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Situational Overview

Drought has worsened significantly across Somalia following three consecutive below-average rainy seasons. According to FAO/SWALIM, drought conditions are expected to worsen in December 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, leading to similar drought witnessed in 2017. The intensifying drought has led to water shortages, crop failures, and high levels of livestock migration and deaths. This comes only two years after a devastating drought that impacted hundreds of thousands of lives, placed additional strain on communities, stretched the humanitarian response and displaced over 300,000 people.

The drought is already having a devastating impact on the lives of Somalis. As of 17 December, more than 3.2 million people in 66 of the country’s 74 districts are affected by the drought; of whom 169,000 displaced in search of water, food and pasture. The drought has been particularly harsh in Jubaland, Southwest and Galmudug states (central regions) and parts of Puntland. Severe water shortages and drought conditions have also been reported in parts of Jubaland, South West (Bakool, Bay), and Banadir regions. Many locations rely on shallow wells and water pans in which water levels have decreased significantly, contributing towards the worsening water shortages. Humanitarian partners and local authorities also report widespread livestock deaths and a spike in the prices of commodities like food, fuel, water and livestock fodder. In November 2021, water prices spiked in most districts in Somalia compared to the last reporting period. Eastern and central parts of Galmudug state, most parts of Jubaland and South West State and surrounding areas, reported the highest median water prices. This was mainly attributed to insufficient rains received during the Deyr season that could not replenish ground water source. Severe drought conditions are also leading to the possibility of pathogen accumulation in stagnant water. Concerns remain of people and livestock using contaminated waters, sharply increasing the risk of an Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera outbreak. WASH humanitarian partners in collaboration with the national and local authorities are scaling-up their responses through water trucking, water source chlorination and rehabilitation of existing water sources to address critical needs but insufficient funding is hindering their capacity to reach more people in need.

Without a scale up of humanitarian assistance, an estimated 3.8 million people across Somalia will face severe forms of acute food insecurity through January 2022, rising to 4.6 million people by May, according to FSNAU/FEWNET. Prevalence of acute malnutrition remains high in most drought-stricken parts of the country, with Global Acute Malnutrition at Serious (10 to 14.9 per cent) and at Critical (15 per cent or more) levels in some of the worst affected areas. Some 1.2 million children under the age of 5 are likely to be acutely malnourished in 2022, of whom nearly 300,000 children are projected to be severely malnourished and may be at risk of dying without immediate treatment. Disease outbreaks, including AWD/cholera are on the rise due to severe water shortages and lack of access to adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities, the majority being in IDP sites. This, combined with insecurity and recurring climatic and other shocks, including Desert Locusts and the COVID-19 pandemic, has exacerbated the already precarious humanitarian situation in Somalia. Some 7.7 million people are projected to require humanitarian assistance in 2022. Based on the current drought severity scenario, an estimated 1,379,000 people may be displaced by drought in the coming 6 months.

There are considerable opportunities to incorporate lessons learned from the previous droughts. Improved data forecasting coupled with knowledge of anticipatory or early action can ensure a more targeted scale-up of responses. Systems are in place to facilitate rapid scaling-up of cash-based programming and increased involvement with local actors. Coordination between the Federal Government and state-level authorities is strengthening to ensure a comprehensive humanitarian response.

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1. Based on the current drought severity scenario, an estimated 1,379,000 people may be displaced by drought in the coming 6 months. Reference: (forthcoming) DTM Drought Analysis 2021, December 2021

2. SWALIM, FAO and MOHADM Drought update, 18 November 2021

3. IPC Phase 3/Crisis and IPC Phase 4/Emergency

4. FSNAU-FEWSNET, Somalia Food Security Outlook October 2021 – May 2022

5. IOM DTM
authorities has increased, allowing partners to progressively agree on the nature and scale of the drought and to improve overall accountability.

The time to act is now. This Operational Plan outlines the priority needs, gaps, and strategies for humanitarian partners to address the drought and work towards averting a possible famine respond over the next six months. All interventions outlined here have been incorporated into the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Acknowledging the dire situation in Somalia, US$8 million was allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund on 19 November for immediate response to the drought, including scaling-up food and nutrition assistance, safe water provision, livelihood protection and other urgent humanitarian assistance to drought-stricken people across the country. A portion of this allocation will be used to fund services in anticipation of rising food insecurity, thereby mitigating the impact of deteriorating conditions. Additionally, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund will provide $6 million to the response.

Regional dimension of the crisis
The drought in Somalia cannot be seen in isolation. All countries in the Horn of Africa are negatively impacted by the three consecutive seasons of below average rainfall, with Somalia most severely affected. Areas that have been particularly hard hit include parts of northern and eastern areas of Kenya, Ethiopia’s Somali region, and Somalia, where reports indicate that people are fleeing to nearby towns in search of humanitarian assistance. All warning systems and signs point to an exceptional drought, which has been declared an emergency in Kenya and Somalia. Food insecurity in southern and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia has already worsened significantly in 2021, with severe conditions (IPC Phase 3 “Crisis” and Phase 4 “Emergency”) dominant. Climate change combined with La Niña has resulted in prolonged and persistent drought. This has resulted in poor harvests and body conditions for livestock and has led to crop and livestock production decline that has had a negative impact on food availability. Current climate projections predict a 90 per cent possibility of a La Niña-like climate between March and May 2022, while the most recent IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) weather assessment anticipates cumulative dry conditions through May 2022. These projections show that even with typical March-April-May rains, the region will continue to have long-term rainfall shortages.
As of 17 December, local authorities and humanitarian actors have reported severe water shortages affecting more than 3.2 million people in 66 out of 74 districts of the country. The situation has led to reduced availability of food and pasture, triggering significant pastoral migrations. According to the PRMN, about 169,000 people have been newly displaced by drought so far in 2021, especially in central and southern areas. The regions that are most severely hit include Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Mudug, Galgaduud and larger parts of Bari and Nugaal regions. Large scale displacements are being reported in major urban centers such as Kismayo and Banadir. Without urgent action now in areas severely affected by the drought, it is projected that up to 1.4 million people may be displaced over the next six months.

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6 SWALIM, FAO and MOHAADM Drought update, 18 November 2021
7 PRMN
8 DTM
A country wide rapid needs assessment was carried out throughout the country. Somaliland is currently in the process of carrying out the assessment. As of 17 December, more than 450 assessments in 44 districts have been administrated. The assessment will further enhance overall knowledge of the current impact of the drought in hotspot locations with the aim to support prioritization and better targeting of existing resources.

In Somaliland, due to below normal rainfall received in 2021, several areas in the eastern regions of Sanaag, Sool and Togdheer and Waqooyi Galbeed region are currently experiencing water and pasture shortages according to the Ministry of Water Resources Development (MoWRD). Pastoral movements in search of pasture and water have been reported from nearly 20 villages, including Duruqi Village in Togdheer Region, towards the Somali region of Ethiopia. The National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) and MoWRD have reported that around 51,772 families living in more than 180 villages and IDP sites in the districts of Burco, Ogdheer and Buuhoodde in Togdheer; Laas Caanood, Caynabo, Taleex and Xudun districts in Sool; Ceerigaabo and Ceel-Afweyn districts in Sanaag; Hargeysa district in Woqooyi Galbeed; and Borama and Baki districts in Awdal regions require emergency water trucking. Togdheer (29,773 households) remains the worst drought affected region followed by Sool (11,331 households) and Sanaag (6,275 households). MoWRD reported that about 11 boreholes are not functioning and require maintenance (seven in Sool, two in Woqooyi Galbeed, and one in Togdheer and one in Awdal region). The government of Somaliland has re-activated the inter-ministerial National Drought Council (NDC) and conducted two meetings on the current drought situation in Somaliland.

Authorities in Puntland declared a state of emergency on 5 October, as the severe dry conditions since January have resulted in critical water shortages across the state. According to the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA), 70 per cent of the State has not received any rains from September to November, which is normally the peak of the Deyr seasonal rains. In an appeal issued on 11 November, HADMA reported that more than 1.1 million people in Puntland have been affected by intense drought conditions for more than one year, highlighting the need for water and food. Overall, Adduun, Coastal Deeh, parts of Northern Inland Pastoralist (NIP) as well as East Golis livelihood zones are the worst affected. Abnormal pastoralist movement has been witnessed across Puntland due to lack of water and depleted pasture. Authorities and humanitarian partners in the Highland region (carved out of the larger Sanaag region) have reported that an estimated 12,000 drought-affected pastoral people have moved into Dhahar town and are facing a dire humanitarian situation with most of them joining existing settlements in the region. In Jariban district, more than 90,000 drought-affected people need water and food assistance.

In Galmudug, the drought situation continues to worsen in most parts of Galgaduud and South Mudug, due to delayed Deyr rains, absence of pasture and increased water shortages. According to partners and authorities, the price of one barrel of water (200 liters) has increased from $1-3 to $2-8, depending on the distance. Concerns remain that the prices will continue to increase if it does not rain in the coming weeks. According to the WASH Cluster, over 30 boreholes in Galmudug are not functioning due to mechanical problems thus aggravating the water shortages in the state. In addition, the movements of pastoralists along with their livestock into areas that received light rain have tripled. Over 6,000 families (36,000 people) along with their livestock moved from Ethiopia (Somali-region) and arrived in more than 30 rural villages/locations of Caabud Waaq district since the second week of November. Some rural areas of the district have also received nearly 50,000 pastoralists who migrated from other parts of Galmudug since October. The unusual movements of the pastoralists into the area are reportedly attributed to light rains received in October and early November. Reports from Galmudug Ministry of Livestock have also reported deaths of nearly 2,700 livestock due to drought and diseases. The situation is aggravated by a sharp decline in livestock prices and production.

In Hirshabelle, regional authorities and line ministries in Hiraa region have appealed for humanitarian assistance for people affected by the drought. Humanitarian partners have reported abnormal pastoralist movements to locations where limited Deyr rainfall has been reported. Health partners reported an increase in suspected measles cases, especially in Golole and Bulo Casi, west of Jowhar due to increased vulnerabilities of the people exposed to the drought in the pastoral areas of Middle Shabelle. According to local authorities and humanitarian partners, water reservoirs (berkads), shallow wells and water catchments have dried up. In addition, the main boreholes in Ceel Cade in west of Belet Weyne, Qabino, Mataban, Comad, Hees, Harqaboole and Teedaan in North and North east of Belet Weyne have reportedly broken down. The yield for a borehole in Rage Ceele town has also reduced. As a result, the water price per 200 litres (drum) has significantly increased from $1 to $5. At the same time, due to the poor condition of the livestock, the market price of an average goat has fallen from $50 to $20 and in some areas, one goat is exchanged for 2 or 3 bags of cereal (75 kgs). The increased prices of food, fuel, water, and livestock fodder have exacerbated the situation, leading significant movements of pastoralists (with children and elderly persons) into main towns such as Range Ceele, Cadale, Jowhar, Balcaad, Belet Weyne, Bulo Burtu, and Jalaqas. The Shabelle River level is steadily decreasing due to combined high temperatures and depressed rains, thus aggravating and already precarious humanitarian situation in the state.

In South West State, around 650,000 people are reportedly affected by the drought. Communities have reported severe water scarcity in almost all the regions as water...
catchments have dried up, and with Bay and Bakool regions most severely affected. The capacity of water yield from the existing boreholes has reduced, resulting in long hours of operations to meet population water needs. According to the Ministry of Water and Energy Resources (MoEWR), as of 10 November, more than 48,000 people living in Wajid, Elberde, Rabdhure districts of Bakool region, both in town and 22 rural surrounding villages, are experiencing a severe water shortage due to climate change and prolonged drought. Since early August, all functional water sources, especially in Yeed and Rabdhure villages, have been depleted including the main water pans, open and protected community shallow wells. The number of families that have lost their livestock is increasing. Significant internal livestock migration in search of better pasture and water is going on across the south. In Lower Shabelle, movements of displaced families have been reported from Qorooley, Marka and Barawe. On average, water prices have risen from $2 to $5 for a 200-litre barrel. In addition, over 2,000 people displaced mostly by the drought have arrived in Wajid town from 11 villages in the district, as confirmed by local authorities at the end of October. The number of displaced people is increasing and has put stress on the availability of basic services in the town, which had been militarily encircled by Al Shabab for many years.

In Jubaland, more than 25,000 people have been displaced due to drought, a majority of them pastoralists that were forced to migrate to urban settlements to seek assistance. According to the Jubaland authorities, four people died due to drought and pastoral communities have lost an estimated 70 per cent of their livestock, particularly in cattle rearing zones in Lower and Middle Juba regions. The situation is likely to worsen in the next three months during the Jilaal dry season. According to the Jubaland Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, about 130,000 people need urgent water trucking. Livestock migration and increased competition among pastoralists for the already limited resources has been reported. Forecasts for the 2021 Deyr rains (October-December) indicate a 50 per cent probability of below-normal rains in Gedo and Middle Juba regions and a 45 per cent of below-normal rains in larger parts of central and southern regions. The depressed rains are unlikely to mitigate the drought in the areas facing severe conditions. Fifty-one per cent of the population in Jubaland State are projected to face Stress (IPC 2) or Crisis (IPC 3) food consumption gaps from October to the end of the year, according to FSNAU.

In Banadir region, local authorities and IDPs leaders have reported severe water shortages in IDP sites in Kahda, Daynille, and Garesbaley districts. The impact of new arrivals from drought-affected areas in Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, Bay and Bakool regions and evictions further exacerbate the water stress situation as most IDPs have limited or no access to water and other social services. Overall, local authorities have reported around 18,000 new arrivals have been reported in Banadir due to drought.
Humanitarian Access and Ongoing Response

A total of 272 current operational humanitarian partners are part of Somalia’s humanitarian response system, which remains one of the largest and longest running in the world. These humanitarian partners are scaling up responses in coordination with authorities through water trucking, borehole repair, cash and food and health assistance to meet urgent water and food needs, but are constrained by insufficient finance and access constraints in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas. These constraints include insecurity, bureaucratic and administrative constraints, and infrastructural and environmental challenges that lead to movement restrictions, disruption to imports and domestic supply chains and the availability of basic commodities. Insecurity continues to hamper the ability of humanitarians to reach people in need and to sustain operations, impeding people’s ability to access basic services and lifesaving assistance. Outside of major urban centres, accessibility to some districts, particularly in southern and central regions, remains limited largely due to insecurity along main supply routes. Nine districts remain inaccessible in the drought-affected areas.

Almost 900,000 people are estimated to live within territory controlled by Al-Shabaab (AS) and remain largely out of reach. Areas controlled by AS include those that are contested, and civilian movement is nearly impossible as a result of regular and active hostilities or military operations across parts of Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and South West State.

Access to areas under the control of the FGS and allied non-state armed groups remains largely possible although this is hampered by ongoing insecurity, including the presence of improvised explosive devices along key supply routes. Security checkpoints, many of which are fee-bearing, hinder safe, timely and unimpeded access. Incidents continue to be reported at the authorized checkpoints along all major access roads in southern and central Somalia, with the following access roads most affected: Mogadishu-Afgooye-Baidoa, Mogadishu-Balcad-Jowhar and Belet Weyne-Gaalkacyo. Extortion and other forms of violations are common at the numerous illegal checkpoints manned by both state and non-state armed actors.
24 INCIDENTS REPORTED (JUL - SEPT 2021)

67% OF INCIDENTS RELATED TO DELIVER PRINCIPLED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

11 NUMBER OF DISTRICTS AFFECTED

10 NUMBER OF REGIONS AFFECTED

# of districts affected by Type of Incident

- 18 Ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance
- 8 Ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance
- 4 Armed hostilities preventing access

Type of Access Incidents by Month

- Total number of incidents
- Ability to reach affected communities and to humanitarian assistance
- Ability to deliver principled humanitarian assistance
- Armed hostilities preventing access
Below is an overview of response to date, by state, as of 8 December:

In Galmudug, water trucking activities are ongoing targeting 19 locations in South Mudug with each location receiving 10,000 liters of water per day. The WASH Cluster and partners are rehabilitating eight boreholes and nine shallow wells and distribution of hygiene kits and sanitation supplies targeting 1,000 vulnerable households is ongoing. The nutrition programme in Galmudug is adequately covered across all locations targeting children, pregnant and lactating women. Humanitarian partners in collaboration with local authorities are reaching over 150,000 people with food and livelihood support in affected areas.

In Jubaland, humanitarian partners are reaching an estimated 300,000 people with food assistance (cash and food vouchers), 140,000 people with WASH interventions (water trucking and repair of water systems) and 100,000 people are receiving health interventions. Most of the planned interventions are WASH, food security and livelihoods-related, including rehabilitation of shallow wells and drilling boreholes as well as distribution of agricultural inputs and unconditional cash transfers targeting people affected by the drought.

Humanitarian partners and authorities in Puntland are ramping up responses based on available resources to respond to the drought situation. An estimated 30,000 people in Nugaal and Mudug regions are being assisted to access to clean drinking water by Puntland WASH Cluster partners. The cluster partners are looking to scale up assistance to at least 122,000 people between December and March 2022. In Galmudug, the Ministry of Water Resources is mobilizing two months of water trucking interventions targeting 19 locations in south Mudug and Galgaduud regions. Food Security Cluster partners in Puntland are reaching an estimated 590,000 people across Puntland (mainly in Bari, Sanaag, Sool and Nugaal regions) with improved access to food support through conditional and unconditional cash transfers as part of the ongoing regular HRP emergency response interventions since last October.

In South West, partners are reaching 180,000 people with food security and livelihoods responses across the three regions of Lower Shabelle, Bay and Bakool. An estimated 128,400 people are being assisted with emergency water supply across the State. Another estimated 21,500 and 5,300 people are receiving support in the form of sustainable water infrastructure and sanitation infrastructure services while 34,000 people are being supported with hygiene promotion activities and hygiene kits. There are plans to ramp up support in WASH, health and nutrition projects targeting a total of 280,000 people as part of the drought response in the coming weeks.

In Somaliland, WASH cluster partners are ramping up water trucking in Owdweyne and Burco districts targeting 1,555 households for two months in the villages of Balidhiig, Duruqsi, Sibidhle, Dhooboweyne, Cawale, Roble Cali and Ryo Xidho in Burco district, and Khaatumo, Mulaaxo and Goroyo Ood villages in Odwyene district. The Sanaag regional Ministry of Health Development and the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) sent a health team to assist new arrivals in Figifulye village, Ceerigaabo district, where large number of pastoralists migrated due to the unavailability of water and pasture. The team is treating children suffering from AWD, malnutrition and respiratory tract diseases.

In Hirshabelle State, humanitarian partners and authorities are working on drought monitoring and mobilizing resources from the international community, the private sector and diaspora to respond to severely drought affected people. The regional and district authorities in Belet Weyne provided water assistance through 30 water tanker trucks of 50 drums each, sufficient for 24,000 people in 10 rural villages. Hirshabelle Food Security Cluster partners are reaching an estimated 111,760 people in six districts in the two regions of Middle Shabelle and Hiraan with unconditional cash/voucher assistance (CBT), conditional cash transfer, Food/Vouchers for Assets and general food distribution. Most of the assistance started in September and will end of 31 December 2021. The ongoing interventions have had a positive impact on the current drought conditions by reducing the suffering of the affected populations, many whom have lost livelihood options due to the past and current drought and other shocks.

In Banadir, Food Security Cluster partners are responding to different types of activities targeting drought-affected IDPs, conflict-affected IDPs from neighboring regions such as Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle and Bay regions, as well as IDPs evicted from within Banadir region. The ongoing response includes provision of unconditional food voucher and cash assistance, livelihood support through vocational training for IDPs, provision of safety nets assistance in form of cash to vulnerable people. In October/November, Food Security Cluster partners reached 69,400 out of 530,7000 people in need of food assistance. In addition, there is multi-purpose cash assistance for some of the IDPs. Also, there is ongoing targeted in-kind food distribution and small business support for the most vulnerable IDPs through conditional cash transfer. The WASH Cluster partners are supporting water provision to 800 vulnerable households and distribution of hygiene kits to 1,500 worst affected IDP households in Banadir, many of them displaced due to drought from previous years. Access to water and food continues to be a major challenge facing most of the IDPs in Banadir.
Coordination with The Government

The operational drought response is led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) at the national level. Coordination has been reinforced between humanitarian partners and state level MoHADMs in Galmugdug, Hirshabelle, South West and Jubaland states, as well as the National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) and with the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) in Puntland. Technical level bi-weekly meetings have been established between OCHA, the Federal MoHADM and the state level MOHADM to strengthen overall coordination and collaboration in information sharing, joint assessments and scale up of the overall response.

The Office of the Prime Minister recently reactivated the National Emergency and Coordination Centre (NEOC) to coordinate the strategic level drought emergency response. An inter-ministerial committee chaired by MoHADM was formed to oversee a joint coordination mechanism established between the Federal Government and Member States to enable a quick response at local level and to link information on the ground to an effective response.
Response strategy

This drought response plan is informed by best practices and lessons learned, particularly from the 2016/2017 drought response. The quick, joint actions by the Somali Government, local communities and diaspora, and national and international partners in 2017 averted another famine similar to the one of 2010/2011. Building on the lessons learned, the primary focus is on providing urgent life-saving water, distribution of food aid, cash and voucher assistance, nutrition and health services in the hotspot locations. This will help reduce the necessity for people to migrate in search of food by scaling up social protection, health and WASH activities in rural communities and distributing food aid in locations worst hit by the drought to prevent further displacement of the affected population.

To prevent further deterioration of the drought situation, the core of the strategy is to frontload the scale up of delivery of humanitarian assistance to those most in need. Specifically, there is a need for the immediate implementation of an integrated response of WASH, health, nutrition and food assistance in the hotspot locations. The joint Health and WASH Cluster Technical Working Group (TWG) formed in July 2019 has been reactivated to reduce mortality and morbidity related to WASH-related diseases by identifying risk factors for their transmission and preventive measures to reduce occurrence of outbreaks. The TWG will help enhance the collaboration between the Health and the WASH clusters by being a catalyst group to fill the communication and information gaps, support the response mechanisms, capacity mapping and needs assessment in hot-spots, provide concrete and specific guidance to the partners for effective and efficient preparedness and response, including developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and drafting and updating a joint preparedness and response plan. An Early Warning and Response Network (EWARN) and other early warning and detection tools are in place to support AWD or Cholera related prevention and response. There are also WASH related supplies prepositioned in the main supply hubs across the states to support the response.

Cash-based assistance will be one of the main response modalities to the drought in Somalia. Cash coordination mechanisms led by the Cash Working Group (CWG) are already in place at national and sub-national levels to support rapid scale-up and sustained response. These include significant cash programming, expanded partnerships with already-vetted local implementing partners and improved engagement with authorities and affected populations. Partners will prioritise unconditional, unrestricted cash and voucher assistance (CVA) that will allow beneficiaries ‘flexibility and dignity’ of choice. In addition, when choosing delivery mechanisms, preference will be placed on modalities that support timely and safe delivery of cash. Where network coverage exists, the use of mobile money transfers will be expanded to reach affected populations residing in remote locations. Humanitarian partners are already engaged in and prioritizing cash assistance through SCOPE or mobile banking, to scale up timely assistance and to reach remote areas more easily. Monitoring will be scaled up and market information will be shared regularly among partners through the CWG.

The newly established coordination architecture at sub-national level (State Inter-Coordination Group (SICCG), Area Humanitarian Coordination Groups (AHCGs), regional and district level coordination structures) will help strengthen area-based coordination to ensure efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to drought affected people. The sub-national coordination structure will also support the partners to identify gaps, minimize duplication through field-visit monitoring and ensure good community-based targeting. This latter, in communication with communities, which is one way of attempting to prevent exclusion of marginalized and vulnerable people from the response. Led by the government at federal and state levels, humanitarian partners will continue to adopt a two-pronged approach that relies on extension of humanitarian assistance as close as possible to the rural population, and enhancing response capacity in larger hubs throughout the country to meet needs of newly displaced people due to the drought, and other vulnerable groups.

Identifying safe access routes and obtaining assurances to enter hard-to-reach areas remain important measures to mitigate the risk of major hindrances for humanitarian access, such as restriction of movement, the denial of access or interference in the delivery of aid. The Access Working Group and the Logistics Cluster will also coordinate with partners to address priority issues for joint action, including processes for use of air assets, and addressing bureaucratic and administrative challenges through negotiations and advocacy. Humanitarian civil-military coordination with relevant counterparts will promote coherent and practical approaches to address any risks. Partners continue to employ a low-profile approach to access hard-to-reach areas and implement risk mitigation measures to access rural areas, where the majority of the affected population reside.

A focus on early action through initiatives such as Anticipatory Action will continue to be scaled-up to ensure, as much as possible, mitigation of the impact of the drought on people in need.
Timeliness of the response

Timeliness of the scale-up of humanitarian assistance in the coming weeks is critical to preventing a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation across the country and to mitigate the impact of the drought. Despite the alarming water shortages across the country and the potential risks of water borne related diseases, critical sectors such as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health and nutrition are unable to scale-up responses due to limited resources or huge funding gaps. Therefore, frontloading funding now to scale up urgent lifesaving and sustainable WASH activities such rehabilitation of water infrastructure including boreholes, can help prevent what could otherwise become a very costly response in 2022 when the situation is projected to worsen. In addition, funding arrangements that provide an opportunity for operational partners to re-programme existing resources will facilitate timely response and thus enable quick actions to mitigate the impact of the drought.

KISMAYO, SOMALIA

Photo: OCHA Somalia
Cluster Response

KISMAYO, SOMALIA
Photo: OCHA Somalia
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

The CCCM Cluster will advocate for the provision of basic services in sites through integrated programming. The cluster will target 181,305 individuals or 203 IDP sites in the drought-affected locations and will reinforce the existing mechanisms and scale-up CCCM response in the drought affected locations. The key activities that the CCCM cluster will undertake to mitigate effects of drought and prevent further deterioration of living conditions of the already over-crowded sites include:

- Provide updated information on population movements and displacement sites to clusters through the Detailed Site Assessments (DSA), movement tracking of new arrivals and site verification exercises to ensure that services target the most vulnerable populations;
- Ensure people displaced by drought who join existing sites are able to immediately receive lifesaving services through community outreach and ensuring mechanisms for communication and feedback on multisector services are available;
- Improve living conditions of drought-affected populations through site improvement and maintenance;
- Enhance coordination with local authorities and other key partners to support displaced people in sites to achieve early recovery;
- Ensure equitable access to services and protection of existing and newly vulnerable displaced persons, including the elderly and persons with disabilities in IDP sites;
- Administer site-level rapid assessments aimed at highlighting key site-level needs which will enhance efficient resource mobilization by sector partners.

The CCCM cluster will continue to focus on data collection activities while looking to establish temporary site management initiatives that aim at building community resilience and ensuring that humanitarian partners are updated on site-level needs. Site improvement activities will evolve to include wage-paying workdays for IDPs geared at rehabilitating damaged infrastructure or improving the IDP site environment with an emphasis on water access.

Education

The Education Cluster will target about 420,000 (45% girls) children in school but at risk of dropping out due to the impact of the drought. The cluster estimates that 1.4 million school-aged children (6-17 years) are affected by the drought. With population movement and lack of community support for teachers’ remuneration, there will be high probability of school closures. Children who drop out of school are at risk of recruitment into armed forces, early marriages for girls and are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. During the month of October, Education partners reached over 41,000 drought-affected children with education-in-emergencies assistance. The cluster will scale up the current response and, as a priority, ensure school going children remain in school. Education interventions will ensure the provision of a safe and protective learning environment and access to life-saving services for children through an integrated approach targeting those in the worst drought affected areas and drought-affected children in the major hubs. Children will be provided access to safe drinking water, emergency school feeding, hygiene promotion to prevent the AWD/Cholera, psychosocial support while teaching and learning materials will be provided along with support for emergency teacher incentives. This will help mitigate and prevent children from dropping out of school because of the drought.

The second priority for the Education Cluster is to support children wherever they move to because of drought and to provide access to education and life-saving services such as safe drinking water, school feeding and prevention of AWD/Cholera through hygiene promotion. The response will provide a protective learning environment through the construction of temporary learning spaces, distribution of teaching and learning materials, and support to teachers with emergency teacher incentives. Schools serve as an entry point for life-saving services and ensure protection for one of the most vulnerable groups - children.
Food Security

Building on the lessons learned from the 2017 and 2019 drought responses and the current reach of humanitarian food assistance in Somalia, the food security response strategy will be two pronged: addressing the immediate food needs to save lives while protecting livelihoods and related food and income sources to prevent further deterioration of food security over the next 6 months. Lifesaving food and livelihood assistance will target all people experiencing severe to extreme food insecurity (IPC 3 and 4) in all accessible areas, including internally displaced populations. Priority activities will include both unconditional and conditional transfers (both in-kind and vouchers) to improve immediate access to food, to support rehabilitation and establishment of critical community infrastructure and to increase household income.

Immediate lifesaving food assistance will target all the 4.6 million people in IPC phase 3 and 4 in all accessible areas affected by drought through May 2022. As noted in the ‘timeliness of the response’ section above, relief assistance will be increased immediately to reach all the 4.6 million people from January 2022 (resources permitting). By frontloading food assistance in the first part of the year, more efficient use of resources can help prevent a substantial deterioration in food security later in 2022.

Life sustaining livelihood support will aim to protect livelihoods and related income and food sources for approximately 1.1 million people in IPC phase 3 and 4, including IDPs in all accessible rural areas. Cluster partners will utilize conditional cash transfers to rehabilitate critical water infrastructure in affected areas to improve access to water for livestock in the predominantly pastoral districts. Priority activities will include provision of seasonally appropriate agricultural inputs such as quality seed, tools and irrigation support; emergency livestock assistance such as mass vaccination, supplementary feed and fodder production and distribution; emergency coastal-based livelihoods assistance such as provision of basic fishing gear and related equipment; livelihood diversification e.g. kitchen gardens; and prevention and response to food chain threats (e.g. fall armyworm, Desert Locust and transboundary animal diseases). The appropriate modalities of assistance will be employed based on the evolving situation including displacement, weather conditions etc. This will include cash+ inputs or inputs through voucher modalities based on each specific local context.

Where markets continue to function, as assessed by FSNAU/WFP market monitoring, cash-based programming will be the preferred method to support those in need and as a form of market support in ensuring supplies, increased demand and stimulating local markets. Households will receive cash transfers for an initial period of three to six months. The situation will be monitored closely, and an additional three months of cash transfers will be provided if the drought conditions worsen. While the FSC will scale-up cash-based transfers, the use of this modality will be rooted by in-depth market assessments and feasibility analyses with the aim of minimizing operational costs and improving the effectiveness, efficiency and timely and safe delivery of food, agriculture and livelihood assistance in a dignified manner. The Cash Working Group will coordinate cash and market-based response across sectors. Complementary cash programming (e.g. “Cash+”) will enable households to cover food consumption gaps while avoiding the distress sale of livestock to afford food and non-food items.

The FSC, in collaboration with FSNAU and WFP-VAM, will closely monitor the food security situation and response. The FSC partners will conduct routine monitoring through various methods to ascertain the food security situation of households, assess risk factors that contribute to food insecurity, highlight vulnerable geographical areas and groups, and inform the appropriate choice of modalities. The information on vulnerability and the evolving situation will enable well-informed decision-making processes for programme design and targeting purposes, as well as provide evidence for the expansion of future food and livelihood assistance programs. FSC will rely on the FSNAU Early Warning Early Action Dashboard and VAM data to identify specific populations and areas that are at an increased risk of food and livelihood insecurity in order to provide early warning to decision makers for appropriate timely support and interventions.
Health

Health Cluster partners will focus on critical lifesaving and disease prevention interventions targeting about 574,929 drought-affected and vulnerable populations to prevent avoidable morbidity and mortality. The cluster response for drought is building on the ongoing response with detection and response to potential outbreaks and provision of health services to affected populations as described in the HRP. With the ongoing drought, an increase of AWD/cholera outbreaks and deterioration of the nutritional status of children younger than 5 years is expected. A scale up for detection and case management services for AWD/cholera and those severely malnourished with complications, is required to save lives. Progress on service availability and quality of the services will be tracked in the drought response matrix by measuring the following basic indicators:

- # Of cholera cases treated and CFR (<1%),
- # Of nutrition stabilization centers and percentage with minimum standards reached (oxygen, blood transfusion).
- # Of severely malnourished with complication treated and CFR (<10%).

Through an integrated approach, the cluster will support equitable access to emergency and essential healthcare services. By integrating services, especially with nutrition and WASH, actions will prevent individuals slipping back into malnourished and fragile health conditions. Health partners will work closely with WASH actors to maintain water availability for health care facilities and waste-management in the affected communities. A joint Health and WASH Cluster Technical Working Group (TWG) has been reactivated to reduce mortality and morbidity related to WASH-related diseases and to identify risk factors for their transmission and preventive measures to reduce occurrence of outbreaks. The Health Cluster working group at sub-national level will lead area-based control, prevention and case management, coordination through local task forces for outbreak control. The cluster partners will continue to provide health services in conjunction with national and local health authorities, by filling gaps in human resources, supplies and equipment.

Logistics

The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide support to humanitarian partners in addressing the acute logistics challenges that permeate the humanitarian response due to insecurity, access, capacity and infrastructure issues and that will play a pivotal role in the drought response. Considering the overlapping logistics challenges, there is a need for further scale-up of logistics and for support to the response with common services, coordinated logistics and information management. Based on the expectations by OCHA/ICCG of the drought impact in 66 districts (29 being hotspots), it is expected that around 50 per cent of the population response needs (13 districts) can be accessed by road or sea while the remaining (16 hotspots) require airlifts particularly in the southern districts. In response to these access assumptions, the Logistics Cluster will design its response to enable organizations to use the most cost-efficient and time-effective mode of transport. Therefore, considering accessibility and availability of resources, common services will be designed to provide transport by sea, road and air, in respective order of priority, to account for transport efficiencies as well as storage to support the prepositioning of goods in key drought-affected areas. Common services will be designed to leverage existing capabilities such as WFP’s air and sea resources and to incentivize collaborative solutions and resource-pooling. For each transport mode or other support, the following strategy shall be used, either on a free-to-user basis or cost-recovery depending on priorities and funding available:

- Sea Transport: The Logistics Cluster shall facilitate access to WFP’s Time Charter vessel operating along the Horn of Africa as well as dhows to connect operational ports such as Kismayo, Mogadishu, Bossaso and Berbera. This will enable large amounts of supplies to be transferred between entry points and reach demand areas. Maximising the use of Bossaso port to serve the southbound corridor to Dhusamareeb and Kismayo port for coastal areas in the south are critical to ensure effective responses.
• Road Transport: From key hubs accessible by road, existing transport resources shall be made available to transport goods from strategic hubs to final destinations. All relevant routes accessible by road have existing available resources through local transporters.

• Air Transport: whenever sea and road transport are not feasible, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to fixed-wing aircraft either provided through local air operators or WFP aviation. Air transport destinations are concentrated in the southern districts where access is often dependent on the presence of AMISOM to enable airstrips to be operational. In all circumstances, the Logistics Cluster will fulfil requests with air transport as a last resort to balance the trade-off between timeliness and costs.

In addition to common services, logistics coordination will be facilitated through coordination meetings to ensure that synergies and joint efforts can be identified. The Logistics Cluster will advocate, together with OCHA and other relevant stakeholders, for the facilitation of customs procedures to enable unimpeded arrival of humanitarian supplies and the potential opening of new cross-border routes. Finally, logistics capacity information shall be assessed and shared with the community to support planning and decision-making. Finally, information management services will be provided, particularly for the consolidation of needs and bottlenecks such as physical road access maps to ensure logistics efforts are designed based on the latest available information. The Logistics Cluster response will follow this strategy to provide supplementary and temporary augmentation of organisations’ internal logistics capacity.

Nutrition

The Nutrition Cluster partners will provide life-saving nutrition interventions by identifying and training partners for assessments, developing scenarios and specific caseloads, including children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) for each beneficiary groups, mapping out the available contingency stocks and the stocks that are already in the pipeline to address the drought.

To ensure a coordinated and integrated response, the cluster will prioritize working within existing health facilities and linking with WASH and health actors to address risk factors of preventable morbidity from communicable diseases notably AWD, measles and pneumonia. Partners will also provide additional vital preventive interventions through blanket supplementary feeding programme (BSFP), maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN), basic nutrition service packages. The response will target the screening of 177,130 PLWs and 393,622 children under 5 years of age.

The cluster will target 280,764 children and 56,239 PLW with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) through targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP). Additionally, 65,256 children with uncomplicated Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) will be treated in Outpatient Therapeutic Sites (OTPs) while SAM cases with medical complications will be referred to in-patient stabilization centers for specialized care and treatment. The cluster will also target 325,510 individuals for counselling for mothers or care takers of children under 2 years on Infant Young Child Feeding Practices. Additionally, the Cluster will target 1,265,871 children 6-59 months with Vitamin A supplementation and deworming. This will promote participation of affected communities and ensure engagement in service delivery, caretakers of children with acute malnutrition in a continuous dialogue by trained service providers with the aim of increasing the uptake of infant and young child feeding practices to prevent worsening maternal and childhood nutrition.

Within the Nutrition Cluster, preparedness and response activities are interlinked in saving lives of affected communities that are vulnerable to malnutrition, as well as those suffering from acute malnutrition whereby preparedness requires delivery of services beyond the classical preparedness actions. These include food-based interventions to prevent acute malnutrition and treatment of moderately malnourished children to prevent morbidity and mortality from severe acute malnutrition. The nutrition cluster has prepared an anticipatory action plan to mitigate the effects of drought and activities will complement responses to large-scale displacement due to drought.
Protection

Protection concerns in Somalia are complex, multifaceted and protracted and have lasted multiple generations, thus requiring a robust and holistic protection approach in response to the current drought. The Protection Cluster and Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) teams will work to address the acute protection needs of individuals, including persons with disabilities and older persons facing life-threatening risks of abuse, violence, exploitation, injury, severe distress. Through the Protection Monitoring System and other protection-related procedures, including the collection of disaggregated data, the Protection Cluster will promote and mainstream data collection and analysis for at least 240,755 individuals. Based on the responses and outcomes, the cluster will revise its response strategy and promote awareness among humanitarian partners about current/updated protection concerns in the context of the drought.

The Protection cluster will focus on the provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services by protection monitoring case-workers to respond to 480 individuals in mental distress due to recent displacement. Furthermore, the referral to basic and specialized services for 480 individuals and cash grants for extremely vulnerable individuals (EVI)s will be prioritized. Furthermore, the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) AoR will recruit emergency response staff and partners for HLP response and to conduct HLP mainstreaming trainings for partners and implementers to strengthen dispute resolution structures that arise in IDP sites.

Child Protection partners will build on existing community structures by mobilizing community members among drought-affected populations for at least 100,000 individuals. Child Protection partners will provide support to the community-based structures and involve them in project interventions including identification of protection issues, prevention activities including effective community messaging on violence, exploitation and abuse of children in times of emergencies, and the response and follow-up work for affected children. The community-based structure also involves awareness raising on drought induced harmful coping practices such as child marriages, hazardous child work as well as identifying and referring children and families for the services they need.

To mitigate risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), enhance safety and protection mainstreaming, rapid GBV assessments at sites hosting new arrivals those displaced by drought will be undertaken by the GBV AoR cluster members to determine impact and immediate needs for at least 100,000 individuals. Clinical management of rape, psycho-social support (PSS) and socio-economic reintegration will be provided to GBV survivors through a survivor-centred approach ensuring confidentiality, safety, respect and non-discrimination. The GBV AoR will also work with other clusters to identify vulnerable women and girls and distribute dignity kits and re-usable sanitary pads and other material items for dignity protection.

The Protection Cluster and AoRs will assist other sectors in mainstreaming protection into their activities, as well as ensuring that interventions are delivered in a safe and accountable manner, ensuring meaningful and equal access to services, and empowering communities. The response will be delivered in accordance with the priorities of the Centrality of Protection Strategy for Somalia, including addressing risks of exclusion and discrimination based on societal discriminatory practices, power structures, vulnerability, age, and gender.
Shelter

Shelter Cluster partners will provide support to displaced populations and host communities in drought-affected areas by distributing non-food items and emergency shelter kits. This plan will focus on life-saving activities to ensure that displaced households have access to basic shelter and household items required for survival. This will include standardized shelter kits designed by cluster members. The cluster will target 135,000 drought displaced people with non-food (NFI) items and emergency shelter kits. The national cluster will support technical issues (tools/technical standards etc.), advocate for funds and access, mobilize additional partners, if required, coordinate with other clusters as needed and provide any other support required. With the support of the national shelter cluster, the shelter cluster at sub-national level will take part in multi cluster assessment/coordinate cluster specific assessment, decide on use of locally available contingency stock, coordinate the response at local level, report on gaps, advocate on behalf of the partners at local level and ask for support from the national cluster.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH Cluster partners will scale up emergency services focusing on water trucking, the rehabilitation non-functional boreholes and extension of existing water systems and the construction of new water points for communities affected by drought. The cluster will focus on the affected areas that lack adequate coverage in terms of WASH services in order to ensure optimal usage of water sources, sustainability and mitigation of water and sanitation-borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and cholera. As first line response (in the first phase), emergency WASH services will be provided to 2.6 million people living in the drought-affected locations and to drought displaced populations. These include emergency water trucking or water provision via vouchers (targeting 2.6 million people), water sources rehabilitation and construction (targeting 920,000 people), as well as hygiene kits distribution and hygiene promotion (targeting 2.6 million people).

To complement the overall first line response activities, the cluster will prioritize the rehabilitation of non-functional strategic boreholes and construction of new water infrastructure and preservation of aquifers to mitigate long term depletion of water resources, building capacities of communities through the establishment of gender-balanced WASH committees to manage communal WASH systems, and construction/rehabilitation of sanitation facilities and focus on resilience building of the communities. Besides, water systems will be constructed in locations close to users in order to reduce risks that expose women to violence as well as the time they would spend travelling in order to collect water. Access to sufficient amounts and quality of water is a crucial component of drought response as it will not only save lives but also contribute to the sustainability of nutrition, health, and food security outcomes. The WASH Cluster will collaborate with the Health, Education, Nutrition and Food Security clusters in WASH interventions. WASH support to education facilities to retain learners where schools continue to function will be a key coordinated response with Education Cluster partners. Improvement of WASH conditions in health and nutrition centers, through the construction/rehabilitation of infrastructures, hygiene promotion and reinforcement of operation and maintenance systems will also be at the centre of the coordination with health and nutrition partners. In this case and as part of a coordinated response with the Health Cluster, responses will be prioritized in locations that are experiencing AWD/cholera outbreaks as a direct consequence of drought. After replenishment of regional supply hubs, WASH partners will distribute hygiene kits in the regions with AWD/cholera outbreaks.

As part of preparedness activities, the WASH Cluster is working with partners to ensure prepositioning of hygiene kits to target 240,000 people and conduct partner capacity mapping in WASH target areas.