



This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued on 7 April 2017.

Highlights

- Since November 2016, around 444,000 people have been internally displaced in Somalia due to drought. On average, over 8,000 people a day are forced to abandon their homes in search of water and food. Around 81,000 IDPs have arrived in Baidoa since November in search of food and water.
- Depletion of water sources and lack of sanitation facilities have led to a sharp increase in cases of AWD/cholera, in particular in Bay and Bakool regions, with over 1/3 of all cases reported in Mogadishu. Case fatality rates of AWD/cholera at 2.3 per cent and spread of measles are of serious concern.
- Humanitarian partners are scaling up response and reached an estimated 1.9 million people with cash and vouchers in March. Further scale-up is urgently required across all clusters. Priorities include treatment and prevention of AWD/cholera and prevention of measles, improved access to food and safe water, nutritional treatment for malnourished children, protection, shelter and non-food support to newly displaced.
- A Drought Operations Coordination Centre (DOCC) was opened in Garowe on 30 March.
- Donors have moved quickly to support scale-up of response and over US\$400 million has been made available for humanitarian assistance since January. Additional resources are urgently required to enable further scale-up.

<p>6.2m</p> <p>People in need. 2.9m in IPC Phase 3-4</p>	<p>444,000</p> <p>Internally displaced due to drought since November 2016</p>	<p>42%</p> <p>Of total displacement since Nov was from 1 to 24 March</p>	<p>1.9m</p> <p>People reached in March with cash and vouchers</p>	<p>18,819</p> <p>AWD/cholera cases reported as of 27 March</p>	<p>\$401m</p> <p>Total humanitarian funding in 2017</p>
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Situation Overview

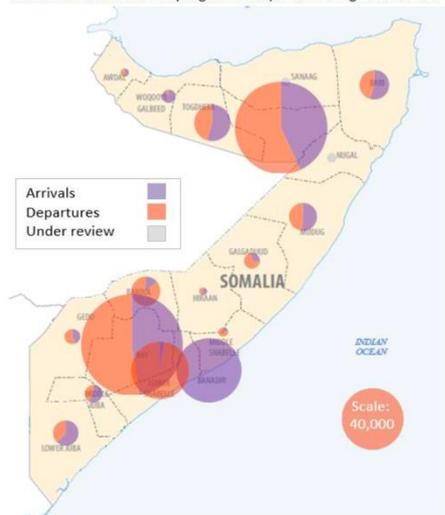
The humanitarian situation in Somalia continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate and a sharp rise in displacement due to drought is taking place across the country. An estimated 444,000 people have moved from their homes since November 2016 in search of food and water, mainly from rural to urban areas.

The UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) managed by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) works with 39 partners across Somalia gathering information on the drought-related displacement. The latest data indicates that two-thirds of all those displaced have fled from Mudug, Bay, Shabelle and Sool regions. Nearly half of the people displaced are concentrated in three regions – Banadir, Bay and Mudug. Some 81,000 people have arrived in Baidoa since November. Almost 85,000 people have arrived in Mogadishu, Banadir region since November.

According to WHO, 18,819 cases of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD)/cholera have been reported as of 27 March, with 3,164 new cases and 59 additional deaths reported in the past week. The cumulative Case Fatality Rate since the beginning of the year is at 2.3 per cent, significantly above the emergency threshold of 1 per cent. The Bay region alone accounts now for more than half the total cases in the country (9,705 out of 18,819).

With the upcoming *Gu* rains projected to start in April, Health and WASH response will be of increasing demand, especially in areas with newly displaced. Shelter support and non-food items is increasingly critical to prevent further vulnerability as affected people are forced to sleep out in the open. The *Gu* rains may lead to localized flooding and further AWD/cholera and measles, malaria, respiratory infections, especially among children, and other water-related diseases.

Map showing of drought-related movements monitored by the UNHCR PRMN network by region in the period ending 24 Mar 2017



Source: UNHCR – PRMN

Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian partners continued to intensify scale-up of operations throughout the country to save lives and livelihoods and prevent famine. In March alone, humanitarian partners reached an estimated 1.9 million people with cash and vouchers. The majority of cash interventions (93 per cent) are in support of food security objectives. The Food Security Cluster is treating this approach as its “preferred and default” response modality in areas where market conditions allow, to protect assets from being sold as a desperate measure to secure food by affected families. Cash-based response is also under way as part of the WASH, protection, education and nutrition response, alongside a number of multi-purpose cash interventions intended to meet the multiple needs of affected people. A Cash Working Group has been established to coordinate cash across the response, mapping the delivery of cash, setting norms and standards and addressing common problems.

The Nutrition Cluster continued the scale-up and have now provided nutrition services to over 195,000 women and children since January, hereof 45,000 children who were severely malnourished and 135,000 moderately malnourished. Another 301,000 children have been reached with food-based prevention of acute malnutrition. A total of 225 new service delivery facilities have been set up since the start of the year, including 158 outpatients therapeutic programmes (OTP), 10 new stabilisation centres (SC) and 57 targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP).

IOM and partners also contributed to an important scale-up of life-saving access to safe water by distributing 926,775 litres of clean water to drought-affected communities across Somalia in the third week of March alone, with focus on areas with reported and suspected cases of AWD/cholera and measles. Further response is planned through voucher-based emergency water trucking to the most severely affected areas, rehabilitation and maintenance of boreholes and other water supply systems, the distribution of hygiene kits, and hygiene promotion with an emphasis on AWD/cholera and measles prevention.

Scale-up of humanitarian response in Bay and Bakool

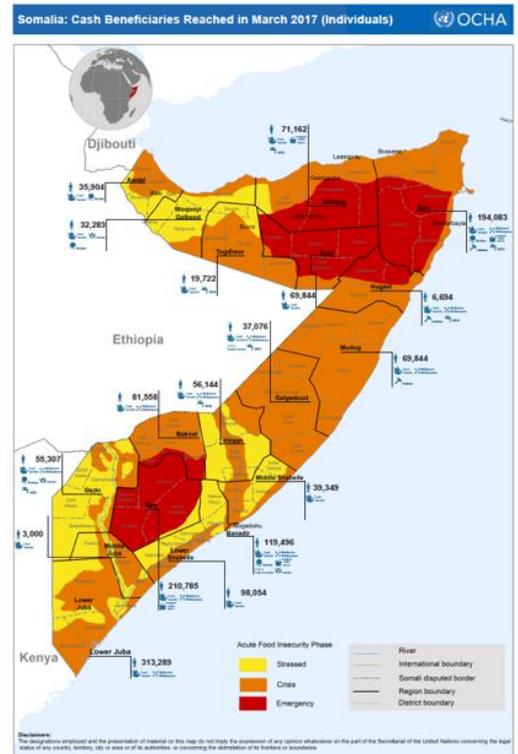
WASH and Health Cluster partners are redoubling their efforts to curb the spread of AWD/cholera outbreak in South West State. WASH and Health Cluster partners reached an estimated 316,000 people in southern and central regions with AWD/cholera related interventions between January and March. These include the provision of safe water, water tanks/bladders, distribution of hygiene kits, and chlorination of strategic water points, hygiene promotion campaigns and distribution of information, communication and education (IEC) materials. Humanitarian partners have also strengthened disease surveillance systems in Bay and Bakool regions which have been severely affected by the AWD/cholera outbreak. With about 12,214 reported cases of AWD/cholera, the two regions account for more than 64 per cent of the national average. Between them, they accounted for some 60 per cent of all the AWD/Cholera related deaths in the country (268 out of 443 deaths) as of 27 March. To address malnutrition in the region, there are now 90 operational nutrition facilities in Bay and Bakool. The situation could worsen with the start of the rains as parts of Bay and Bakool regions began to receive the *Gu* rains on 26 March.

Protecting assets through livestock treatment

FAO and its partners launched a nationwide emergency livestock treatment campaign in March targeting nearly 20 million livestock in all regions in Somalia benefiting almost 3 million people. Some 30 veterinary teams are stationed in Puntland targeting two million animals, while livestock treatment is being conducted in all areas. In addition, a cash plus programme is actively implemented in southern Somalia, targeting farming households with farm inputs and cash for 90 days to enhance cultivation. This is part of larger efforts to protect livestock as productive assets and strengthen vulnerable livelihoods of pastoralists.

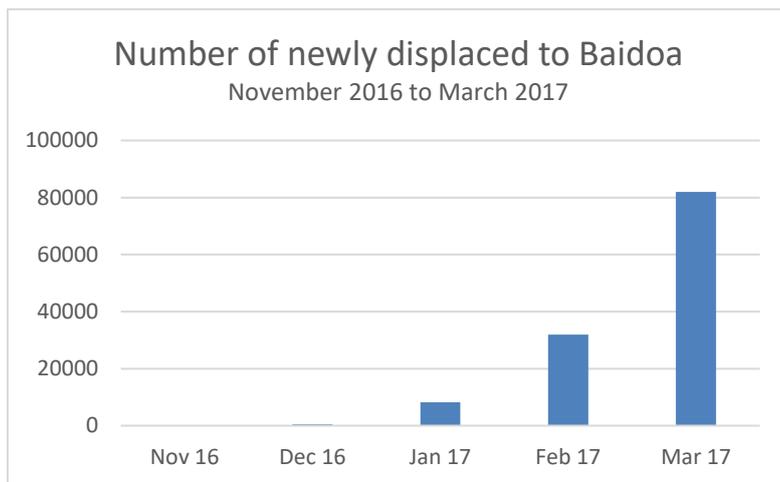
Addressing needs of newly displaced

As outlined in the Operational Plan for Prevention of Famine issued on 18 February, humanitarian partners have adopted a two-pronged inter-cluster approach that relies on the one hand on extension of humanitarian assistance as close to the rural population as feasible, to stabilize the situation in rural areas and mitigate the impact of the possible famine and minimize displacement, and on the other hand on enhancing the response capacity in larger



hubs to meet needs of newly displaced due to drought and other vulnerable groups. The response to newly arrived IDPs in urban areas such as Baidoa falls under the latter and builds on response modalities already in place to assist the estimated 1.1 million IDPs, while expanding to new settlements being established on a daily basis. In Baidoa alone, the number of IDP settlements has increased by 62 (80 per cent) from 78 in November to 140 in mid-March, with more being established as new arrivals from rural areas continue.

The largest concentrations of new displacements due to drought are in Bay, Mogadishu, and Mudug, with 81,000 people arrived in Baidoa, 24,000 in Gaalkacyo and 44,000 in Mogadishu since November 2016. Many of the newly displaced have traveled for days and arrive in very vulnerable state in search of food and water. KM-13 on the outskirts of Mogadishu hosts a large group of IDPs, 22,000 of whom arrived over the course of three days from 17 to 19 March, with more arriving on a daily basis. The majority of the IDPs are in urgent need of food, nutrition and sanitation services. Humanitarian partners are currently providing dry and wet food through vouchers. Some 1.6 metric tons of High Energetic Biscuits (HEB) have been distributed so far and five new wet feeding sites have been established by the Food Security Cluster in collaboration with local authorities. Some 15,000 people have been provided with in-kind contributions. Nearly 17,000 people have been registered in the SCOPE system and nearly 13,000 have received SCOPE cards that can be redeemed at retailers.



On 29 March 2017, an OCHA team from the Drought Operations Coordination Center in Baidoa visited Beera-Muuri IDP settlement hosting about 4,300 recently arrived drought displaced people into Baidoa, mainly from Diinsoor and Qansaxdhare districts of Bay region. The majority of those now living in Beera-Muuri have arrived in the past two months and attribute their displacements to the drought and the resulting loss of livestock and farm yields. Lack of water, pasture and alternative source of livelihood made them move to Baidoa where they hope to access assistance from humanitarian organizations. The increasing number of people in the settlement is overstressing the available

services, with sanitation and shelter being a major area of concern. Some of the people interviewed noted that if they do not receive assistance in the coming days, they intend to continue their travel to Mogadishu to seek further assistance. It was also noted that since the settlement is hosted on private farmland, land owners wish to have their land back for cultivation with the onset of the rains. This could potentially cause secondary displacement and further protection concerns.

Strengthening outreach through Humanitarian Common Feedback

To enable a collective approach to strengthened two-way consultation between relief workers and affected communities, an inter-agency Common Feedback Project has been launched through the Drought Operations Coordination Centres in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Garowe and beyond. The service builds on existing feedback mechanisms, structures and partnerships. Through a focus on radio and development of information tools and products, the Common Feedback Project works with Radio Ergo and other partners to provide accessible, timely, life-saving and actionable information to those in need as well as collect, aggregate, analyze and refer feedback that will shape actions of responders.



Regional Focus on Drought and Durable Solutions

At regional level, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held a Special Summit of Regional Heads of State on durable solutions for the protracted Somali refugee situation on 25 March to strengthen regional and international commitment to coordinate cross-border efforts to address the drought-inflicted pressure on the already protracted displacement situation in Somalia and neighbouring countries. Regional Heads of States expressed support for the commitment by the Federal Government of Somalia to organize a National Forum on refugees and IDP solutions in line with the National Development Plan, encouraged increased involvement and engagement of development actors, including multi-lateral development banks to improve access to concessional development financing to support affected communities, and invited humanitarian and development actors to combine their efforts and strengthen collaboration and inter-linkages in support of durable solutions. The Summit furthermore encouraged

the relocation of humanitarian and development actors to Somalia in order to further support assistance, stabilization and recovery efforts, and as a confidence building measure.

Funding

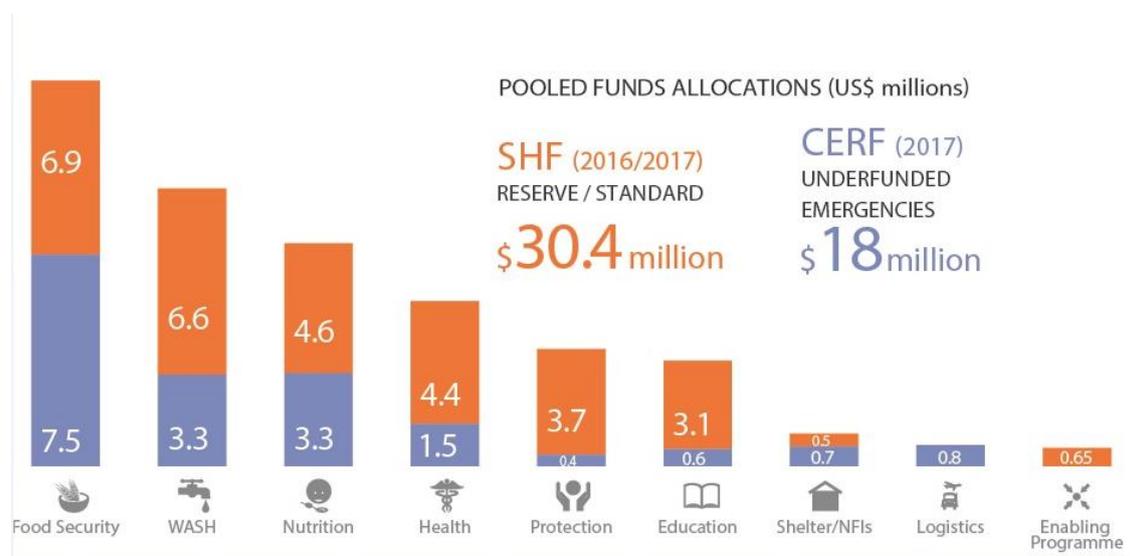
Reported funding

Donors have continued to generously provide funding to scale up famine prevention activities. Over \$400 million has been made available according to reports received by the OCHA-managed Financial Tracking System. As per the Operational Plan for Famine Prevention issued on 18 February, humanitarian partners are seeking \$825 to reach 5.5 million people affected by drought with life-saving and livelihood support in the first six months of 2017.

Fast-tracking disbursement of pledges and commitments is vital to ensure that partners can rapidly scale up the response in most affected areas. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are strongly encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS – <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Pooled funds

From January to March 2017, more than \$48 million combined has been channeled through the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). With funding made available in January, February and March, the two funds have been at the forefront of famine prevention response with critical funding rapidly put to use by national and international partners. The \$28 million allocated by the SHF in 2017 has been made available almost exclusively to non-governmental partners – 64% to international NGOs and 36% directly to national NGOs.



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