

HIGHLIGHTS

- Food insecurity and malnutrition worsen.
- Somalia faces El Niño threat
- Somaliland authorities appeal for assistance.



Flood preparedness in Jowhar in 2014
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FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	855,000
# of people in food security stress	2.3m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	215,000
Source: www.fsnau.org (Feb-June 2015 projection)	
# of internally displaced people	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1.2m
Source: UNHCR	

Humanitarian Appeal

FUNDING

863 million
requested for 2015 (US\$)

36% (309 million)

443 million
Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 15 October 2015)

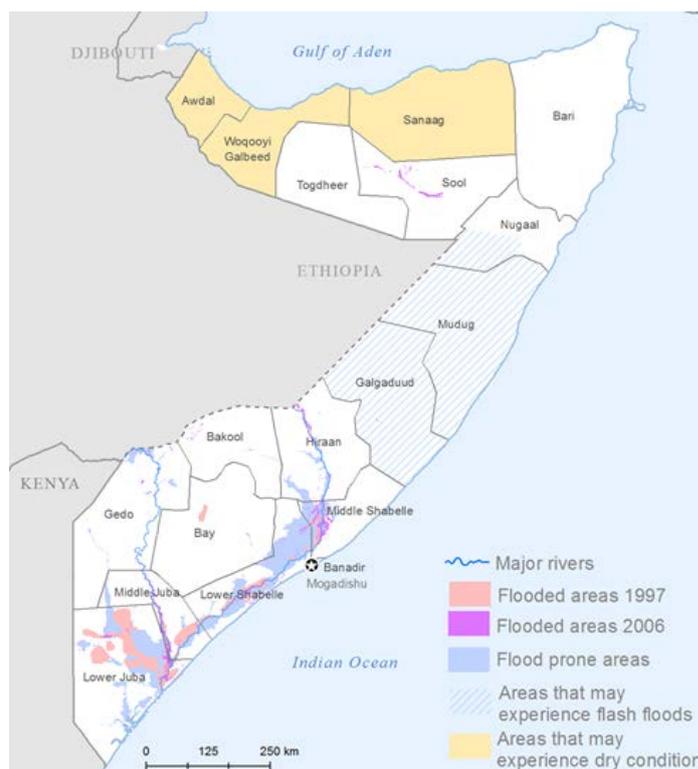
Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>

Humanitarians prepare for El Niño

Humanitarians are ramping up efforts to mitigate the impact of the El Niño phenomenon in Somalia between October and December. More than 600,000 people in southern and central Somalia and in Puntland are likely to be affected by flooding, which may result in disease and deterioration in the food security and nutritional situations. In Somaliland, the El Niño could further exacerbate drought conditions in some coastal areas.

The FAO- managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management, (SWALIM) issued early warning projecting that the El Niño phenomenon will likely cause heavy rains and flooding along Juba and Shabelle rivers, flash floods in parts of low-lying areas in central Somalia and Puntland, and exacerbate drought conditions in parts of Somaliland. The likely impacts of the 2015-16 El Niño events may be severe for people living in areas already facing some of the worst humanitarian and human development indicators in the world.

Drawing from lessons learnt from the devastating impact of previous El Niño events, humanitarian partners have developed contingency plans and are scaling up preparedness activities, including pre-positioning aid supplies and boats in areas most likely to be affected by flooding. They are also working with communities in the flood-prone areas to strengthen local response capacity, reinforce river embankments and raise awareness, including through distribution of climate monitoring information.



Map/Data Source: FAO/SWALIM

BASELINE

Population (UNFPA 2014)	7m
GDP per capita (Somalia Human Development Report 2012)	\$284
% pop living on less than US\$1 per day (UNDP/World Bank 2002)	43%
Life expectancy (UNDP-HDR 2011)	51 years
Under-five mortality (FSNAU 2015)	0.52/10,000 /day
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (FSNAU 2015 post Gu)	13.6%
% population using improved drinking water sources (UNDP 2009)	30%

CLUSTERS

Lead and co-lead organizations

Education	UNICEF SC-Alliance
Food security	FAO/WFP
Health	WHO Merlin
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF CAF/DARO
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter/NFIs	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF OXFAM

Previous El Niño events have caused massive flooding in Somalia and affected some 900,000 people in 1997-98 and over 440,000 people were affected in 2006-7. The effects of the El Niño phenomenon this year could extend several months into 2016.

However, the impact of the El Niño could be severe and devastating in hard-to-reach areas. The areas prone to flooding along the Shabelle and Juba rivers in southern Somalia are among the most insecure humanitarian operating environments. Access is severely constrained by armed violence, attacks and threats against aid workers and properties. Active hostilities, roadblock and unauthorized checkpoints continue to hamper the delivery of assistance. Concerted efforts are being made to ensure access to the most vulnerable in these areas.

Funding too will be needed if humanitarian partners are to effectively respond. While aid agencies will continue to monitor needs arising from the effects of El Niño, an initial US\$30 million is required to strengthen preparedness and kick start immediate response in 2015. Somalia’s humanitarian response plan is only 36 per cent funded as of 16 October. Funding constraints across all sectors is currently limiting the ability of partners to fully prepare for the potential impact of the El Niño.

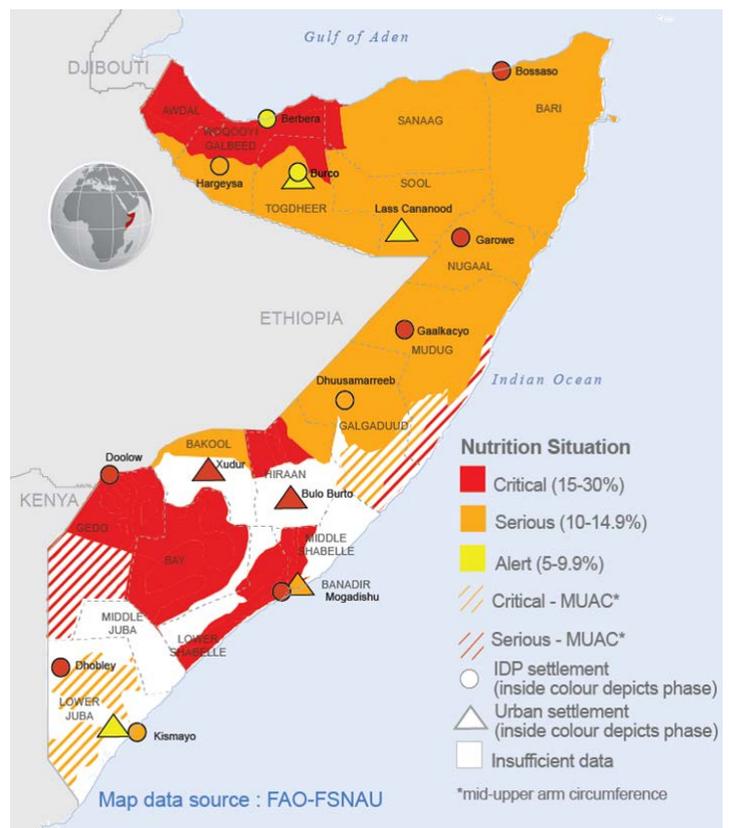
Food insecurity and malnutrition worsened

Number of people facing food crisis up by 17 percent

The food security and nutrition situation in Somalia remains alarming. The number of people in crisis and emergency has increased by 17 per cent to 855,000 from 731,000 over the past six months. Widespread acute malnutrition persists with nearly 215,000 children under age 5 acutely malnourished, 40,000 of whom are severely malnourished and risk death if they do not receive urgent medical treatment and therapeutic food. In addition, 2.3 million are barely able to meet their food needs and could fall into “crisis” and “emergency” phases if they do not get livelihood support.

The lack of improvement in food security is largely attributable to an early end of *Gu* rains that led to below average cereal production in crop dependent areas; poor rainfall in parts of the north; trade disruption in some southern urban areas and continued displacement of vulnerable people.

In five settlements for internally displaced persons, global acute malnutrition rates are above the 15 per cent threshold. These are Baidoa, Dhobley, Doolow, Gaalkacyo and



Map/Data Source: FAO

Food security situation could get worse by the end of the year

Garowe. Internally displaced persons represent 68 per cent of those facing food ‘crisis’ or ‘emergency’.

Countrywide, the latest nutrition survey indicates a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 13.6 percent and a median severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.3 percent among children under 5. The acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months is largely due to sub-optimal child feeding practices, low coverage of health services and lack of access to clean water supply.

The Food Security and Nutritional Analysis Unit (FSNAU), predicts that the food security situation could worsen by the end of the year. Populations in Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) require urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance and livelihood support, including urgent nutrition and health support for the acutely malnourished between now and December 2015.

Drought hits Somaliland

Authorities appeal for assistance in affected areas

Authorities in Somaliland officially declared drought in the region on 10 August. Results from the post-*Gu* analysis by the FSNAU indicates dry conditions in north western parts of Somaliland and has classified these regions as being in “crisis” and “emergency” affecting some 129,000 people. These include Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed and some areas of Sanaag, which it predicts will be in “crisis” and “emergency” phase for the period August to December 2015. The drought is due to poor rains during the *Gu* rainy season, in the agro-pastoral and coastal areas of Awdal and Galbeed regions.

In addition to a severe lack of water, communities are facing food shortages, resulting in desperate coping strategies. Immediate response is needed to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. The authorities in Somaliland have already appealed for humanitarian assistance in the affected areas.

Somaliland’s National Disaster Committee (NDC) has reported that crops did not grow in many agricultural areas due to lack of water and seeds. Unconfirmed reports indicate deaths and loss of livestock over the last months. Local authorities provided US\$150,000 for emergency food distributions, but it is insufficient to meet the needs of the drought affected people. Food, water, and emergency primary health care are urgent concerns.

Aid partners are conducting water trucking, providing clean water for an estimated 15,210 people affected by the drought in Awdal and Maroodi Jeex regions, including 5,320 children. They are also constructing and rehabilitating shallow wells in these areas, most of which have dried up.

Fighting causes displacement

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict and have been particularly affected by the military activities launched in mid-July in Bakool, Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraan and Lower Shabelle. Until now, over 42,000 people have been displaced and this number could grow. About 16,000 people from almost 30 nearby villages were displaced to Belet Weyne whilst hundreds of people were also displaced from Halgan village, 41 km of north Bulo Burte to the villages of Doola-yabaan, Goley and Dhoqo, following fierce battles in Nuur-faarrah and Beer-xaano villages on 30 and 31 August.

Another 2,600 people were displaced from areas in northern and southern parts of Waajid district into Waajid town. Thousands of people were also displaced to Luuq district of Gedo as a result of armed confrontations in Ceellbon and Bokol as well as from areas in Bakool region. According to the Protection cluster, in August, the military offensive

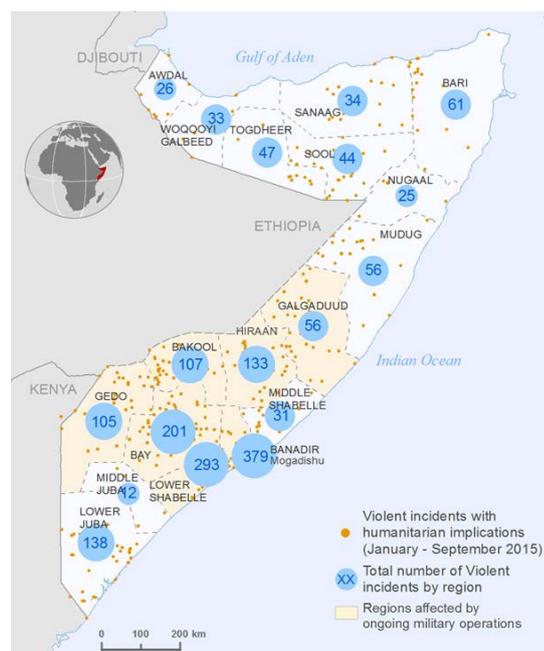
Authorities in Somaliland have appealed for humanitarian assistance to help people in need

caused considerable refugee outflow into Dolo Ado Refugee Camp in Ethiopia. The new arrivals in this camp have indicated that they fled air strike attacks.

Insecurity and access constraints have hampered delivery of humanitarian assistance

Despite the overall reduction of the outflows from the post military offensive towns of Bardheere (Gedo) and Diinsor (Bay), internally displaced people who fled from further distances continue to arrive in areas of refuge including Mogadishu. Recent rapid assessments confirmed that food, livelihood, health, education, water and protection are priority needs in these towns. These areas have until now received limited humanitarian assistance due to insecurity and access constraints. Although the most urgent needs could be addressed through humanitarian assistance, the underlying vulnerabilities are chronic and require more than humanitarian assistance. Engagement with development partners to address

the humanitarian needs through a collaborative and complimentary approach, are therefore being pursued.



Map/Data Source: NSP/OCHA

Garowe airstrip shutdown could hamper aid operations

On 13 August, the authorities in Puntland informed humanitarian organizations of the government's plan to close Garowe International Airport for renovations for up to 12 months. The closure could either disrupt or lead to temporary suspension of humanitarian operations in Garowe and surrounding areas for more than six months, while identifying alternative landing options. The nearest alternative airport is located 50 kilometers away from Garowe at Conoco considered insecure road that remains out of use for most organizations. Options are however being sought on mitigation measures for its use as an option.

There is also an option of building a parallel runway to sustain some level of air access for aid organizations. In the interim, however, humanitarians may have to bridge the gap by shuttling aid workers and supplies by helicopter from Galkaacyo to Garowe. This will be costly, though it is most likely going to be the only available immediate option, once the current runway is closed, if aid agencies are to avoid disruption of humanitarian services in Garowe. An estimated US\$ 600,000 will be needed to construct a parallel runway to sustain some level of access for aid operations.

Negotiations are going on between humanitarian partners and Puntland authorities to find an alternative solution.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/somalia | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int