all the allocations (47 per cent) was used to support integrated interventions, mostly targeting IDPs and vulnerable people in inaccessible areas. The expanded pool of SHF partners not only enabled the fund to almost exclusively support NGOs, but ensured wider outreach in targeting national actors. In 2018, 96 per

### KEY 2018 FACTS AND FIGURES

 **\$54.3 million\***  
Funding made available in 2018

 **\$53.4 million**  
allocated, January - December 2018

 **96% to NGOs<sup>L</sup>**  
national and international (2018)

 **47% to national NGOs**  
Focus on national partners

 **58 partners supported\*\***  
supported in 2018

 **120 projects funded\*\***  
in 2018

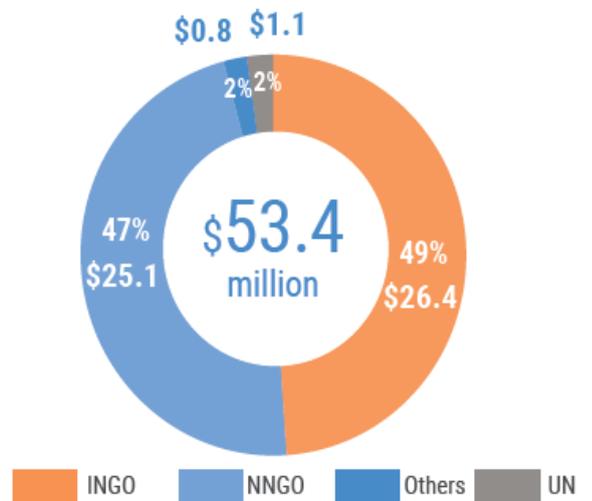
\* Excludes carry over.

\*\* Excludes SHF management costs

cent of the allocations funded international and national NGO projects with almost 47 per cent, or \$25 million, channeled towards local and national actors thereby surpassing the 30 per cent benchmark set by the Advisory Board.

In 2019, the fund will continue to promote efficiencies through an integrated approach and channeling funds to partners best placed to respond, including local actors. Timely contributions to the SHF are critical to build on the gains made last year and to allocate resources strategically early in 2019.

**ALL FUNDING BY AGENCY TYPE (US\$ million)**



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