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- Cholera vaccination campaign launched
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A livestock market in Burao, Somaliland (WFP photo)

FIGURES

# of food insecure people (FSNAU: April, 2019)	5.4m
# of people in emergency and crisis (IPC Phases 3&4, Apr 2019)	2.2m
# of people in stress (IPC Phase 2, Apr 2019)	3.2m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.2m
# of internally displaced persons	2.6m

FUNDING

\$1.08 BILLION

requested in the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$450 MILLION

Funding received for the 2019 HRP

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

Drought Impact Response Plan in place

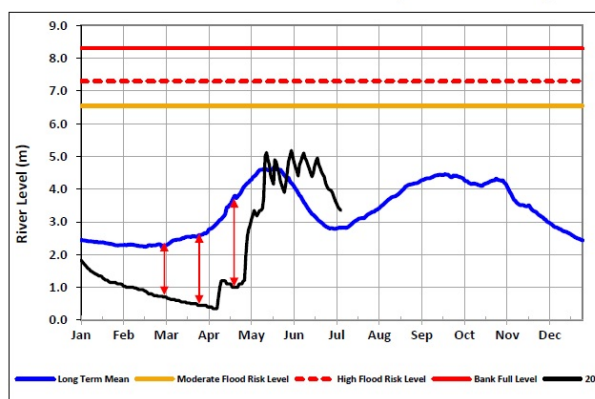
The 2019 *Gu'* season (April-June) rainfall performance was highly erratic and poorly distributed with the rains starting late in most areas. This comes two years after the severe 2016/2017 drought destroyed livelihoods and displaced almost one million Somalis - but also triggered a massive and successful scale up in humanitarian response to avert famine. Adverse climatic conditions, combined with other persistent drivers of humanitarian crisis, such as armed conflict, displacement and a spike in evictions of internally displaced persons, are again pushing Somalia into a more severe humanitarian situation.

The delayed start and poor performance of the 2019 *Gu'* rains resulted in severe drought conditions across Somalia through early May, pushing millions of people into acute food insecurity, with dire consequences especially for marginalized and displaced communities. In response, the Federal Government of Somalia and the aid community are together implementing a Drought Impact Response Plan (DRIP) to provide critical life-saving assistance to 4.5 million Somalis between now and December at a cost of \$686 million.

"The food insecurity situation is now extremely concerning with potentially disastrous consequences for the 2.2 million people facing crisis levels of food insecurity. The seasonal harvest is projected to be 50 per cent below average and even lower in some areas, while malnutrition, drought-related diseases and displacement as well as protection risks are exacerbating existing vulnerability," said George Conway, the acting Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia. *"I applaud the Federal Government of Somalia for demonstrating leadership and prioritizing scale up of response to the impact of the erratic and underperforming rains. I call on donors to fully resource the Plan and avoid a major crisis."*

The recurrent climatic shocks are a clear sign that Somalia is persistently vulnerable to the effects of climate change. *"While it is critical to respond to today's urgent life-saving needs, it is equally important that we build community resilience, invest in long-term development and strengthen the capacity of Somalia to withstand future shocks. Not every drought needs to lead to catastrophe,"* said Mr. Hamza Said Hamza, the Minister

Shabelle River Level at Beletweyne, Hiran Region



Below-average river levels between March and mid-May have shortened the length of the cropping season and negatively affected *Gu'* season crop production in riverine and adjacent agro pastoral communities. Source: FAO-SWALIM

\$686 million required to provide life-saving assistance to 4.5 million Somalis.

A single locust plague can lead to a loss of 170,000 tons of grain, enough to feed one million people for a year.

Livestock is the largest contributor to Somalia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), livelihood and economic

of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management. "We remain committed to move ahead with durable solutions under the Resilience and Recovery Framework and count on our international partners for support."

The negative impact of erratic and abnormally performing *Gu'* rains followed a poor 2018 *Deyr* season (Oct-Dec), and unusually dry conditions during the 2019 *Jilaal* season (Jan-Mar), impacting communities that are still recovering from the severe drought of 2016/17. Amid this concerning situation, the humanitarian operation in Somalia remains underfunded with the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan having received only \$450 of its requirements by end of July, forcing aid agencies to limit or reduce relief efforts at a time when scale up is critical.

Desert Locust outbreak alert in the Horn of Africa

Authorities and food security partners are monitoring the Desert Locust situation, in particular in Somaliland where mature swarms were seen at several places during the first week of July, causing substantial crop damage. Hopper bands are forming along the northwest coast and probably in the northeast from eggs laid by the swarms. This could give rise to new swarms by about late August, according the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Somaliland and Puntland have functional Desert Locust Units since 2016/17 and trained locust officers. Regular monitoring and early control efforts on the breeding grounds are critical to prevent a buildup of locust numbers and an eventual disastrous plague. Desert Locusts pose a potentially significant risk for the *Gu'* harvest prospects and for the next cropping seasons across Somalia. A single locust plague can lead to a loss of 170,000 tonnes of grain, enough to feed one million people for a year.

After becoming airborne, swarms of tens of millions of locusts can fly up to 150km a day with the wind. Desert Locusts (*Schistocerca gregaria*) live for about three months, and a female locust lays about 300 eggs. An adult Desert Locust can consume an equivalent of its body weight in fresh food per day - about two grams every day. A very small swarm eats the same amount of food in one day as about 35,000 people. Read more: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1203003/icode/>

Livestock Sector Strategy adopted

The Federal Government of Somalia has adopted a new Livestock Sector Development Strategy, an outcome of a multi-stakeholder process led by FAO and funded by the World Bank. The strategy sets out growth and development priorities based on a climate-resilient approach that promotes investment in processing, production and marketing, improving quality and ensuring food safety.

The livestock sector is of significant social and economic importance in Somalia. More than half of the population living in rural areas rely directly or indirectly on livestock and the sector is the largest contributor to Somalia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), livelihoods and economic growth. Yet its performance is undermined by a number of factors, including poor animal nutrition, cross-boundary diseases, eroded genetic resources and a lack of natural resource management and institutional weaknesses.



The Prime Minister of Somalia, H.E. Hassan Ali Khaire, officially opened the Validation workshop where the Strategy was adopted, and called for solutions to drive the livestock sector forward. The Minister of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Hon. Hussein Mohamud

Sheikh, commended the development of the Strategy as a significant milestone to achieve a more sustainable and competitive foothold in the global livestock market. The strategy identifies the need for the donor community to mobilize resources across different value chains.

IDP influx into Baidoa

An influx of more than 5,000 internally displaced persons arrived in Baidoa town in the first two weeks of July. The number of the displaced population into Baidoa continues to rise with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster reporting an average of 1,000 new arrivals per week in the last one month.

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A majority of these, mainly agro-pastoral communities from Bay and Bakool regions, fled drought and conflict. According to the Protection and CCCM cluster partners, an estimated 60 per cent of the new arrivals say they moved to Baidoa to seek humanitarian assistance. Some of the IDPs have also indicated that their situation is compounded by escalating insecurity and taxation imposed by Al-Shabaab. The Al-Shabaab elements are also reportedly forcing families in some rural villages in Bay and Bakool regions to hand over their children aged 8 to 17 years to join the armed group. Another group of 340 persons fled insecurity from Galmudug State following targeted attacks on IDPs settled in parts of Gaalkacyo and Dhuusamareeb accused of being Al-Shabaab collaborators.

Most of the newly displaced persons have established makeshift shelters in open areas adjacent to the existing settlements in the southern part of Baidoa town. Aid agencies and local authorities are concerned that the new IDP influx is compounding an already fragile humanitarian situation. Baidoa town hosts over 323,000 displaced persons – the second largest number of IDPs in the country. Local authorities have called on aid agencies to scale up life-saving response in Baidoa town and surrounding areas. Shelter is also paramount as the majority of the new arrivals are children and women, while lack of privacy can expose girls and women to abuse and other protection challenges.

Cholera vaccination campaign launched

Several areas in Somalia are prone to cholera epidemics due to protracted conflict, climatic shocks, lack of water and sanitation facilities, and weak public health system. The Federal Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners are implementing sustainable solutions to reduce outbreaks.



In 2017, Somalia faced one of its largest cholera outbreaks with over 78,000 cases reported, including 1,159 deaths. Since then, improved capacity of the health system to detect, treat and prevent cholera has kept the cholera situation under control. This year so far, only 1,040 cases of suspected cholera, including one related death from 25 districts have been reported mainly in the Juba and Shabelle river basins.

However, these gains must be sustained through investment in sustainable solutions to minimize recurrent threats of cholera. The Somalia health authorities and WHO are conducting one of Africa's largest immunization campaign using oral cholera vaccines (OCV) with the support of UNICEF, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Global Task Force for Cholera Control. In the first round of the campaign conducted from 22 to 28 June 2019 in high-risk areas, over 621,800 children aged one year and above were vaccinated to eliminate the risk of the disease among vulnerable populations and to prevent recurring

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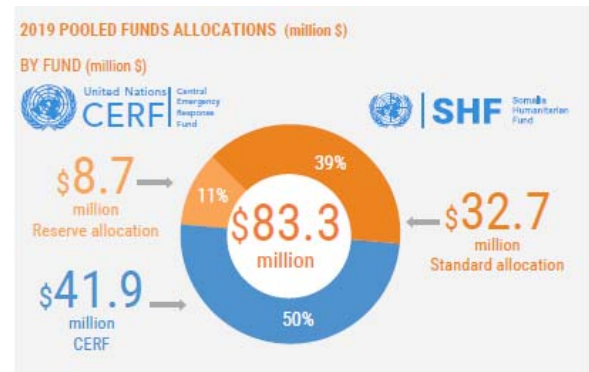
cholera outbreaks in the country. The targeted high-risk areas, include six districts of Heliwa, Kahda and Harmajajab in Banadir region, Balad and Afgooye in Hirshabelle and South West State respectively, and Kismayo in Jubaland State. *“No one should die of cholera in the 21st century, especially when we have an affordable and easily administrable cure. It remains our collective responsibility to save lives and end cholera in Somalia. We remain committed to keep the country free from future cholera outbreaks,”* said Dr Mamunur Rehman Malik, WHO Representative for Somalia.

Social mobilization teams were trained in Balad and other targeted districts before the campaign was launched. The Ministry of Health officials facilitated the training sessions. UNICEF’s Communication for Development teams briefed front-line health workers on vaccination techniques, record keeping and also how to identify those who missed vaccination. The Federal Minister of Health, H.E Dr Fauziya Abikar Nur noted that, *“Cholera remains one of our major public health threats. We now have the means and solutions to prevent outbreaks in Somalia. We continue to work with WHO and our other partners to save lives and prevent cholera on a long-term sustainable basis.”*

As part of the strategy to prevent cholera outbreaks in Somalia, health authorities and WHO are using the OCV in combination with other proven interventions such as improving access to safe water and sanitation and improving hygiene as a long-term sustainable solution to eliminate the risk of recurrent cholera outbreaks. The second round of the OCV will be launched shortly.

Pooled funds scale up response

In response to the worrying humanitarian situation in Somalia driven by climatic shocks, conflict and displacement, the two pooled funds, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), have so far allocated \$83.3 million for life-saving assistance and livelihood support to those in need to-date in 2019. This includes the first 2019 SHF Standard Allocation (\$32.7 million) for the areas with the deteriorating food security and rising malnutrition rates in northern, central and parts of southern Somalia, which was complemented by the \$11.9 million CERF Rapid Response grant for northern Somalia. Subsequently, combined \$8.7 million has been allocated from the SHF Reserve for interventions in drought-affected and hard-to-reach areas, mostly in southern Somalia, and the \$30 million CERF Rapid Response grant has been prioritized in June-July 2019. In addition, some \$0.1 million has been allocated from the SHF for system-wide accountability to affected population activities throughout Somalia.



Meanwhile, \$555.5 million has been mobilized for the Somalia operation, of which \$450 million has been channelled through the Humanitarian Response Plan and an additional \$105 million for activities outside the appeal. Overall, funds paid or committed do not match the actual needs on ground, since 5.4 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Donors are urged to generously contribute to sustain response as the humanitarian situation remains fragile.

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