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This Outlook provides an overview of the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa region—focused on Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia with reference to Eritrea and Djibouti—and its cross-border implications in the Greater Horn of Africa region and beyond, including Yemen. The report covers: drivers of humanitarian need, including conflict and drought; manifestations of humanitarian need, including displacement, protection concerns, food insecurity, malnutrition and disease; and constraints to meeting humanitarian needs, including access impediments and inadequate funding.

The report’s key takeaways are as follows:

- Consecutive failed rainy seasons have eroded the coping capacities of agro-pastoralist communities in key locations in the Horn of Africa and poor rainfall is expected to continue to drive humanitarian needs over the next six months, particularly in Somalia, Ethiopia and northern Kenya. A weak La Niña will likely persist until March 2018, which is historically associated with below average rainfall in southern and eastern Ethiopia, central and southern Somalia, and most of Kenya.

- In addition to climatic shocks—and in some instances compounded or driven by them—conflict, insecurity and political instability remain important drivers of humanitarian need in the region. In Somalia, conflict is expected to remain at the centre of the crisis in the months ahead, while in Ethiopia inter-communal conflict continues in the Oromia and Somali regions. The conflicts in Yemen and South Sudan are causing, and impacting, population movements in the Horn of Africa.

- The combination of drought, conflict and insecurity have worsened protection concerns, with violations against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence as well as against children, expected to continue in the months ahead.

- The Horn of Africa is both the host and the source of significant population displacement and mixed migration movements, and this is expected to continue in the first six months of 2018. Over 5.5 million people were displaced across the Horn of Africa by the end of December 2017, including around 4.1 million internally displaced and 1.4 million living in the region as refugees and asylum seekers. The Horn of Africa remains a major migration transit route including to and from the Arabian Peninsula and to Europe.

- Food insecurity in the region escalated by 36 per cent in 2017. By the end of the year, some 14.6 million people were severely food insecure and over 693,700 severely malnourished children were admitted for treatment. The region is expected to remain an epicentre of food insecurity and malnutrition in the first six months of 2018, with displaced people particularly affected.

- Communicable diseases remain a major a risk, including in cross-border areas. In 2017, more than 131,200 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and/or cholera were recorded in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya, and nearly 24,500 cases of measles were recorded in Ethiopia and Somalia. Regions bordering neighbouring countries—including the Somali region of Ethiopia and Garissa and Wajir in Kenya—were amongst those hardest-hit by AWD/cholera outbreaks. While the number of AWD/cholera cases tapered towards the end of 2017, cases are expected to spike in the coming months.
Humanitarian access varies across the region. In Somalia, denial of humanitarian access by non-state armed actors, insecurity and bureaucratic impediments have impeded the response. Inter-communal conflict in Ethiopia has also impeded humanitarian access although overall access to affected areas remains largely unconstrained. In line with trends recorded in previous years, frontline responders are expected to be the most affected by access constraints in 2018.

Humanitarian funding needs exceeded US$3.5 billion for 2017. The international community responded generously to the drought, significantly increasing funding for Ethiopia ($1.14 billion mobilized out of $1.4 billion required) and Somalia ($949.2 billion mobilized out of $1.5 billion required). However, underfunding of refugee operations resulted in ration cuts in some areas, including in Kenya. With needs remaining high, funding levels will need to be sustained—and where feasible increased—for 2018.

Girls prepare camels to fetch water in Bandarero village, Moyale County, Kenya. Travelling long distances to fetch water increases their exposure to gender-based violence. Photo credit: Rita Maingi/OCHA.
PART II. DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED

Persistent drought, complex conflict and political dynamics continue to drive high humanitarian needs and serious protection concerns in the Horn of Africa. The impact of drought continues to be felt in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, particularly in areas that have suffered further failed or poor rains towards the end of 2017. A fall armyworm outbreak in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda further compounded the drought impact. La Niña conditions are expected to cause below-average rainfalls in Somalia (south-central), Ethiopia (south-east) and Kenya (eastern) through March 2018.

CLIMATIC SHOCKS AND PLANT PESTS

Large swathes of the Horn of Africa have experienced consecutive episodes of severe drought—with some regions suffering from four consecutive failed rains—and available projections indicate that many areas will continue to be impacted by climatic shocks in the coming six months.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS (AS OF NOV 2017)

There is a 70-80 per cent likelihood of weak La Niña conditions persisting through March 2018.7 In the Horn of Africa, La Niña events are typically associated with below-average rainfall, with Somalia (south-central), Ethiopia (south-east) and Kenya (eastern) considered to face the highest risks.

In Somalia, extreme climatic conditions—including repeated cycles of drought and pre-famine conditions—have increased vulnerabilities, resulted in the loss of crops, livelihoods and livestock, and weakened purchasing power.8 The 2017 deyr rains (October-December) started late and performed below average in many parts of the country, marking the fourth consecutive poor rainy season. As a result of below-average rainfall in consecutive seasons, pasture and water resources are well below normal, impacting cropping activities for the deyr season. Forecasts indicate that dry conditions are likely to continue during the 2018 gu season (April-June). Below-average production and limited regeneration of pasture and water recharge are therefore expected in the first six months of 2018, and a further deterioration in food security is considered likely.9

In Ethiopia, the 2017 deyr/hagaya (October-December) season performed better in many south-eastern areas compared to recent seasons. However, the rainfall was erratic in temporal and spatial distribution and has not led to significant improvements in many of the most affected areas. Furthermore, prospects for the 2017 main meher season crops are generally favourable, as the early onset of seasonal kiremt rains (June-September) in
key-producing areas of western Oromia, Amhara and Benishangul Gumuz enabled the establishment of long-cycle crops. However, lower yields are expected in central and eastern Oromia Region and in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Region (SNNPR), where kiirem rains started late and were erratically distributed. In addition, in SNNPR the planting of meher crops was delayed.10

In Kenya, the 2017 short rains season (October-December) saw some improvement in vegetation conditions and water availability and access in some Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties.11 However, the impacts of the 2017 drought persist in several of the hardest-hit ASAL counties and, as at January 2018, six counties across the country—Isoilo, Kajiado, Tana River, Garissa, Kilifi and Wajir—were classified in alarm drought status. The 2018 long rains (March – May) are expected to lead to better livestock productivity and crop production.

Despite containment efforts, fall armyworm (FAW)—an insect native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Americas—is expected to remain a threat to food insecurity in the Horn of Africa in 2018.

FAW has now been detected in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, as well as neighbouring countries, such as South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Most countries in Eastern Africa have managed to control FAW to some degree through regular monitoring, pesticide application and hand picking of FAW larvae. However, key crops in the region are still expected to be impacted in 2018, compounding the consequences of drought in several areas.

In Kenya, FAW has been reported in 40 out of the 47 counties, and the Food and Agricultural Organization has indicated that there is a high probability that it could impact short rains crops. Depending on the extent and effectiveness of pest management strategies, there is also a possibility that FAW could impact 2018 long rains crops. In Ethiopia, FAW infestations—mainly affecting maize and sorghum crops—were initially reported in SNNPR in February 2017, subsequently spreading to the key growing areas of the western highlands. As of early September, about 550,000 hectares of meher season maize crops (about 27 per cent of the total planted area) across the country were reported to be infested. In Somalia, a study carried out in the Lower and Middle Shabelle, Hiran, Bay and Bakool regions found that the deyr maize crop grown has sustained significant damage due to FAW.12

CONFLICT AND POLITICAL DYNAMICS

Conflict and political insecurity in the Greater Horn of Africa and beyond (notably Yemen and South Sudan) are expected to continue to drive humanitarian needs—sometimes compounding, or caused by the impacts of climatic shocks—in the first six months of 2018.

In Somalia, conflict is expected to remain at the centre of the crisis, with an array of non-state actors remaining active, including Al Shabaab and armed clan militias that retain the capability of launching devastating attacks affecting civilians. Meanwhile, temporary changes of territorial control by different armed groups, followed by troop realignment and
reconfiguration by the African Union Mission in Somalia and the Somali National Armed Forces continue to expose civilians to risk. Within this situation of persistent instability, the structural drivers of conflict include ethnic mobilization between clans, political exclusion and marginalization, discrimination between population groups, and competition over scarce resources. In one potentially positive development, however, on 6 December 2017, the Galmudug state government and moderate Islamist group Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama’ah signed a power-sharing agreement brokered by the Inter-governmental Authority on Development and Djibouti, which is expected to end three years of sometimes violent political competition.

In Ethiopia, renewed clashes were reported in the Oromia and Somali regions from August 2017 onwards, with clashes in mid-December 2017 leaving at least 61 people dead. Sporadic clashes in these regions have exacerbated the needs of people already suffering as a result of the severe drought and caused population displacement. On 29 December, the Ethiopian Parliament announced the formation of a committee to investigate the clashes and a National Steering Committee under the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralist Affairs has been set up to look at the humanitarian impact of the situation.

In Kenya, the protracted 2017 elections cycle resulted in multiple localized clashes, particularly between security forces and opposition supporters, with reports of civilians killed and raped. Meanwhile, the Kenya Defence Forces remain engaged in counter-Al Shabaab operations in parts of the country. In Eritrea, a rare protest took place at the Al Diaa Islamic School in Asmara in November 2017. However, the situation appears to have since returned to normal. In Djibouti, elections will be held for the National Assembly on 23 February 2018. Although some concerns remain on possible human rights violations, the elections are expected to be largely peaceful.

Elsewhere, the conflicts in Yemen and South Sudan continue to impact on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. The escalation in the Yemen conflict has directly affected population movements to and from the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia. In South Sudan, despite the signing of a new Cessation of Hostilities agreement between the warring parties on 21 December 2017, clashes continue to be reported between the Government’s Sudanese People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) and the SPLA-in Opposition (SPLA-iO) in Central Equatoria and Unity. Given the fragility of South Sudan, refugee outflows to the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia and Kenya, are expected to continue in the months ahead. UNHCR projects that there will be 485,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and 140,000 in Kenya by the end of 2018.
ECONOMIC SHOCKS, INCLUDING FOOD PRICES

After an economic slowdown in 2017 as a result of drought, electoral uncertainty and conflict, economic growth is expected to recover in the Horn of Africa in 2018, but continues to vary significantly across the region.

In Ethiopia, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that real gross domestic product rebounded to 9 per cent growth in 2016/17, following an estimated 6.5 per cent growth slowdown in 2015/16 due to the El Niño drought and deterioration of the external environment. In October 2017, Ethiopia’s central bank devalued the Ethiopian birr by 15 per cent to boost lagging exports and address shortages of hard currency reserves. According to the latest World Bank estimates, economic growth in 2018 is expected to remain robust at 8.2 per cent.19 In Somalia, on the other hand, the IMF quotes drought and sporadic terrorist attacks as having taken a toll on economic activity. The drought has hurt the economy and temporarily impacted the Federal Government of Somalia’s tax collection efforts. In 2017, growth was projected to remain limited at 1.8 per cent (versus 2.4 per cent in 2016) and inflation was projected to increase to 3.7 per cent (versus 1.3 per cent in 2016).20 In Kenya, political uncertainty following the Supreme Court’s overturning of the initial Presidential Elections results caused a slowdown in economic growth, reduced foreign direct investment, fiscal budget pressures, reduced commercial bank borrowing and increased non-performing loans, according to the United Nations Development Programme.21 In 2018, however, growth is projected to recover in Kenya as inflation eases to 5.5 per cent.22

Drought in the Horn of Africa, combined with fears regarding the impact of the FAW infestation, caused food prices to rise in 2017.

In Somalia, local staple cereal prices remain above average in most areas, but have not increased to the levels observed in 2011. This has been attributed to consistent, large-scale humanitarian assistance and lower international food prices that act as a price ceiling.24 In Ethiopia, after surging between January and September 2017, maize prices levelled off or began to decline in October with the start of the meher harvest. However, they remained up to 55 per cent higher than one year earlier. Prices of teff followed similar patterns, increasing on average by 25 per cent between January and September and remaining steady or slightly declining in October. Similarly, prices of wheat increased by 46 per cent in the capital, Addis Ababa, between January and October, when they were at record levels. The highest food inflation in almost five years was recorded in Ethiopia in November 2017, reaching 18.1 per cent, with sugar, coffee, bananas and red pepper powder recording the fastest rises in prices.24 In Kenya, low food commodity volumes and high food prices continued to hamper access to food in late 2017. Kenya has a structural maize deficit, and maize imports and prices are expected to remain above five-year averages through May 2018,25 as the Government of Kenya’s maize subsidy program stopped at the end of October.
PART III. HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

As a result of conflict, insecurity and climatic shocks, population flows in the Horn of Africa are amongst the most complex and multi-faceted in the world. Some 5.5 million people were displaced within the region as at December 2017, and this figure is expected to rise in the months ahead. Food insecurity and malnutrition are projected to remain at crisis levels with emergency caseloads in parts of the region. In addition, the risk of famine remains in Somalia. However, small seasonal improvements, particularly in Kenya, may bring the overall number of severely food insecure people down in the first six months of 2018. Meanwhile, communicable diseases continue to pose a threat to vulnerable communities, particularly in border areas.

PROTECTION, DISPLACEMENT AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

Drought, conflict and insecurity continue to cause significant protection concerns in the Horn of Africa. Violations against civilians, including sexual and gender-based violence, remained significant in the region in 2017. In Somalia, an estimated 3.6 million people are in need of protection services and the drought caused people to adopt negative coping strategies leading to violations of rights. Vulnerable groups—including internally displaced persons (IDPs), women-headed households, unaccompanied children, and socially marginalized and discriminated communities—are at particular risk and face specific protection concerns. Violations of children’s rights are on the rise, with grave violations registered against as many as 4,160 children (652 girls, 3,508 boys) in 2017. This includes recruitment and use of children by parties to the conflict, and gender-based violence, which disproportionately affects women and children. Some 76 per cent of reported gender-based violence incidents in 2017 were reported by IDPs. In Kenya, families adopted negative coping mechanisms—including increased child labour and early marriage—in response to the impacts of the drought, and sexual and domestic violence increased. Women walking long distances to collect water or firewood were at heightened risk of sexual violence. In addition, gender-based violence and killings were reported during the 2017 Kenya elections process.

Internal displacement, driven by drought and conflict, escalated during the latter half of 2017, with more than 4.1 million IDPs now present across the Horn of Africa. In Somalia, more than 1.1 million people were displaced as a result of drought, floods, conflict and insecurity in 2017, nearly two-thirds of whom are under age 18, bringing the number of IDPs to a record 2.1 million. However, population movement remains fluid. Approximately 6,000 IDP returns were recorded in November, and the onset of the rainy season is expected to trigger more returns in the months ahead. In Ethiopia, conflict has left close to 1 million people displaced, the majority of whom originate from the Somali and Oromia regions, and 700,000 people have been displaced due to drought. In Kenya, lack of pasture, crop failure and loss of livestock caused pastoralists to migrate abnormally long distances in 2017. Displacement in Kenya is, however, expected to decline in the coming six months due to the improved food security outlook in key areas.
The Horn of Africa also hosts 1.4 million refugees from countries in the Greater Horn of Africa region and beyond, including Yemen. As of 30 November 2017, Ethiopia was hosting nearly 894,000 refugees and asylum seekers, including some 106,100 who arrived from 1 January to 30 November 2017 (nearly 74,400 of whom fled South Sudan). Some 58 per cent of refugees and asylum seekers in Ethiopia are children under age 18. In 2017, some 20,000 Eritrean refugees have reportedly arrived in Ethiopia.

Kenya continues to host more than 489,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers, more than 285,700 (58.4 per cent) of whom originate from Somalia and more than 111,000 of whom originate from South Sudan (22.7 per cent). The Dadaab refugee camp alone hosts nearly 238,800 refugees, the vast majority (more than 96 per cent) of whom originate from Somalia. So far this year, over 35,000 refugees from Dadaab refugee camp have returned to Somalia under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)'s voluntary repatriation programme, while over 18,000 have registered to leave. However, concerns have been expressed by human rights organizations regarding the voluntariness of the returns amidst reports that they have been motivated by cuts to food rations and fear of being forced to return without assistance. Other countries in the region host smaller populations of refugees and asylum seekers. Djibouti, for example, hosts more than 27,000 refugees from four neighbouring countries (Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea and Ethiopia), the majority of whom are from Somalia. Somalia, meanwhile, hosts more than 14,428 asylum seekers (the majority from Ethiopia) and nearly 13,400 refugees (the majority from Yemen).

The Horn of Africa remains a source of mixed migration flows, driven by a complex combination of economic and protection concerns. Distinguishing between the different categories of displaced persons can be challenging, as lack of regular migration options in the Horn of Africa forces migrants to undertake unsafe journeys, leaving them vulnerable to harsh living conditions and rights abuses and blurring the distinction between economic migrants and people in need of international protection. A recent study by the Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) found that 79 per cent of all migrants interviewed had either directly witnessed or experienced one or multiple abuses during their journey—including extortion, sexual violence and torture—along the four main migratory routes within and from the Horn of Africa (north-west towards Libya and Europe; east towards Yemen and the Gulf; north towards Egypt and Europe; and south towards South Africa). More than 100,000 undocumented Ethiopian migrants residing in Saudi Arabia returned to Ethiopia between March 2017 and 5 January 2018, out of an estimated 500,000 residing in Saudi Arabia. The fourth amnesty period in Saudi Arabia, during which irregular migrants were free to leave the country without criminal charges and possibly return with a regular contract, came to an end on 16 November. After the final amnesty period ended, the number of irregular migrants deported from Saudi Arabia jumped from an average of 1,000 per week to 3,000. Israel, which currently hosts approximately 27,500 Eritreans and 7,800 Sudanese asylum seekers, has stated that asylum seekers will either suffer detention in an Israeli prison or be deported to a third country in Africa.

FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Some 14.6 million people were severely food insecure in the Horn of Africa as at December 2017, and the number in Somalia has reached nearly double the five-year average. Horn of Africa countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) represent 3 out of 13 countries worldwide expected to have more than one million people (local populations, IDPs and refugees) facing crisis levels of food insecurity or worse in 2018. When including countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda), the region accounts for 6 out of the 13 countries.

PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE
In Somalia, more than 3.3 million people are severely food insecure, including 2.4 million people who are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 866,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Despite the impressive humanitarian response mobilized in 2017, the number of people facing IPC Phase 4 at the end of 2017 is more than 10 times the number in IPC Phase 4 at the beginning of the year (860,000 vs 83,000) and the risk of famine remains. A further deterioration in food security is likely through May 2018. Even in a scenario of continued assistance at current levels, Famine (IPC Phase 5) remains possible. In a worst-case scenario of very poor deyr rainfall through December and continued absence of assistance in some areas, Famine (IPC Phase 5) could be likely.

In Ethiopia, 8.5 million people were food insecure in 2017. In the Somali region alone, some 3.3 million people (42 per cent of the region’s population) were estimated to be food insecure as of September 2017, the highest number since 2011. The worst-affected areas, including Dollo, Korahe and Jarar zones along with parts of Afder and Liben, are projected to face food security levels similar to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through May 2018, while some households will likely be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), according to FEWS NET. Given the level of excess livestock deaths and sales due to drought in 2016/2017, south-eastern pastoral and agro-pastoral households are considered unlikely to see a substantial improvement in food security in the near term. The food security emergency is expected to continue into mid-2018. Partners are currently assessing the performance of kiremt (June-September) rains on harvest in cropping areas and the performance of the short seasonal deyr/hagaya (October-December) rains in the lowland areas of south and south-eastern Ethiopia. Pending results from the assessment, the Food Cluster projects that between 5 and 7 million people may be in need of emergency food assistance in 2018.

In Kenya, some 2.6 million people were estimated to be facing severe food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) of whom 500,000 were already in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in December 2017. The number of food insecure people is projected to decline in the first half of 2018, with an improvement to Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes expected across all pastoral areas, although some of the most vulnerable households are still likely to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

In Djibouti, about 200,000 people are estimated to be severely food insecure.

Across the Horn of Africa, nearly 5.2 million children and women were estimated to be acutely malnourished by the end of 2017 and 639,718 severely malnourished children were admitted for treatment during the year. In Somalia, 1.2 million children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition from September 2017 to September 2018, including
230,000 children who are projected to be severely acutely malnourished (SAM) during this period. People who have been internally displaced are particularly vulnerable to acute malnutrition. Recent nutrition assessments among IDPs do, however, indicate a modest seasonal improvement, with the exception of Qardho, Garowe, Gaalkacyo and Mogadishu IDPs who face a sustained Critical nutrition situation. The overall median global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among IDPs across Somalia in the 2017 deyr season (October-December) was 14.3 per cent, compared to 14.4 per cent in the 2016 deyr season. In Ethiopia, 3.6 million children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were acutely malnourished in 2017. In Kenya, 370,000 children required treatment for acute malnutrition in the drought-affected ASAL areas as of the end of 2017.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Communicable diseases are present across the Horn of Africa, with the main threats posed by cholera/acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and measles. Health risks have been exacerbated by drought conditions and inadequate access to clean water and functional health facilities.

AWD and cholera outbreaks in Ethiopia and Somalia, respectively, were declining in December 2017. However, the risk of a resurgence of the diseases in the first six months of 2018 is considered high. In Ethiopia, some 48,617 AWD cases were reported from 1 January 2017 to 5 January 2018, resulting in 880 deaths, which represents a case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.8 per cent. Although nine regions in Ethiopia were affected by the outbreak, more than 74 per cent of the AWD cases were from the Somali region. By December, the outbreak was showing a downward trend. However, considering the usual epidemiological trend, larger scale outbreaks are expected after February 2018. In Somalia, some 78,560 cases, resulting in 1,159 deaths (CFR 1.48 per cent), were reported from January to December in 2017, with children under age 5 constituting more than 58 per cent of the reported cases. Cholera cases and deaths significantly decreased in the latter half of 2017 and no deaths were recorded from August up to December. However, the upcoming deyr and gu seasons may trigger an increase in the number of cases. In Kenya, the cholera outbreak remains active in seven counties (Nairobi, Garissa, Mombasa, Turkana, Wajir, Embu and Kirinyaga), with 4,079 cases, including 80 deaths (CFR 1.9 per cent), reported from 1 January to 15 December 2017. Although approximately 60 per cent of the cases have been reported from Nairobi County, other counties are also facing challenges to contain the disease, with both Garissa and Mombasa experiencing third waves of the outbreak, and Wajir experiencing its second wave of the outbreak, as at December 2017. Transmission in camp settings, mainly in Garissa and Turkana counties which host the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, accounted for around 23 per cent of the total reported cases.

Despite declining numbers of cases reported in recent months, measles outbreaks are ongoing in both Ethiopia and Somalia. In Ethiopia, 3,674 cases had been reported as at 24 November. Affected regions are: Oromia (46 per cent of reported cases); Amhara (21 per cent); Addis Ababa (16 per cent); and Somali (20 per cent). In Somalia, the number of measles cases reported has decreased in recent months but remains at epidemic levels. Some 20,809 cases were recorded between January 2017 and January 2018. This is four times higher than the number of cases reported in 2015 and 2016 respectively.
PART IV. CONSTRAINTS TO RESPONSE

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Humanitarian access varies across the Horn of Africa. In 2017, regular and sustained humanitarian access was impeded in several locations—particularly in Somalia—by denial of humanitarian access by non-state armed actors, insecurity, and bureaucratic impediments.

In Somalia, the first ten months of 2017 witnessed rising violence against humanitarians, particularly in southern and central Somalia. In 2017, over 170 violent incidences impacted humanitarian organizations, accounting for the death of 16 aid workers, injury of 35, arrest and temporary detention of 22, abduction of 31 and attempted abduction of nine, and physical assault of three. The bulk of the aid worker casualties (deaths and injuries) reported in 2017 resulted from the collateral impact of attacks by non-state armed actors in civilian populated areas. In line with the trends recorded in previous years, frontline responders are expected to continue to be the most affected in the first six months of 2018.

In Kenya, operations at Dadaab refugee camp were negatively affected by tensions with host communities in December 2017. The host community complained about alleged environmental degradation by refugees due to charcoal burning, poaching, and cutting down of trees, and expressed concern about the impact on host community livelihoods in light of the reduced services and staffing in the camp. Following interventions by humanitarian organizations and local authorities, access was regained and UNHCR is working with the government and other partners to identify the best means of support for the host community.

Ethiopia faced sporadic humanitarian access constraints due to conflict along the Oromia-Somali border, particularly in moving humanitarian supplies towards the Somali Region and in reaching communities in areas experiencing continuing unrest and where Government basic service provision has been suspended. Some of the access constraints linked to the unrest include: road blockades impeding movement of humanitarian aid commodities; safety risks for staff; and looting of commodities. Of particular concern was access to Dawa/Liben Zone of Somali Region, where relief supplies had not been delivered for months. However, as of January 2018, these access constraints are relieved with the construction of the Dawa river bridge, which can carry small trucks.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

The international community reacted generously to the escalating needs in the Horn of Africa in 2017, substantially increasing funding for the responses in both Ethiopia and Somalia.

Overall, more than $3.5 billion was required for humanitarian action across the Horn in 2017. However, while the appeals for Ethiopia and Somalia were 81 per cent and 63 per cent funded respectively, the Flash Appeal for Kenya and the Djibouti Humanitarian Response Plan gained limited traction and refugee response in Horn of Africa countries was largely underfunded. Within appeals, some clusters or sectors were significantly underfunded, such as Protection and Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs) in Somalia (16.9 and 13.8 per cent respectively) and Education and Emergency Shelter/NFIs in Ethiopia (5.2 and 13.2 per cent respectively). With needs in the region remaining high in 2018, timely funding is required to prevent a deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

In Somalia, nearly $1.3 billion was mobilised including $949.2 million through the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (62.9 per cent funded). Aid agencies were able to provide life-saving assistance and livelihood support to more than three million people per month, which helped avert famine and contain major diseases such as AWD/cholera and measles. The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan calls for nearly $1.6 billion to assist some 5.4 million people with protection and humanitarian assistance. The Response Plan is an extension of last year’s famine prevention efforts and prioritizes immediate relief operations to help the most vulnerable, such as the internally displaced, women and children.
In **Ethiopia**, taking into account all pipelines, $1.14 billion was received against the revised humanitarian requirements for 2017 of $1.4 billion. In advance of the finalization of the meher assessment results, it is anticipated that between 5 and 7 million people will be targeted with relief assistance, requiring around $895 million over the course of 2018.

In **Kenya**, limited funding for the $166 million Flash Appeal (March - December 2017), combined with the nurse’s strike and political uncertainty due to the electoral process, impeded the ability of humanitarian actors to scale-up rapidly during the drought. In September 2017, the humanitarian community revised the Flash Appeal to prioritize requirements needed up to the end of the year in light of funding gaps. The revised appeal called for $106 million for the last four months of the year, bringing the cumulative humanitarian requirements for 2017 to $205 million. Of the $205 million, 60 per cent was funded, leaving critical gaps in the response. In 2018, residual needs will be incorporated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), rather than a separate humanitarian appeal, as these pertain to chronic vulnerability and require a longer-term approach.

The **Djibouti** Humanitarian Response Plan was only 26.8 per cent funded ($11.5 million received out of $43 million requested) in 2017. As with Kenya, residual needs will be mainstreamed in the UNDAF framework in Djibouti in 2018.

The underfunding of refugee operations in the **Greater Horn of Africa** led to reductions in food rations in several locations. The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan attracted limited funding for Horn of Africa countries hosting South Sudanese refugees: **Ethiopia** received only 31 per cent of funding required ($95.7 million out of $313.6 million), while **Kenya** received 33 per cent of funding required ($29 million out of 88.6 million). With the number of South Sudanese refugees projected to reach 3.1 million by the end of 2018, UNHCR and partners have appealed for $1.5 billion to respond in neighbouring countries. Separately, Somali refugees in Kenya similarly faced reduced rations due to funding shortfalls in 2017 and the current level of assistance is sustainable only up to March 2018 if no additional funding is received.

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**HUMANITARIAN FUNDING STATUS**

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Total Requirements (USD million)</th>
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<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SSD RRRP for Ethiopia</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>122</td>
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<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>210</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSD RRRP for Kenya</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Tentative figure

Source: FTS

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*Destitute pastoralists are moving and setting down in a temporary site close to a permanent water point in Warder District, Warder Zone, Somali Region, Ethiopia. Photo credit: Mulugeta Ayene.*
1. 2.1 million in Somalia [HNO 2018], 1 million conflict IDPs and 700,000 drought IDPs in Ethiopia [IOM DTM round 8], 309,200 in Kenya [IDMC]
2. 11,574 in Somalia, 489,071 in Kenya, 889,071 in Ethiopia [UNHCR]
3. 11,342,000 people were severely food insecure (IPC phase 3 and above or equivalent) in January 2017 (Djibouti 130,000; Ethiopia 5.6 million; Kenya 2.7 million; Somalia 2,912,000). 14,610,000 people were severely food insecure (IPC phase 3 and above or equivalent) in December 2017 (Djibouti 200,000; Ethiopia 8.5 million; Kenya: 2.6 million; Somalia 3.31 million) – Food Security and Nutrition Working Group
4. UNICEF / Nutrition clusters
9. UNICEF / Nutrition clusters
18. UNHCR South Sudan 2018 Regional Refugee Response Plan


29. IOM DTM Round 8.


40. RMMS Mixed Migration Monthly Summary November 2017 East Africa and Yemen

41. IPC Phase 3 and above, or equivalent.

42. Yemen (>15 million); Syria, South Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia, and Nigeria (5.00-6.99 million); Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan (3.00-4.99 million); and Kenya, Iraq, Uganda, and Pakistan (1.00-2.99 million). See: FEWS-NET (2017) Alert: Very large assistance needs and Famine risk will continue in 2018. Available online at: http://www.fews.net/global/alert/november-2017


