



Scarcity of water has contributed to the spread of disease outbreaks across Somalia. Photo: Mustafa Dhery/WOCCA

HIGHLIGHTS

- Poor *Gu* rainfall performance likely to impact July harvest
- Nutrition situation remains worrisome
- Humanitarians engage authorities to ease access impediments

FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	3.2m
# of people in food security stress	3.5m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	363,000
Source : www.fsnaa.org (February 2017)	
# of internally displaced people before November 2016	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1.2m
Source: UNHCR	

Humanitarian Appeal

FUNDING

\$1.5 billion

requested in the revised 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$557 million

Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 30 June 2017)

Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>

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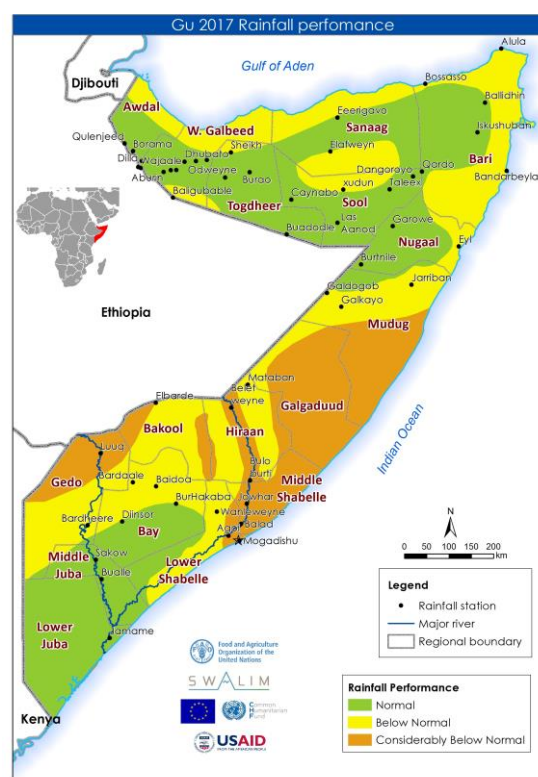
Drought persists amid poor *Gu* rainfall

The *Gu* rainy season was shorter than normal and generally poor in large parts of the country, especially those with the highest vulnerabilities such as Bakool and northern Bay regions in South West state. Portions of Puntland and Somaliland, which have had the most prolonged drought conditions, did experience good rains in May. The southern regions of Lower Juba, Middle Juba and southern Bay also recorded good rains in May and June. Overall, rainfall totals were over 30 per cent below average in Somalia, but over 50 per cent below average in the worst-affected areas, according to the recent Global Food Security Alert issued by Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET).

While the rains have provided respite in some areas resulting in seed germination, recharge of water points, regeneration of pasture and improvement of livestock body conditions, reduced crop yields are expected and the high level of asset loss cannot be easily offset. An elevated risk of famine persists in some parts of the country, partly due to severe food consumption gaps, high acute malnutrition and high disease burden. While many parts of the country continued to receive rains until the last week of May, there was an early end of the rains in the southern and central regions. The humanitarian situation is particularly worrisome in rural areas. Continued and scaled-up support for rural communities through the rest of 2017 will be necessary to prevent worsening food insecurity and protect livelihoods. Efforts are being made to identify where recovery activities can be undertaken to assist those communities to distance themselves from crisis.

Humanitarian partners have responded robustly but needs remain high

Extensive humanitarian operations are ongoing, with more than three million people being reached every month with life-saving assistance, livelihoods support and protection services. A quick response by donors to provide funding early in the year, enabled partners to mount a massive response to scale up famine prevention by delivering life-saving assistance and livelihoods support, drawing from lessons learnt from the 2011 famine.



BASELINE

Population (UNFPA 2014)	12.3m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1.9 per day (World Bank 2016)	52%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

CLUSTERS

Lead and co-lead organizations

Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Food security	FAO/WFP
Health	WHO Save the Children
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF WVI
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter/NFIs	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF

Given the high level of needs and poor performance of the Gu rains, it is projected that the current levels of response will be required through the second half of the year. Humanitarian interventions have continued to focus on providing life-saving assistance and reinforcing rural livelihoods to prevent worsening food insecurity, disease outbreaks, mitigate displacement pressures, reduce the overall humanitarian burden and lay the groundwork for a faster pivot to post-crisis recovery, and building greater resilience to future shocks. The prospects for an El Niño effect remain for the latter part of 2017, thus requiring preparedness activities to mitigate possible flooding in step with the famine prevention response.

While famine has been averted so far due to a robust humanitarian response across the country, needs remain high and an elevated risk of famine remains in some areas. To prevent further deterioration of the food security situation, humanitarian partners are continuing with livelihoods support to drought-affected people and emergency livestock support as well as vaccination to keep animals alive and productive. During this critical period, appropriate livelihood support to people in the stressed food security phase is being prioritized to prevent adoption of “irreversible” coping strategies and maintain “survival” in the face of growing acute food insecurity. These interventions also aim to forestall increased displacement out of rural areas, and potentially act as a trigger for the early return of those already displaced.

Nutrition situation remains worrisome

Limited access to food and an increase in diseases have resulted in increased cases of malnutrition countrywide, according to nutrition partners. The situation for children is particularly worrying and rural areas and internally displaced people’s settlements have been the worst affected. Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admissions have increased by more than 50 per cent compared to 2016 data for the same period. The post-*Jilaal* 2017 survey by the FSNAU indicates that the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in the livelihood zones of Bakool, Bari, Bay, Nugal, Sanaag and Sool, regions, as well as in the Baidoa and Mogadishu IDP camps, is critical (15-30 per cent).

Humanitarian partners respond to fight malnutrition

Meanwhile, humanitarian partners have scaled up response to prevent further cases of malnutrition and treatment of those already affected. Some 102,263 people have been treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in 2017. Some 1.15 million people are targeted for interventions including 539,000 moderately malnourished children; 346,000 severely malnourished children aged between 6 months and 5 years, and 270,000 pregnant and lactating women, according to nutrition partners.

AWD/cholera containment efforts

The number of newly reported cases of suspected AWD/cholera have dipped due to a robust response by humanitarian partners, however scaling up of response needs to be sustained to safeguard the gains so far achieved. A cumulative total of 53,015 cases including 795 related deaths has been reported since the cholera outbreak started in January. The case-fatality rate of 1.5 per cent remains above the emergency threshold of 1 per cent even though it has reduced over the past months. More than half of the cases are among children under age 5. Most of the new cases are mainly from Wadajir in Banadir, Harfo in Mudug, Dusamareb in Galgadud and Marka in Lower Shabelle regions. AWD/Cholera has increased in Somaliland in recent weeks resulting in increased response by authorities and humanitarian partners to bring the disease under control.

A measles outbreak has further added to the disease burden. More than 10,000 measles cases have been reported since the start of the year. To respond to the measles outbreak, humanitarian partners have vaccinated some 596,328 children aged between 6 months and 5 years across the country and a supplementary national measles immunisation campaign is planned for November, targeting 4.2 million children between the age of 6 to 10 months.

Somalia Humanitarian Crisis Timeline

October



Rains perform significantly below normal levels in first month of Deyr rainy season.

26 November



Humanitarian Coordinator raises concerns about failed rains with donors at briefing with SRSG

2 December



Humanitarian Coordinator and Ambassador Gamal brief donors in Nairobi on the severity of the evolving situation and the need to scale up.

16 / 17 January



FSNAU and FEWSNET issue a famine alert. Alert discussed with partners at launch of 2017 HRP.

02 February



The Humanitarian Coordinator Warns of Possible Famine at donor briefing. Estimated number of people in need increased to 6.2 million people with nearly 3 million in urgent need of life-saving assistance.

16 February



EU hosted roundtable on famine prevention

18 February



The Operational Plan for Famine Prevention is launched seeking \$825 million to reach 5.5 million people by June.

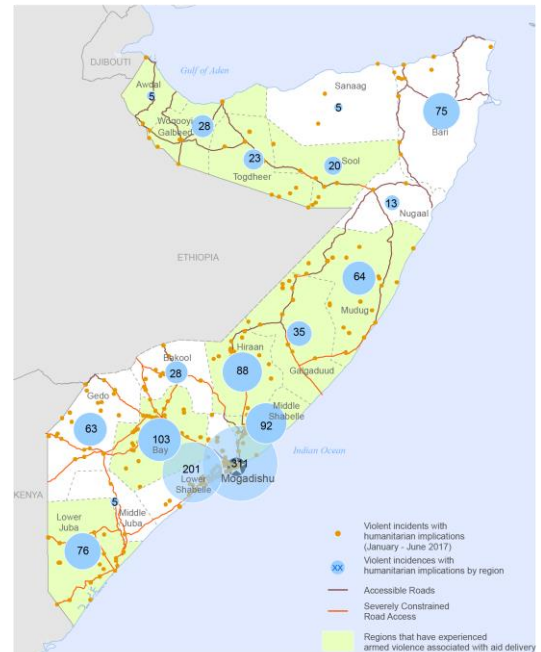
Engaging authorities amid access challenges

Humanitarian organizations faced rising violence during the first half of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. The upsurge is mainly due to an increase in targeted attacks against humanitarian organizations by non-state armed actors, and increased violence at aid distribution sites. Between January and June, over 90 violent incidents impacted humanitarian personnel, facilities and assets leading to the death of four humanitarian workers, injury of nine, arrests and temporary detention of six and abduction of 13. Seven humanitarian workers have so far been expelled from Somalia by authorities within the first half of the year. There has also been an increase in the number of violent armed incidents associated with relief aid distributions. By the end of June, nearly 30 incidents that accounted for the death of 32 civilians and injury of 38 others had been recorded across the country, the majority of which were associated with food distribution conducted by local authorities. There are ongoing dialogue and advocacy efforts with relevant authorities and actors to put in place mitigation measures. The possibility of providing training to the security forces charged with safeguarding relief supplies and crowd control during distributions is also being explored. Meanwhile, following a particularly violent incident in Baidoa that left nearly 20 people, including civilians and security personnel dead and more than 20 others injured, the authorities of South West State announced they will coordinate aid distribution more closely with humanitarian partners.

Rising road access challenges also continue to be reported along the Mogadishu- Afgooye route and access roads to Dinsoor, Xudur and Wajid. During the second quarter of 2017, non-state armed actors intensified blockades on Diinsoor, Wajid and parts of Xudur, including seizure and destruction of donkey carts owned by civilians that served as the last link of supplies for some communities. The blockade continues to impact the availability of key commodities in the markets and cause prices to soar, which limits the utility of cash based interventions to assist those in need. In early June, these actors banned the supply of farm produce to Marka in Lower Shabelle.

Despite the challenges, efforts are under way to address road access challenges. In Xudur, state affiliated security forces facilitated the transfer of 20 trucks transporting basic commodities to the town in mid-June. Following the transfer, the prices of some basic commodities reduced after having risen sharply in April and May after the main routes to the town were blocked. For example, a kilogramme of rice is now selling at Somali Shillings (SoS) 22,000 down from SoS. 28,000 with sugar experiencing a similar decline. Other commodities that have experienced slight price reduction include petrol, diesel, vegetable oil, pasta and wheat flour. Local authorities in the area are continuing to work with the security sector to provide armed escorts to facilitate the transfer of more supplies into the town.

Advocacy efforts to enable improved road access more generally also continue, including improved information sharing among humanitarian actors regarding such impediments.



**28 February**

The President of Somalia convenes high-level Conference on drought, declares drought a national disaster.

**1 March**

Humanitarians reach over 1.1 million people with food assistance.

**6/7 March**

The SG, António Guterres, joined ERC/USG Stephen O'Brien visits Somalia, calls for urgent action to avert famine.

**27 February**

The Drought Operations Coordination Centre in Mogadishu was officially opened.

**15 March**

The UK Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, Boris Johnson visits Somalia and announces £110 million Humanitarian funding for Somalia.

**19 March**

The Baidoa Drought Operations Coordination Centre opens.

**30 March**

The Garowe Drought Operation Coordination Centre is launched.

**1 April**

Humanitarians reach over 1,750,000 people with food assistance.

**9/10 April**

IASC Emergency Directors Group visits Somalia to assess drought impact and response.

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and a number of regional states including Galmudug, South West State, and Hirshabelle have made milestone commitments to secure major supply routes and have commenced implementation. As a result, Afgooye local authorities immediately suspended tax collection directive including that on commercial transporters and local businesses. In June, Hirshabelle authorities in Middle Shabelle conducted a number of operations to remove illegal checkpoints between Mogadishu and Cadale town. Authorities have stepped up efforts to prevent non-state armed actors from planting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) along the Jowhar-Balcalad road, especially at the Gololey area. Operations to remove illegal checkpoints have also been conducted along the Afgooye-Leego-Wanla Weyne road. Meanwhile, Galmudug security forces accompanied by clan elders and youth removed ten illegal checkpoints that were being used by armed non-state armed actors near Godinlabe town.

Engagement with affected communities

The June humanitarian Common Feedback project (CFP) highlighted great needs in Galgaduud region with communities calling for aid agencies to provide food security, WASH and shelter assistance. Following these calls, the Drought Operations Coordination Centre (DOCC) undertook a mission to Cadado, the provisional capital of Galgaduud state to assess the situation and initiate humanitarian response in response to identified needs.

The highest needs raised by communities who provided feedback focused on food security at 42 per cent, with the need for water reduced from 33 to 9 per cent of respondents during the reporting period. Shelter needs was the second highest need reported at 37 per cent.

Disease prevention campaigns on Radio Ergo intensified with daily disseminated on AWD/cholera. More direct and significant messages were relayed via radio on where people suffering from AWD/cholera should go for assistance in Wadajir district, Banadir Region following a surge in the number of people affected in the area.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) set up a Community Feedback Project (CFP) in March to collect information from already existing feedback and complaints mechanisms from humanitarian partners. The information is analyzed to inform the HCT on strategic decisions to improve response. To help the HCT continue gathering more and better information on community feedback, fill in this form and send it to foran2@un.org and gomo@un.org. The latest monthly bulletin is available here: <http://bit.ly/2uh78fl>.

Timely funding helps bolster response

Donors have generously continued to support extensive humanitarian efforts to prevent famine and have contributed US\$754 million as of 21 June 2017. The funding comprises \$557 million towards the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), and \$197 million (\$42 million in pledges) for activities outside the HRP.

TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING BY STATUS (million \$)



The revised HRP which seeks \$1.5 billion has so far received 37 per cent of the appeal. The funding has been channeled through 60 of the 155 humanitarian partners with projects in the HRP. About \$468 million has been allocated towards food security, \$201 million for nutrition, \$82 million for Health and 81 million for WASH. While some clusters are able to sustain current levels of response, others such as WASH have had to scale back due to a

11 April

Amb. Hesham Youssef, the Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation co-chairs a coordination

**1 May**

Humanitarians reach over 2.7 million people with food assistance.

**1 May**

German Foreign Minister visits Somalia, pledges €70m drought relief aid.

**10 May**

FSNAU warns of an elevated risk of famine in Somalia.

**11 May**

Revised HRP presented at the London Somalia Conference.

**17 May**

AWD/cholera cases surpass a five year high with more than 50,000 cases, including 782 deaths.

**1 June**

Humanitarians reach over 2.7 million people with food assistance.

**11 June**

High-Level Horn of Africa Partnership mission visits Somalia, pledged more support.

**17 June**

UK Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel, visits Somalia and announced an additional aid package of £60 million.



lack of funding. Particularly worrying in the face of the mass displacement that has occurred since November 2016 is the closure of some activities of the GBV sub-cluster due to insufficient funding.

About \$440 million or 58 per cent of the \$754 million has been reported as disbursed to humanitarian partners while \$314 million or 42 per cent reportedly remains unpaid – either committed or pledged, though reporting changes often on a daily basis. In addition to \$754 million already paid, committed or pledged by donors to-date, additional funds have been signaled by donors for disbursement in the second half of 2017. In May, Germany pledged to double its support, while the United Kingdom has pledged an additional \$76 million (£60 million); and Qatar and Saudi Arabia each an additional \$10 million in June. Further significant contributions are expected from major donors in early July. The African Development Bank is also exploring ways to support drought response and famine prevention in Somalia, which comes after a high level partnership mission led by UN Secretary-General's Humanitarian Envoy, Dr. Ahmed Al-Meraikhi.