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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Possible famine in 2017
- Access and bureaucratic impediments persisted in 2016.
- \$32 million from pooled funds boosts drought response.

## FIGURES

# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis	2.9m
# of people in food security stress	3.3m
# of acutely malnourished children under age 5	363,000
Source: www.fsnau.org (February 2017)	
# of internally displaced people	1.1m
# of Somali refugees in the Horn of Africa and Yemen	1.2m
Source: UNHCR	

## Humanitarian Appeal

## FUNDING

**864 million**  
requested for 2017 (US\$)

**0.4%** (\$3.2 million)

**\$12 million**  
Total humanitarian funding received for Somalia

(reflects reported funding on FTS as of 2 February 2017)

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



Drought has led to displacement in some areas.  
Photo Credit: UNICEF/Sebastian Rich

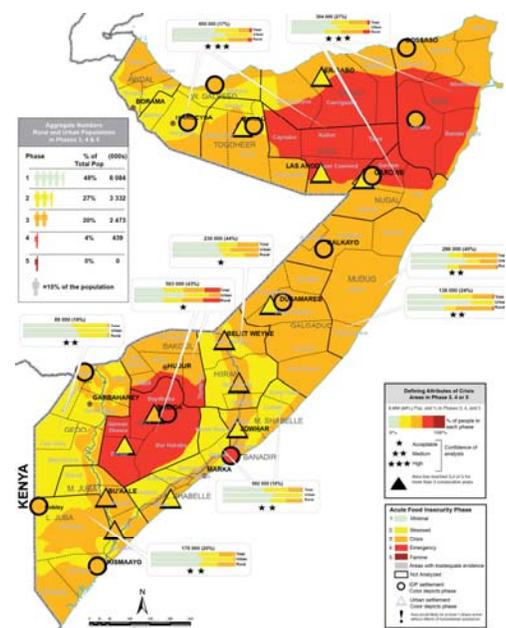
## Possible famine in 2017

Unless a massive and urgent scale up of humanitarian assistance takes place in the coming weeks, famine could soon be a reality in some of the worst drought-affected areas in Somalia. The latest food security and nutrition analysis from the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) issued on 2 February 2017 reveals that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 5 million in September last year to 6.2 million between February and June. That is more than half the population.

The results also reveal a drastic increase in the number of people in “crisis” and “emergency” from 1.1 million six months ago, to a projected 3 million between February and June. The situation for children is especially grave. Some 363,000 acutely malnourished children are in need of urgent nutrition support, including life-saving treatment for more than 71,000 severely malnourished children.

Somalia is in the grip of an intense drought, induced by two consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. In the worst affected areas, poor rainfall and lack of water has wiped out crops and killed livestock, while communities are being forced to sell their assets, and borrow food and money to survive. Since mid-2015, drought conditions have been expanding with impact worsening over time. The drought situation is compounded by protracted conflict which is causing displacements, seasonal climatic shocks and disease outbreaks.

Preliminary forecasts indicate that below average to near average rainfall is expected to prevail across most parts of Somalia during the forthcoming 2017 Gu (April-June) season. As a result, only minimal improvements are expected during this time and in some areas further deterioration in food security is possible.



## 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
Food security	FAO/WFP
Health	WHO SC International
Logistics	WFP
Nutrition	UNICEF WVI
Protection	UNHCR DRC
Shelter/NFIs	UNHCR UNHABITAT
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF

Already, poor rainfall experienced in the upper parts of the Shabelle basin during the previous rainy season coupled with over utilization of the river water in Somalia and Ethiopia have led to a significant reduction in the water levels in Shabelle River, according to the Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM). Some parts of the river in the lower reaches have dried up. According to SWALIM, water availability for human and animal consumption will continue to deteriorate. Agricultural production will be affected as the water levels are too low to support irrigated farming.

Widespread water and pasture shortages have led to increased migration and displacement among drought-affected people, adding additional pressure on the receiving areas. People are increasingly moving to displacement settlements in urban areas. More than 3,000 people crossed into Ethiopia in January 2017 in search of water and food, according to UNHCR.

In 2011, Somalia experienced the worst famine of the twenty-first century, affecting an estimated four million people, three-quarters of a million of whom faced famine conditions. The famine resulted in the loss of more than a quarter million lives.

### Humanitarian partners step up response to drought-affected people

Through reprogramming of existing funds and additional funding provided by donors, humanitarian partners are scaling up the response, building on the response to drought that has been ongoing since 2015. Food security cluster partners have scaled up life-saving activities in most affected areas, including Bari, Sool, Sanag and Gedo. Members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation have



A pastoralist stands next to dead sheep. Thousands of animals have been lost due to drought. Photo: UNICEF Somalia/Sebastian Rich

mobilized close to \$15 million and are currently distributing food in Somaliland and

coordinating with humanitarian clusters there. WASH partners are providing water vouchers for schools and communities and have, for example, with funds channelled through the Somalia Humanitarian Fund since December, been providing water in most severely affected areas, including Bari, Nugaal, Sool, Sanag and Togdheer. In response to this growing crisis, UNICEF is, for example, stepping up its integrated WASH, health and nutrition response in drought areas, targeting 1.2 million children under the age of five with preventive and curative nutrition service and aims to reach 800,000 people with package of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services. Health and WASH partners have also stepped up response in AWD/Cholera-affected areas and have pre-positioned emergency health supplies to respond effectively to the increased risk of disease outbreaks. Nutrition partners are providing acutely malnourished women and children, as well as pregnant and lactating mothers with critical life-saving nutrition services.

The Somalia Humanitarian Fund has been instrumental in stepping up the drought response. With \$14 million programmed in January on top of \$3 million in December, some of the most affected areas – such as Nugaal, Bari, Sool, Sanaag, Hiraan, Bakol, Gedo, Lower Juba – have been reached with water, nutritional supplies, livelihoods support and health interventions. Given the urgency of the situation, OCHA is accelerating the allocation process at all levels while ensuring that minimum quality standards are met for the accountable use of funds.

Notwithstanding the current volume of operational response, more assistance is urgently required at scale to avoid a spike in mortality similar to what was seen in April/May 2011, before the famine was declared in July 2011. With sufficient and timely support from the international community, given the footprint and ability to rapidly scale up response, humanitarian partners are still able to prevent a worst-case scenario in 2017.

## Access challenges hamper response

### Localised conflict compound access challenges

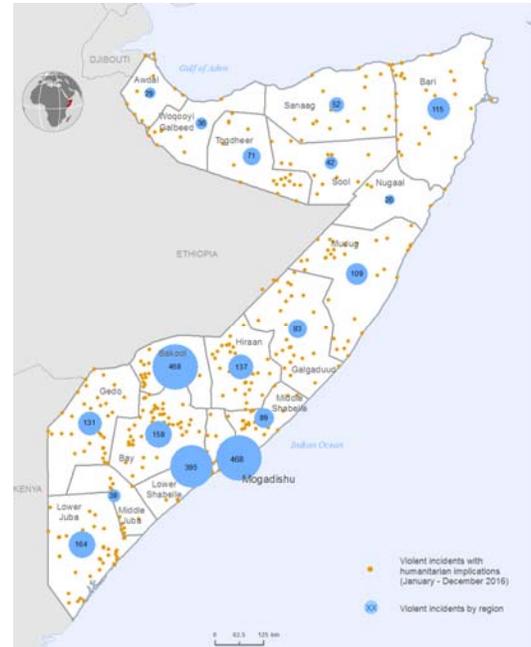
Humanitarian organizations continue to experience a volatile and challenging operating environment in Somalia amidst rising humanitarian needs. As in previous years, humanitarians witnessed high levels of insecurity and violence in 2016, particularly in areas in southern and central Somalia. Sporadic incidents against humanitarians also occurred in Somaliland and Puntland. More than 165 violent incidents that led to the deaths of 14 humanitarian staff, injury of 16, arrests and detention of 25, abduction of three and physical assault of five humanitarian personnel impacted humanitarian organizations. This is an 18 per cent increase in the overall number of incidents compared to 2015. In 2015 over 140 incidents were reported and led to the death of 17 humanitarian workers, injury of 18, and abduction of 11 and arrests of 38. Front line responders continue to be the most affected. Humanitarian organizations in southern and central Somalia particularly in Baidoa, Belet Weyne, Galkaacyo, Kismayo and Mogadishu have been particularly impacted by violence. At least half of the deaths and injuries as well as structural damages to over 30 humanitarian facilities were attributed to collateral effects of attacks in populated areas.

The proliferation of illegal checkpoints by both non-state and state armed actors continued to impede the ability of humanitarian organizations to transport humanitarian supplies by road. There were also instances when humanitarian supplies were looted or seized and contracted private transporters assaulted. The Belet Weyne-Burlo Burto-Mogadishu, Mogadishu-Baidoa-Doolow and Mogadishu-Barawe-Kismayo roads reported the highest number of incidents of illegal checkpoints.

The October-November 2016 conflict in Gaalkacyo continues to impact movement between areas in southern and central Somalia, and northern Somalia. A road blockade between north and south Galkaacyo remains in place and has severe impact on the transfer of humanitarian supplies from northern regions to southern and central Somalia. Humanitarian organizations continue to advocate with Galmudug and Puntland authorities for a waiver to enable the transfer of supplies, especially to drought-affected areas. The extended closure of the Kenya-Somalia border for official business that came into effect in late October 2016 also hampered humanitarian as well as cross border operations.

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Map showing violence incidents with humanitarian implications.

In 2016, bureaucratic impediments increased due to the absence of a centralized regulatory framework for NGOs and international organizations, disruptions, delays, intrusion in humanitarian facilities, arrests and detention of humanitarian workers and occasional temporary suspensions of humanitarian programmes. At least 94 incidents were registered by aid agencies. The majority of the incidents were related to multiple registration and reporting requirements, arbitrary taxation, and contractual arrangements and procedures. More than 50 of the impediments were successfully resolved through dialogue and negotiations with authorities mainly in southern and central Somalia and Puntland. The humanitarian community will continue to advocate with the authorities to expedite the processes to put in place a fixed regulatory framework for NGOs and international organizations.

## Pooled funds bolster drought response

Donors are responding to calls to provide urgent resources to bolster drought response. Since November 2016, some \$100 million has been pledged, committed or allocated by pooled funds, multilateral and bilateral donors to assist the most vulnerable drought-affected communities. However, the gap between the available funding and resources required for the scale-up of response – estimated at roughly \$300 million for the first quarter of 2017 alone – remains substantial.

*While the integrated CERF-SHF allocation provides much needed resources to boost drought response early in the year, it is critical that other contributions are received to scale up and maintain response*

A total of \$32 million has been allocated from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to help bolster response to drought-affected people in Somalia. The integrated allocation comes at a critical time and will help, among other things, bolster life-saving activities to address the acute water shortages and food insecurity as a result of extensive drought. The funds will enable humanitarian partners to maintain and scale up the essential life-saving health services in drought-affected areas with active AWD/Cholera outbreaks and with no access to basic health services. The funds will also be used to scale up life-saving treatment and prevention of excess morbidity and mortality among severely and moderately malnourished children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women in drought-affected areas, and to provide shelter and non-food items to people displaced by drought.

While the integrated CERF-SHF provides much needed resources to boost the drought response early in the year, it is critical that other contributions are received to meet the overall requirements and ensure the response capacity is further scaled up and maintained to avoid additional loss of lives and livelihoods.

For further information, contact:

**Tapiwa Gomo**, Head of Communication, [gomo@un.org](mailto:gomo@un.org), Tel. +254-731-043197

**Abas Abdi**, Public Information Officer, [Mohamud3@un.org](mailto:Mohamud3@un.org), +252619150457

**Antonette Miday**, Public Information Officer, [miday@un.org](mailto:miday@un.org), Tel. +254-731-043156

**Kenneth Odiwuor**, Public Information Officer, [odiwuor@un.org](mailto:odiwuor@un.org) .Tel. +254-734-800120