



Highlights

- The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate and the possibility of famine in 2017 persists. There is also a possibility of El Niño occurring towards the end of the year.
- Rains have started in Somaliland, western parts of Puntland, Bari and Nugaal regions, while Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle and the coastal areas of Galgaduud and Mudug have remained dry.
- The humanitarian situation in Baidoa continues to be of serious concern and host communities have generously taken in more than 127,000 newly displaced to Baidoa since November 2017. Humanitarian partners are scaling up multi-sectoral assistance to assist internally displaced and host communities in coordination with authorities.
- NGOs and UN agencies continue to massively scale up response and are reaching millions of people with life-saving food, water, nutritional and health services as well as shelter, non-food items, protection services and livelihood protection throughout the country in coordination with Federal and local authorities. Further scale-up over the coming weeks is critical across all clusters.
- Food Security partners are delivering a combination of lifesaving interventions and emergency livelihood support to rural areas, home to 87% of people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Around 38,000 households are receiving seed vouchers to plant during *Gu* and cash vouchers for 3 months – i.e. the duration of a planting season. The anticipated production of cereals alone is around 55,000 tonnes by June – enough to feed more than 800,000 people for six months.
- Water and sanitation continue to be among the top priorities but funding levels are not keeping pace with the growing needs. Additional funding is urgently required to sustain the response and further scale up beyond April, when most of the resources for WASH are expected to be exhausted. Furthermore, shelter and non-food items are still significantly underfunded, although the need for emergency shelter and non-food items continues to increase with the new displacements and onset of rains.
- Unprecedented levels of funding for humanitarian action have been contributed for Somalia this year. Donors have moved quickly to generously support scale-up of response and close to US\$600 million has been made available or pledged for humanitarian response since January.

6.2m

People in need.
2.9m in IPC
Phase 3 and 4

599,000

Internally displaced due to
drought since November
2016 as of 14 April

127,000

Displaced arrivals in
Baidoa since
November 2016 as of
14 April

454

New nutrition
centres established
across Somalia
since February

2.0

AWD/cholera case
fatality rate as of 16
April (558 deaths to
28,408 cases)

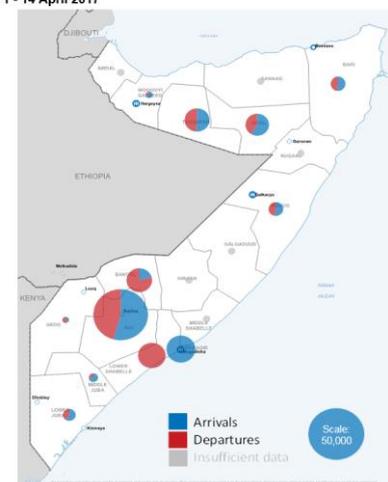
\$600m

Total
humanitarian
funding in 2017

Situation Overview

According to the FAO-managed Somali Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), the cumulative rainfall forecast until 25 April 2017 shows moderate to heavy rains in Somaliland and western parts of Puntland, with a few pockets of Bari and Nugaal receiving light rains during the forecast period. Other places that are expected to receive good rains include the southern and central regions bordering Ethiopia. Moderate to heavy rains are also foreseen in the Ethiopian highlands which may lead to increased river levels inside Somalia towards the end of the week. Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle and the coastal areas of Galgaduud and Mudug regions are expected to remain dry. The occurrence of El Niño is now at over 85 per cent possibility towards the end of the year, which will affect the Deyr season (Oct – Dec), but not the Gu. Acute malnutrition is sharply increasing in most parts of the country, which increases the likelihood for diseases. The nutrition situation is further deteriorating much more than anticipated and global acute malnutrition has reached as high as 26.4 per cent in Badhan (Sanaag), 23.0 per cent in Abuduwaq (Galgadud), and 19.6 per cent in Hudur (Bakool). All results are well above the critical level of malnutrition.

Drought-driven displacements by REGION monitored by PRMN in period: 1 - 14 April 2017



Source: UNHCR (PRMN)

Compared to the previous week, the number of Acute Watery Diarrhea/cholera cases has decreased from 3,128 to 2,984. The total number of cases recorded since the beginning of the year has reached 28,408, including 558 deaths. The Case Fatality Rate has been brought down from 2.1 per cent last week to 2.0 per cent as of 16 April, but is still

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

far above the 1 per cent emergency threshold. Cases of measles continue to rise across Somalia. A total of 4,988 cases have been reported as of 15 April. This number is three times higher than the number of cases reported during the same period last year. Of the reported cases, 52 per cent are of children under the age of 5. Suspected cases of measles were reported from all regions in 2017 – the majority of the cases were reported in Banadir (1,285), Togdheer (913), Lower Shabelle (510), and Sahil (316) regions. Health partners have treated some 290 suspected cases at the south Gaalkayo General Hospital between the first week of March and 14 April.

Massive drought-related displacement continues across Somalia, with most of the displaced people moving from rural to urban areas or other rural areas where they anticipate to receive aid. In the week ending 14 April, 28,000 drought-related displacements were recorded by the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), representing a slight decrease from the 33,000 new displacements recorded the previous week. As of 14 April, over 599,000 people have been displaced since November 2016 as a result of the ongoing drought, based on PRMN figures.

Humanitarian Response

Further scale-up of WASH and multi-cluster response required in Baidoa according to Communities

The humanitarian situation in Baidoa, Bay region, continues to be of serious concern and further scale-up of assistance is urgently required. More than 127,000 internally displaced have arrived in Baidoa since November 2016 and the AWD/Cholera outbreak in Bay region accounts for over half of the cases and deaths nationwide.

Wet feeding centres have been established at four entry routes to Baidoa town, Bay region. Cooked meals are provided to vulnerable new arrivals, with support from local religious leaders and the business community. An estimated 500 people receive food twice a day at the feeding centres. Further scale-up of assistance is urgently required. In March, feedback from people reached with assistance in the drought-affected regions of Bay and Bakool shows that many are urging for additional water trucking and more food distributions. For example, in Baidoa, some of the displaced have expressed concern that “If we do not receive any assistance in the coming days, we will continue the journey to Mogadishu where hopefully we can get help.” The highest expressed need is for clean water, with 33 per cent of displaced interviewed through an inter-agency community feedback project requesting water assistance, while requests for food assistance stands at 24 per cent. Misconceptions on disease prevention like Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) have also been recorded as many people believe that chlorine treatment of water is causing diarrhea. The Health Cluster responded to this by intensifying its public campaigns on prevention of Acute Watery Diarrhea through the local Radio Ergo that enjoys wide reach, especially in the rural areas, and through integrated response teams on the ground.

In March, the Humanitarian Country Team set up the Community Feedback Project as part of the Drought Operations Coordination Centers (DOCC), to consolidate information from already existing feedback and complaints mechanisms from humanitarian partners, particularly NGOs. The information is analyzed to inform the Humanitarian Country Team on strategic decisions to improve response. To help gather more and better information on community feedback, fill in [this form](#) and send it to maingir@un.org and gomo@un.org.

Access to Safe Water remains a Priority despite Rains

Despite the beginning of the Gu rainy season in some parts of Somalia, access to safe water and hygiene services is of key importance to prevent drought casualties due to waterborne diseases. WASH partners have significantly scaled up AWD/Cholera and drought response with priority given to immediate supply of safe water, reaching 1.25 million people by mid-April with temporary access to safe water since the beginning of the year. This has been done through water trucking, water vouchers and supply of water bladders and storage tanks.

Since the beginning of the year, 600,000 people have also benefitted from hygiene promotion activities and 430,620 (of the 600,000) have received hygiene kits. The campaigns are targeting the affected villages, displacement settlements, schools, health facilities and nutrition centers. WASH partners on the ground have emphasized the importance of social mobilization to sensitize the communities on the importance of hygiene and sanitation. Continuous scale up of additional latrines is also considered a priority to curb the outbreak in the most affected locations. Some 500 new latrines have been constructed in 26 new displacement settlements in Baidoa town, 40 latrines out of which have been constructed for cholera treatment facilities and 24 cholera treatment facilities were supported for infection control, including 3 in Gedo and 16 in Bay and Bakool regions.

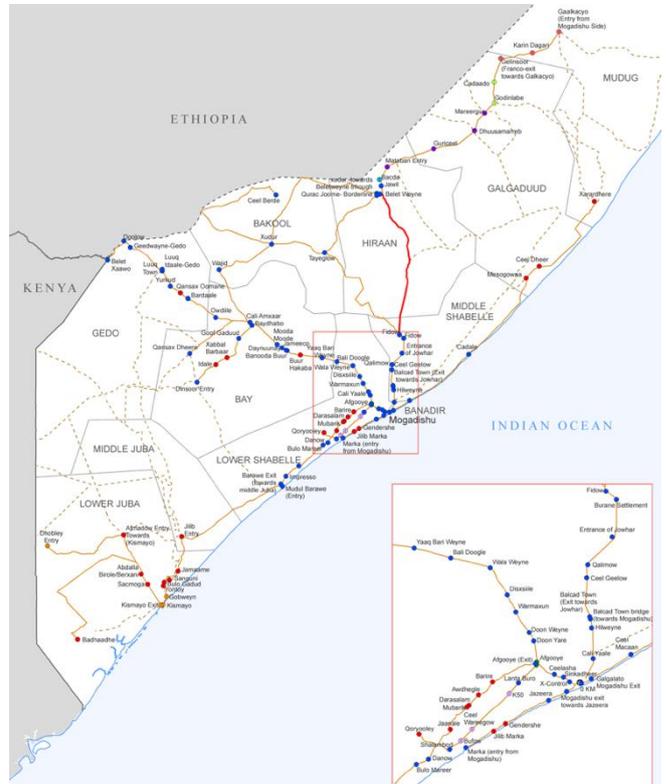


Despite its critical role in AWD/Cholera prevention and drought response both at rural and at IDPs camps level, the WASH Cluster is among the least funded Clusters with only US\$22 million received (26 per cent) out of the US\$85 million required for famine prevention from January to June. Due to extremely high cost of water trucking in Somalia, the majority of the funds currently available will be exhausted by the end of April. In this context, it is critical to immediately and drastically increase the level of funding of the Wash Cluster partners to allow them to respond appropriately to the massive needs of the affected populations.

Increased Insecurity for Civilians and Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian organizations and civilians continue to experience heightened security challenges along major access roads in southern and central Somalia. The majority of the 42 districts in the area have moderate to high movement restrictions linked to road blockades, active hostilities and extortions at checkpoints. The most affected routes continue to be the Mogadishu–Baidoa–Dollow, Mogadishu–Afgooye–Marka–Barawe–Kismayo and Mogadishu–Balcaad–Jowhar–Belet Weyne–Galkacyo main access routes.

Increased challenges have recently been reported along the Mogadishu–Baidoa–Dollow road and some of the access roads in central Somalia. According to local communities and commercial transporters, over 40 static ‘illegal taxation’ checkpoints have been set up along the Mogadishu- Baidoa- Dollow access road. The Afgooye–Wanla Weyne sections in Lower Shabelle have been particularly affected, while local communities and transporters additionally express concerns about other forms of human rights violations including rape, physical assault and robbery of valuables from passengers. On 13 April, over 60 trucks were stranded between Afgooye and Leego towns due to high amounts of unjustified extortions at road blocks. The trucks were stuck for over a week and only moved after a form of agreement was reached. An additional 30 trucks carrying supplies from Bossaso port to areas in southern Somalia were also stranded in Galkacyo south in the previous week due to a taxation conflict. The trucks were allowed to move following successful negotiations that were facilitated by clan elders. Local communities and commercial transporters are complaining of increased extortion at new taxation checkpoints that have emerged in areas within a 120-kilometer distance between Galkacyo in Mudug region and Cadaado in Galgaduud region.



Source: OCHA

Adding to delivery delays, the high extortions also translate into high operational costs for humanitarian organizations and high prices of consumer goods for civilians living in these areas, further compounding the impact of the current drought in hard-to-reach areas. Drought affected communities in parts of Bay, Bakool and Gedo region rely heavily on food commodity supplies from the local markets. The Food Security Cluster partners will conduct a market assessment to determine whether the increase in road access challenges will have a ripple effect on the prices of imported food in the markets, especially in Bay, Bakool and Gedo regions, which are served by the Mogadishu–Baidoa- Dollow road. Humanitarians continue to engage with the authorities to address road access challenges.

Meanwhile in Wajid in Bakool region, the drought has compounded the effect of the blockade instituted on the town by non-state armed actors. On 14 April, non-state armed actors seized and burned food supplies that were being brought into the town by use of donkeys’ carts and arrested three out of the nine suspects, while the six others managed to flee. Non-state armed actors have maintained their ban on locals from transporting food into Wajid from other surrounding villages and districts.

Integrated Response to Gender-based Violence



Gender-based violence (GBV) remains rampant and pervasive in Somalia, mostly affecting women and girls and increasing their vulnerability. In the past three months, reported cases have been on the rise, particularly rape, sexual assault, and physical violence, mainly due to the high influx of displaced people. The influx, particularly in and around Mogadishu and Baidoa is overwhelming and a lot of cases of gender-based violence are reported to have been perpetrated while traveling or crossing illegal checkpoints to the cities in search of aid. The lack of protective shelter, safe water and sanitation facilities as well as other basic needs in the displacement settlements further increase the exposure of the most vulnerable to protection risks.

Humanitarian responders to gender-based violence provide a survivor-centered approach prioritizing the rights, needs and wishes of the survivor. The victims receive comprehensive service provision that includes medical, psychosocial counseling, legal aid support and material assistance. Due to the vast need of the victims for food, shelter and water, the need for an integrated response with multi-sectoral action and community involvement is bigger than ever. A service mapping referral mechanism has been shared with humanitarian actors to identify such multi-sectoral needs and allow ease of referral of gender-based violence cases.

To raise awareness about the issue, Radio Ergo is also conducting interviews with HINNA Women Organization and Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) and emphasizing the importance of breaking the silence and giving victims the possibility to seek services in ongoing radio programmes throughout Somalia.

Saving livelihoods is saving lives



Around 230,000 people, mainly in Somalia's southern breadbasket in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), are receiving seed vouchers for *Gu* planting and cash vouchers for 3 months – equivalent to the duration of a planting season. Already close to 60 per cent of those have collected the cash and 65 per cent have redeemed seeds to produce sorghum or maize (a main staple), cowpea (a main source of protein among rural poor) and assorted vegetables. Each family will be able to produce enough to feed themselves and additional two families for a year, based on conservative estimates. A further 120,000 people have received US\$4.3 million through cash-for-work, while bringing benefits to their community, such as repaired irrigation canals that can boost maize production by around 80% and water

catchments able to store water for 207,000 animals for an entire dry season. A second round of cash-for-work has begun, directly benefitting additional 136,000 people across Somalia. Around 20 per cent are receiving the cash unconditionally as they are unable to participate in work, including disabled people, the elderly and pregnant women.

More than 6.7 million animals have been treated against common diseases in the last month and 5.4 million litres of water reached 90 sites in Puntland so far in April, providing enough water for 180 000 animals per day. One in three goats produce milk – like the one beside 3-year old Fatuma at a displacement settlement in Puntland, northeastern Somalia. As long as this goat stays healthy, Fatuma will have a daily milk supply of around 2 cups per day (about 0.4 litres). Many Somalis are living on the edge of famine, depending on their livestock to survive. Women and small children are seeking refuge in displacement settlements, while men and older boys move with the herd in search of pasture and water. Livestock is their direct source of food, income and trade. FAO and partners are targeting a total of 8 million animals by the end of April for treatment.

Everyday Stories of Somali Resilience: Somali Faces



The online campaign 'Somali Faces' is run by "two enthusiastic amateur photographers with a strong passion for anything pertaining to the Somali identity." Their campaign is meant to nuance the extreme narrative of Somalia on violence and war and has recently also started to mobilize support to drought-hit people.

"We met this innocent cutie with the most beautiful eyes in Sanyare village; a remote village severely hit by the drought. Although her childish strength was sapped by the scarcity of food and water, she was too eager in helping us with the distribution of food and water – a concerted drought relief aid that she hasn't seen in her life time."

More information about 'Somali Faces' and their vibrant everyday stories of Somali life can be found here: <http://www.somalifaces.org>

Latest Publications

- OCHA Somalia Microsite on Preventing Famine: <http://bit.ly/2oxWjIA>
- Humanitarian Dashboard (13 April): <http://bit.ly/2oyJfQ3>
- UNICEF Somalia Humanitarian Situation Report #4 (15 April): <http://bit.ly/2oBciis>
- Video: UN warns Somalia and South Sudan in peril of famine (18 April): <http://bit.ly/2p5uF19>
- Humanitarian Funding: Famine prevention scale-up overview (19 April): <http://bit.ly/2orcqCf>
- WFP Drought Response Report #3 (19 April): <http://bit.ly/2pT1j8U>
- News story: Somalia: "Whatever the drought has spared, the hyenas demand" (19 April): <http://bit.ly/2pSbeJ1>
- FAO-SWALIM Somalia Rainfall Forecast (20 April): <http://bit.ly/2oBiR4D>
- Who does What Where Operational Presence Maps March (published 21 April): <http://bit.ly/2p9kBq3>

Funding

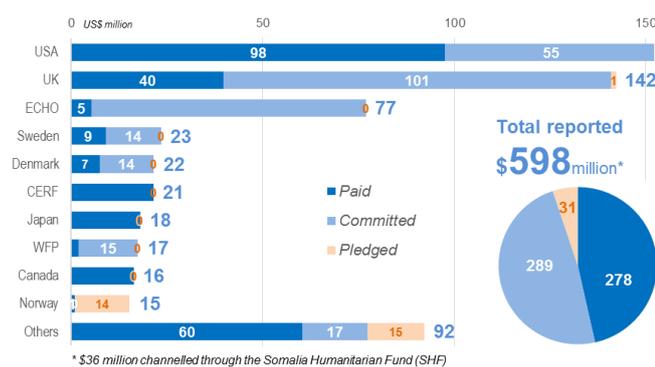
Reported funding

Donors have made US\$600 million available to scale up famine prevention activities in Somalia. An estimated US\$278 million or 46 per cent of the funding has already been disbursed to humanitarian partners, while an additional US\$289 million is committed and US\$31 million pledged.

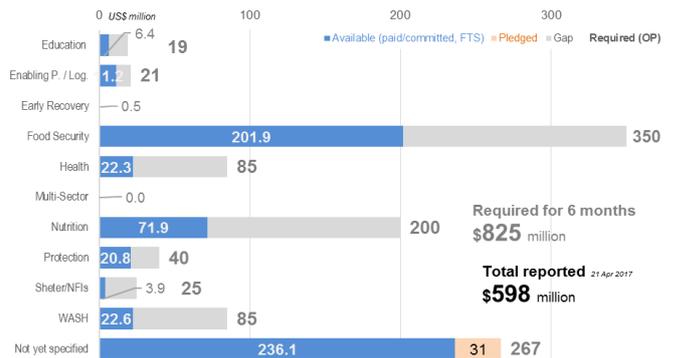
The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), currently under revision and to be finalized by May, has so far received US\$417 million of the total humanitarian funding or 48 per cent of the US\$863 million requested under the original appeal. An additional US\$180 million has been reported as contributed to activities outside the appeal.

The six-month Operational Plan for Famine Prevention seeks US\$825 million to reach 5.5 million people from January to June.

Reported funding per donor and status (FTS, 21 April 2017, in US\$ million)



Reported funding compared to Operational Plan (FTS, 21 April 2017, in million US\$)



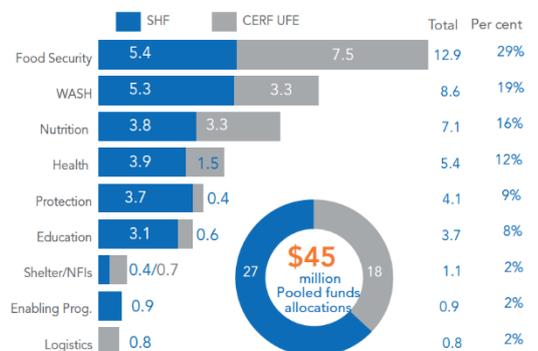
Reported funding refers to all resources received for 2017 for response in Somalia, while the requirements for Operational Plan for Famine Prevention (\$825 in total) are for the first six months of 2017 and will be updated at mid-year.

Pooled Funds

Pooled funds are enabling rapid allocation and disbursement of funds to humanitarian partners and have helped kick-start the implementation of famine prevention activities early in the year.

About US\$45 million has so far been made available through the two pooled funds, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to support the delivery of assistance.

POOLED FUNDS ALLOCATIONS BY CLUSTER (million \$)



Real-time information sharing about the available resources is essential for ensuring the overall efficiency of humanitarian response in Somalia.

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. Reporting can be done through the [online reporting form](#) or by e-mailing the [reporting template](#) to fts@un.org.

This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued on 30 April 2017.