CONCEPT UPDATE

- According to FEWSNET, moisture deficits have grown in the larger part of the Horn of Africa due to poor rainfall since late September. Over central and southern Somalia, a dry weather pattern is forecast, which could worsen conditions on the ground.1

- Over 15 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are facing dangerous food shortages due to a prolonged drought that has decimated crops and livestock with a prediction of the number increasing towards 2018. Ethiopia’s latest Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) indicates 8.5 million people need relief assistance to meet basic food needs. IPC figures in Kenya documents 3.4 million in need of urgent assistance, while FSNAU report released in August shows in Somalia 6.2 million need humanitarian assistance.

- Average rainfall has been experienced in certain parts of Ethiopia and the government has further developed a “National Integrated Food-Cash Relief Plan” to streamline the ongoing humanitarian response in line with the new approach to food/cash relief assistance. However, UNOCHA estimates at least the first six months of 2018 will remain critical for pastoralist households trying to recover from consecutive weather shocks in southern and South Eastern regions in Ethiopia.

- The ethnic clashes between the Oromos and Somalis is reported to have resulted in killings of over hundreds of Oromos and left close to 225,000 displaced in the last few months. The Government and humanitarian partners have jointly conducted several verification assessments in areas affected by this conflict to gauge the scale of the emergency and scope of humanitarian needs in pursuit of multi-purpose, unconditional cash-based assistance for the conflict-displaced population in Oromia and Somali regions.

- In their efforts to support cross border initiatives and peace, The UN Country teams of Ethiopia and Kenya have committed to support both governments in the implementation of the joint Cross-Border Integrated Program for Sustainable Peace and Socio-economic Transformation: Marsabit County, Kenya, and Borana and Dawa zones, Ethiopia.

- In the just concluded fresh elections, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) announced the incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta as the winner having garnered 98.2% of the vote despite widespread boycott by the main opposition and resulted into filing of petitions challenging his win. This move may further delay the efforts of the Kenya government to fast and actively respond to the ongoing drought situation.

- In Somalia, Deyr rains have now been received in Sool and Togdheer regions, but not in Sanaag region. This is providing some relief to drought conditions in two of Oxfam’s regions of intervention, and rains are still likely in Sanaag in the coming month. However, due to the significant livestock loss during the last three years of recurrent drought, this is not enough to enable households to re-establish their pastoralist livelihoods. The risk of AWD/Cholera is also elevated during this current Deyr rainy season, especially in poorer urban areas of Burao and other larger towns.

Oxfam Horn of Africa Drought Response

**Kenya**

Oxfam intervention has reached 284,631 people in Turkana and Wajir counties.

- **Water Supply**: 284,631 people reached in Turkana and Wajir Counties with improved water access, infrastructure repairs and hygiene promotion. This also includes repair work on water sources for five primary schools, two Early Childhood Development centres and two health centres.

- **Cash Transfer**: 36,006 people have received direct cash transfers in Turkana and Wajir (many are also benefitting from the WASH interventions).

- **Capacity Building**: There is ongoing technical support to water service providers: Wajwasco, Lowasco and Kawaihaspro on integrity management, operational efficiency and billing for revenue efficiency of water ATMs.

**Ethiopia**

Oxfam’s intervention has reached 753,560 people in the Southern Somali region covering 87 institutions more specifically in Korahe, Jarar, Fafan, Nogob and, Erer zones. In Doolo and in Afder zones.

- **Water Supply**: Oxfam has reached more than 753,560 people through water trucking, including 15 institutions (seven health posts, six schools and two cholera treatment centres). Repair of 41 bore holes is currently on-going.

- **Cash Transfer**: 131,550 people across Somali region have been supported through cash transfers.

- **Hygiene Promotion and Sanitation**: Oxfam’s PHP programme has reached 55,719 people in Somali region of Ethiopia.

- **Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) Response**: Over 31,871 people reached to address using hygiene promotion outreach to mitigate transmission and prevention of AWD.

- **Improved Sanitation**: Of the 960 latrines planned to be constructed in IDP camps, 290 latrines have been completed, benefiting over 14,500 people.

**Somalia**

Oxfam intervention in Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer has reached 79,206 people.

- **Water Supply**: 36,042 people provided with clean water through water trucking, two water kiosks set up in Togdheer, hygiene, sanitation and rehabilitation of Birkads is underway in Sool and Sanaag.

- **Cash Transfers**: 14,088 people have been supported with unconditional cash transfers for three months while 3,480 people have been supported through CASH FOR WORK activities.

- **Livelihood Support**: Oxfam has begun to pilot agriculture activities in selective locations as part of the diversification of food/livelihoods sources. This activity targets 700 HH (4200 individuals).

- **Livestock Treatment and Vaccination**: Over 443,749 livestock (cattle, camel and goats) vaccinated in Somali region.

- **Improved Sanitation**: Of the 960 latrines planned to be constructed in IDP camps, 290 latrines have been completed, benefiting over 14,500 people.

- **Livelihood Support**: Oxfam has begun to pilot agriculture activities in selective locations as part of the diversification of food/livelihoods sources. This activity targets 700 HH (4200 individuals).

- **Livestock Treatment and Vaccination**: 13,860 households received support with livestock vaccination (78,000 individuals).
KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES

• Humanitarian Actors and governments should scale up the response to meet the assistance and minimum protection needs of the drought-induced internally displaced persons in the Horn of Africa.

• Given the worsening conditions and predictions that the October-December rains may perform below the minimum, donors and National Governments should prioritize and provide additional funding for the drought response beyond December 2017.

• Donor funding must support an integrated approach to meet both humanitarian and development nexus. This will provide better transition from humanitarian assistance to resilience building.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Lucy Ikai is a 22-year-old mother of two. She got married at an early age but now she is back with her parents. With the onset of the drought, she faced major challenges getting clean and safe water. Lucy says “I am happy that I can now breastfeed; I now have access to water and food. ‘Hii watu ya Oxfam wamenisaidia sana’ (The Oxfam team have been of great assistance). We have had nights when we have slept hungry for up to two weeks due to lack of water. Without water, there is no food. We have to walk long distances looking for water; sometimes we come back empty handed”.

She is talking about the Oxfam led Resilience Consortium which is piloting the use of the e wallet using the HSNP (Hunger Safety Net Programme) mechanism to provide rapid emergency response through both unconditional and conditional cash transfers. Oxfam, through financial support from European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), is reaching 1000 households (6000 people) through unconditional cash transfer of KES 1600 cash, giving families the flexibility to address their immediate needs and conditional cash of KES 900 which they specifically use to access clean reliable water when they want it from the water services departments and vendors.

Lucy received the emergency response cash transfer of KES 1600 unconditional money which she used to buy food for her family, and is currently redeeming water worth KES 900 through the E-wallet. “I have used part of that money to buy food and clothes for my kids as well. Through the E-wallet program, water is no longer a luxury. My kids no longer have to sleep hungry and my elderly parents do not have to walk for long distances”.

The target population carries their HSNP card with an e wallet function to an Equity Agent and tells the agent how much water they want. The agent gives the E-wallet carrier a receipt for the amount of water required; each 20 litre jerry can cost KES 5 (0.05 euro). The HSNP e-wallet cardholder then gives the receipt to the water kiosk vendor and draws water equivalent to the amount of cash redeemed. The e-wallet mechanism allows for flexibility, better planning, dignity and choice to the carrier to access clean reliable water when they need it.

“I was happy when Oxfam selected me to be a beneficiary of the E-wallet programme. Now my children don’t have to go hungry due to lack of water. The rivers have run dry. With water, we have food. The only way to access water is through the watering points. E-wallet has made accessing that water very easy”.

Oxfam has partnered with the Water Department as well as private water vendors to set up similar mechanisms for subsidized water response. The consortium is collaborating with NDMA (HSNP) and Equity bank as they continue to improve the existing service and infrastructure. Transparency International Kenya is involved to ensure that concrete accountability mechanisms are in place to monitor and respond to complaints as they arise.