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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Federal Government of Somalia declares a state of emergency as drought intensifies, affecting more than 2.8 million people in 66 out of 74 districts, with nearly 133,000 people displaced in search of food, water and pasture.

- US$14 million allocated from the Central Emergency Response Fund ($8 million) and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund ($6 million) as drought compounds existing humanitarian needs and protection risks.

- Government opens the National Desert Locust Monitoring Center in Puntland, as increasing hopper bands are reported in the northern regions.

- Health partners integrate Gender-Based Violence programming into 2021 HRP to ensure a holistic approach to needs arising as a result of this practice, that remains rampant in Somalia.

- Call for strengthened civil-military coordination and information sharing as OCHA facilitates a two-day humanitarian civil-military coordination workshop.

KEY FIGURES

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<td>People need humanitarian assistance in 2022</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Persons</td>
<td>Children projected to be acutely malnourished</td>
<td>People experiencing acute food insecurity</td>
<td>People affected by the drought</td>
<td>People displaced by the drought</td>
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GOVERNMENT DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY AS DROUGHT INTENSIFIES

Somalia is facing an extreme drought. All warning systems and indicators converge on the same conclusion: the situation is extreme and will likely further deteriorate in the coming months. The drought has affected more than 2.8 million people in 66 out of Somalia’s 74 districts and displaced about 133,000 people, mostly in central and southern areas, according to the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network.

On 23 November, Somali Prime Minister declared a state of emergency owing to the drought and appealed for humanitarian assistance. “Our country is in a state of humanitarian emergency. I call upon all Somalis, business people, religious leaders, the diaspora and the international community to make concerted efforts to mitigate the suffering of those affected by the drought,” said the Prime Minister.

While pockets of acute need exist across the country, the drought is particularly severe in Galmudug, Jubaland, parts of Puntland and South West states, where minimal to no rainfall has been received since the start of the October to December deyr season. The Galmudug Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management appealed for humanitarian assistance on 11 November, stating that about 80 per cent of the state is affected by drought, including areas controlled by non-state armed actors in Mudug and Galgaduud regions. Over 60,000 people have reportedly migrated with their livestock to Ethiopia, according to the Galmudug Ministry of Livestock.
In Puntland, more than 431,000 people are reportedly affected by drought, as are about 700,000 people in Somaliland and 620,000 in South West State, while in Banadir, close to 11,000 new arrivals have been reported due to drought since October.

Basic commodity prices have spiked due to severe shortages of water, fuel, cereals, food and livestock feeds. Maize and sorghum prices in many markets in southern Somalia have risen 30 to 60 per cent above a five-year average. Livestock deaths – a major source of livelihood for pastoralists – are widespread and have particularly increased since October. In Galmudug, over 2,700 livestock have been lost since 25 October due to prevailing drought and diseases, according to the state Ministry of Livestock. Livestock prices are down by over 50 per cent in November, compared to three months ago.

Pastoralists are migrating in search of food and water, including across the borders to and from Ethiopia and Kenya. About 31,000 new arrivals have been received in Jubaland, where the authorities report that four people died allegedly due to drought. The IDPs, the majority from Bay, Bakool and parts of Gedo region, are hosted in six sites in Luuq District, and urgently need food and shelter, according to the district authorities.

In late November, some areas experienced little rains, with stations recording an average of five days of rainfall, but this is significantly insufficient and of not much impact on farming communities as the planting season had ended, according to the FAO Somalia Water and Land Information Management (FAO/SWALIM). If drought conditions are to worsen as expected in December and into the first quarter of 2022, it will likely lead to a similar situation witnessed in 2016/2017, according to FAO.

Drought compounds existing humanitarian and protection concerns

The drought in Somalia has compounded existing vulnerabilities and the precarious humanitarian situation arising from decades of protracted conflict and insecurity, food insecurity, climate shocks and disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic and preventable diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera and measles. At least 7.7 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

Food insecurity is projected to worsen significantly through May 2022 due to the poor performance of the October-December deyr rains and the end of the planting seasons. Prospects for deyr season cereal production in southern agropastoral areas remain bleak (50-70 per cent below the 10-year and 1995-2020 averages) and this will worsen the already dire food security situation in the country, resulting in widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security outcomes, according to FSNAU/FEWSNET.

Without a scale-up in humanitarian assistance, FSNAU estimates that about 3.8 million Somalis will continue to face acute food insecurity through January 2022, rising to 4.6 million people by May. Alarming high malnutrition levels (GAM assessed to be Serious at 10 to 14.9 per cent) have been reported throughout the country. At least 1.2 million children under-five are likely to be acutely malnourished, including nearly 213,400 who are likely to be severely malnourished and at risk of dying.

Given the water shortages and the lack of access to sufficient sanitation and hygiene services, an increase of water- and vector-borne diseases, including AWD/cholera and measles is expected, mostly in IDP camps. This will strain the already limited health services at a time that the country is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination campaigns are ongoing across Somalia but only 2.6 per cent of the population (under 407,000 people) has received at least one COVID-19 dose as of 13 November, according to the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization. At 30 November, Somalia has reported 22,837 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 1,313 deaths since the outbreak of the pandemic in

March 2020, according to the Ministry of Health. More than 80 per cent of the cases have been reported in Banadir (6,900 cases), Puntland (5,308 cases) and Somaliland (6,300 cases).

Drought-induced displacement has increased, raising protection risks, as the IDPs, the majority of whom are women and children, are reportedly travelling on foot for up to eight days and sleeping in open spaces while on transit, without protection or assistance, including on arrival in IDP camps, according to authorities in Luuq. The situation is likely to be the same in other areas experiencing drought.

Ground water availability has been affected adversely as shallow wells have dried up, leaving the communities to rely on boreholes, which are far apart and some with low yield and poor quality, especially in Puntland and the central regions. Water prices in Galmudug have risen by about 300 per cent from US$2 to $8 for a 200-litre barrel, depending on the distance, with similar reports received in other parts. Given the seasonal forecast, and with little or no rainfall received through November, the current drought conditions and impacts are expected to worsen in the coming months. A scale-up of humanitarian assistance is urgently needed to save lives and livelihoods.

GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS RAMP UP DROUGHT RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners, and federal as well as state authorities have scaled-up and reprogrammed activities to address the emergency needs caused by the drought across Somalia. The reprogramming has meant that thousands of people who had been earlier identified as needing assistance and protection will continue in a vulnerable state as resources are redirected to address the critical needs emerging from the worsening drought.

The operational drought response is led by the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) at the national level. Coordination between the Federal Government, state-level authorities and humanitarian partners has significantly increased, allowing for common messaging on the nature and scale of the drought.

The Office of the Prime Minister has reactivated the National Emergency and Coordination Centre to coordinate strategic level drought emergency response and established an inter-ministerial committee to oversee the joint coordination mechanism between the Federal Government and Federal Member States.

OCHA is working with partners to develop a six-month Drought Preparedness and Response Plan, which will be annexed to the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The plan is informed by best practices and lessons learned, particularly from the 2016/2017 drought response. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US$8 million and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) $6 million for the drought response. The CERF will target hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable people in Jubaland and South West State and the SHF mainly Puntland and Galmudug. However, additional and early funding is urgently required. For example, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) requires $2.35 million to protect pastoralist assets through livestock treatment for 1.5 million animals and provide cash to meet the food needs of 12,500 poor and vulnerable pastoral households in southern Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland.

Funding for humanitarian operations, currently at 71 per cent, continues to be uneven across sectors, and has been slow and delayed, thus hampering timely and robust humanitarian response. Less than a month to the end of the 2021 funding cycle, sectors critical to the drought response like WASH and Health are only 30 and 38 per cent funded, respectively, at a time when water shortages are a major challenge across the Horn of Africa region. Early funding for next year is critical to mitigate the impact of the coming dry season.

At the state level, the authorities in collaboration with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners are mobilizing funds for the drought response as they continue to provide assistance with the available resources, that are however diminishing rapidly. WASH Cluster partners are scaling-up emergency services especially urgent water trucking,
rehabilitation and repair of boreholes, distribution of food aid, cash and voucher assistance, nutrition and health services in the hotspot locations. The response activities\(^2\) are however constrained by insufficient funding and administrative/bureaucratic barriers and access constraints, particularly in areas affected by conflict and insecurity, such as parts of Hirshabelle, Jubaland, and the South West states.

**SOMALIA OPENS NATIONAL DESERT LOCUST MONITORING CENTER**

On 3 December, the National Desert Locust Early Warning and Control Base was inaugurated in Qardho Town, Puntland State by the State President and FAO. The center was funded by UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and United States Agency for International Development.

“The desert locust situation has taken its toll on our communities. It has negatively affected livelihoods and human and animal health across the region. Training and facilities like the Desert Locust Monitoring Centre mean that we are not just responding in the present but have the capacity to manage these crises in the future as well,” said the president.

In addition to offering early warning services, the center is expected to strengthen national and regional capacities to better manage locust emergencies and employ preventive measures, eventually improving the food security situation in areas vulnerable to the infestation.

The current weather conditions in northern Somalia are conducive for desert locust breeding, with an increasing number of hopper bands forming in November, according to the FAO’s Desert Locust Watch. There is a risk that some swarms in northeastern Ethiopia, the Gulf states, or western Asia could migrate to northern Somalia to breed. However, dry conditions in northeastern Ethiopia and ongoing aerial control operations in northeast Somalia will likely lower the scale of damage to pasture and crops compared to last year. Since February 2020, desert locust control teams sprayed at least 406,425 hectares of land by both ground and aerial assets, according to FAO.

**HEALTH PARTNERS INTEGRATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMMING IN 2021**

Health Cluster partners are continuing to advocate for the integration of gender-based violence (GBV) elements in health responses, to ensure a holistic approach that caters for needs arising as a result of this practice, that remains rampant in Somalia. The cluster included GBV as a key cluster objective of the 2021 HRP. During the reporting period, Health Cluster partners assessed the availability of Post Exposure Preventive (PEP) kits among health partners and worked with the COVID-19 emergency response teams to integrate the referral component of GBV response in trainings and community COVID-19 response activities. This was the first-time training on GBV was considered for District Health Officers and Community Health Workers (CHWs). Previous GBV programmes only targeted specific focal points at hospital and ministry level and not at the community for the CHWs. Some 750 GBV survivors received Clinical Management of Rape services.

Limited funding for the 2021 HRP has made it difficult for health partners to undertake key lifesaving health responses with gaps reported in several districts, particularly among IDPs displaced by drought living in urban centers. In-patient care is reportedly the greatest needed for severely malnourished children with medical complications, according to the Health Cluster.

The risk of water-borne diseases is very high in hotspot locations that include Kismayo, Afmadow (Jubaland State) and Marka, Baidoa, Afgooye, Hudur (South West State). Current water scarcity in the country is leading to poor hygiene

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\(^2\) More information about the response per State will be provided in the second Drought Situation Report, which will be published by OCHA on or around 16 December. The First Report can be found at [https://bit.ly/3pG9WAr](https://bit.ly/3pG9WAr)
practices and water contamination during water tracking. This calls for the need to have rapid response funds for sudden-onset emergencies to save lives.

Health partners are providing emergency and essential health care services to communities facing limited access to healthcare services, including those displaced by conflict and natural disasters. Between January and November, partners provided 2.6 million medical consultations of both preventive and curative services in the country. During the same period, 44 health cluster partners provided services to 3.3 million people across the country, and almost 438,000 people received health education messaging targeting behaviour change. Some 124,000 children under 15 years were vaccinated against measles and 62,600 of births assisted by a skilled birth attendant. More than 12,000 mental health consultations were provided by health care providers.

**EDUCATION CLUSTER CONCERNED ABOUT INCREASED RISK OF SCHOOL DROPOUTS**

The Education Cluster estimates that 4.2 million children in Somalia are out of school due to the protracted humanitarian crisis. In 2022, nearly 3 million school-aged children (45 per cent of whom are girls) will require humanitarian assistance to remain or enroll in schools\\(^3)\(^\text{3}\). Enrolment rates are the lowest among the most vulnerable children such as children with disabilities, girls, children in hard-to-reach areas and displaced children. Inadequate funding for education has meant that a huge number of children have no access to education services, thus increasing the likelihood of dropping out-of-schools, teacher attrition and school closures.

During 2021, the Education Cluster coordinated emergency response for 369,000 crisis-affected children (26 per cent of the 1.4 million in need of humanitarian assistance) and supported them with education in emergencies services. The cluster provided teaching and learning materials, safe drinking water, school feeding and teacher training. These achievements were partly enabled by some carry over budgets from 2020.

The Federal Ministry of Education (MoE) has facilitated monthly coordination meetings at national and state levels. This provides an opportunity to build the capacity of the MoE partners on education in emergencies, coordination, child safeguarding and need assessments. With support from cluster lead agencies, the cluster rolled out the state sub-cluster coordination. This was aimed at strengthening the field coordination architecture and aligning it to the Federal and states structures. The cluster supported the MoE in the development of distance learning programmes, in particular the completion of the content development for secondary schools. Primary school contents were completed in 2020.

In addition, through the distance learning working group, the cluster intends to continue supporting the MoE to maintain the distance learning platform through mobilization of resources required. The cluster supported the MoE to update the COVID-19 Education Sector Response plan. Equally, the cluster provided support to the education partners with COVID-19 awareness messaging dissemination so that children are protected from contracting the COVID-19 virus.

The drought emergency presents a new challenge. The cluster estimates that more than 400,000 school-going children have been affected by the current drought and are at risk of dropping out of schools. As of end of October, the education partners reached an estimated 41,000, children affected by drought with education in emergencies assistance countrywide.

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\\(^3\)^ 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview
IN BRIEF

HUMANITARIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL TO STRENGTHEN COORDINATION

For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, OCHA facilitated a two-day humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCood) workshop on 2 and 3 November, for at least 60 Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) officers from the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), the Somalia National Armed Forces (SNA) and humanitarian partners including NGOs in Mogadishu. The training was intended to enhance understanding of the humanitarian coordination structure, humanitarian actions and principles and identifying opportunities to foster principled interaction and dialogue amongst humanitarians and all armed actors.

The training was timely given the need for effective civil-military coordination beyond AMISOM, especially with the unforeseen implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan, reconfiguration of AMISOM and potential closure of some Forward Operating Bases in Somalia. In this regard, an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the different actors and an emphasis on the need to respect international humanitarian law remains critical.

Key recommendations included the need for increased communication and information sharing between humanitarians and AMISOM CIMIC at the sector-level; the involvement of SNA CIMIC in the national UN-CMCood forum and increased training for SNA, especially in Somalia. The training was supported by the UK Ministry of Defence and the UK Mission Support Team in Somalia.

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