



## Horn of Africa

### ECHO FACTSHEET

#### Facts & Figures

Close to 2.5 million people in Ethiopia, 1.1 million in Kenya, 1.05 million in Somalia, and over 200 000 in Djibouti in need of humanitarian assistance.

#### Number of IDP's and Refugees

More than 1.5 million IDPs and 1.2 million refugees

#### European assistance -

€98.5 million for 2013 allocated by the European Commission

€162 million in 2012

**Total Funding (Member States and European Commission) to date – over €1 billion since 2011**



EC/ECHO/Malini MORZARIA

#### Key messages

- The overall food security situation has improved but remains very fragile;
- Emergency conditions persist in Somalia;
- Security is an issue in Somalia and in refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. Access to vulnerable people in border areas is restricted;
- Apart from delivering emergency aid, the main challenge for governments and international community is to jointly contribute to building resilience to drought and tackling the underlying structural weaknesses.

#### Humanitarian situation and needs

##### Situation in the region

Overall, the food security in the Horn of Africa has improved mainly due to a good rains and sustained humanitarian assistance. However, extreme levels of food insecurity continue to persist in areas affected by the 2011 drought as well as areas that have not received sufficient rains.

At the peak of the crisis in 2011, 13 million people were in need of emergency assistance across the Horn of Africa. In 2012, the number of people facing food insecurity decreased as a result of good harvests and significant international assistance. Current estimates suggest close to 2.5 million in Ethiopia, 1.1 million in Kenya, 1.05 million in Somalia, and over 200 000 in Djibouti remain highly vulnerable and require humanitarian assistance.

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There is no longer a famine in Somalia, but emergency conditions still apply. Various zones of Somalia have suffered from poor rainfall. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has reduced to around 1.05 million but malnutrition rates remain among the highest in the world.

Insecurity and the ban imposed by Somali militants on humanitarian organisations reduce access to people in need, which is a cause of great concern and an increasing challenge for humanitarian operations. Military operations involving neighbouring countries are ongoing in Somalia. This creates additional insecurity in the Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia border regions and nearby refugee camps.

Humanitarian access remains highly restricted in south central Somalia which continues to be a complex and dangerous working environment for humanitarian aid workers. A number of incidents involving humanitarian personnel and facilities in Somalia as well as in the refugee's camps in Kenya hinder access to people in need.

While the influx of Somali refugees into the Dadaab refugee camps in north-east Kenya has decreased, this still remains the largest refugee camp in the world with about 425 000 refugees. Many Somalis who flee the drought and violence also head towards Ethiopia and the Dollo Ado refugee camps which now host over 180 000 refugees. More than 1 million Somali refugees are residing in the Greater Horn of Africa where most live on humanitarian aid.

### Major needs and related problems

The humanitarian needs in the Horn of Africa remain high as a result of the effects of drought and insecurity. In the current situation, direct assistance to the vulnerable populations in the region has to be sustained. This will include emergency preparedness and medium to long-term development support to strengthen resilience among the region's population.

## The European Union's Humanitarian Response

### Funding

The European Commission alone allocated €181 million in humanitarian aid for the Horn of Africa in 2011, assisting 6.5 million of vulnerable people threatened by the famine and the effects of drought. In 2012, the Commission allocated €162 million for humanitarian assistance to the region. The Commission has already allocated €98.5 million for the Horn of Africa in 2013. Funds are as a priority channeled into providing food assistance, nutrition, clean water, sanitation and shelter to the affected populations.

The European Commission has been monitoring closely the development of the drought situation from its onset at the end of 2010. Since 2011 our focus has been on two areas. Firstly, ensuring that people do not have to sell all of their assets, in particular those that they need to feed themselves or to earn a living such as farm tools and livestock. And secondly, on maintaining access to food for the most vulnerable households when they can no longer do it for themselves.

The Horn of Africa hosts over one million refugees. The European Commission closely monitors the situation in the camps. In 2012 Commission has allocated €30 million to meet the basic needs of the refugees. This includes providing shelter, food, water, health and protection services as well as education and livelihoods support. Through its humanitarian assistance the European Commission reaches approximately 700 000 refugees in need.

Since 2006, the European Commission has taken its share of this responsibility in providing sustainable solutions by being actively involved in disaster risk reduction in the Horn of Africa through its humanitarian regional funding decision. This initiative focuses on drought preparedness and aims to make local communities more resilient while building up their capacity to cope with the impact of recurrent drought. The immediate objective is to reduce the need for emergency response to future droughts. Such practices as natural resources management (water and rangelands) as well as early livestock off-take contribute greatly to the resilience of pastoralists.

The European Union is one of the world's largest humanitarian donors, having provided over €1 billion to the Horn of Africa since 2011.

## Outreach and coordination between humanitarian and development partners

In 2012 the European Commission developed a new approach for the Horn of Africa - Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience (SHARE) - that aims to break the vicious cycle of crises in the region. In the framework of SHARE, the European Commission is investing more than €270 million in supporting recovery from the last drought in the Horn of Africa through close cooperation between humanitarian aid and long-term development. It is also working to strengthen the countries' and population's resilience to future crises.

The Commission places emphasis on improving coordination for the delivery of aid and to ensure that all the populations' needs are met. In addition, regional local and national government as well as regional bodies, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), play a crucial role in ensuring appropriate policies and legislation; the Commission encourages dialogue and coherence in the region. SHARE is a good example of the Commission's role in promoting good coordination and, linking short term humanitarian aid with development coordination mechanisms as a key to bridge solid links between relief, recovery and long term development.

## Examples of humanitarian projects in the Horn of Africa



In **Somalia**, through SHARE, the European Commission funds a project run by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) that aims to improve food security, nutrition and livelihoods for over 100000 people affected by the last drought. Activities include the distribution of seeds and fertilizers, improving vegetable production and increasing the income-generating opportunities within these Somali communities. Concerning livestock, the most valuable assets for these communities, activities focus on ways to improve animal health, fodder production and prevent starvation during crises and sale of livestock. This might not only safeguard livelihoods of vulnerable herders but also give them an alternative living.



In **Kenya** 3.7 million people were in immediate need of food, clean water and basic sanitation during the 2011 drought. Under SHARE, the EU is enhancing its support to boost recovery and build resilience through a revamped early warning system, institutional support to authorities such as the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) managing the Disaster and Drought Contingency Fund (NDDCF), and community level livelihoods projects that expand people's economic opportunities. Renewed investments by the Kenyan government and its institutions in arid lands are expected to help translate early warning into early response in ways that will avoid the development of similar crises in the future.



**Moyale** was the only region in northern Kenya where the malnutrition rates of the population remained below the emergency level of 15%. This was the result of several factors, including years of investment in community preparedness for droughts and access to functioning markets. Much of that investment came through the Disaster Risk Reduction programme financed by the European Commission's humanitarian aid. The Programme focused on community-based actions aimed at helping villages to better cope with the impact of droughts and at building the resilience of the population at risk. From 2006 to 2011, ECHO has invested over €17 million for such projects straddling the Kenya-Ethiopia border – an investment that paid off for the benefit of the people of Moyale.



Water is scarce in the dry Siti zone in eastern **Ethiopia**. During the dry season, women and children dig the dry riverbeds and flood ways for water. The water collects in the shallow holes; they scoop it into tins and wait for the sediments to settle. ECHO has funded the construction of sand dams along the Halicho riverbed in Erer district; and along Farso, Germam and Gendisa riverbeds, giving over 400 families of nomadic herders access to clean water during the dry seasons. The sand dams are all fitted with hand pumps, making it easy for women to fetch water. ECHO has given €136000 through Caritas Germany for this initiative.