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- The *Deyr* rainy season begins.
- Needs high among IDPs & rural populations
- Humanitarian Needs Overview process kicks off
- Promoting literacy & skills development.
- Operating environment continues to be challenging
- Life-saving & restoration of facilities continue, four months after Cyclone Sagar
- The Humanitarian Response Plan critically under-funded.



The above average *Deyr* rains may see food production improve further, but on the downside the risk of flooding may increase.

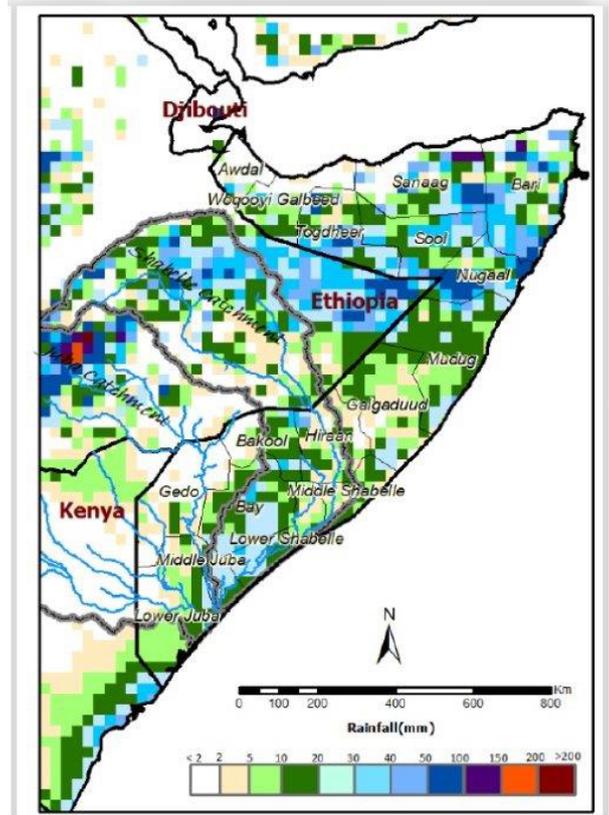
The *Deyr* rainy season begins

During the last week of September, the 2018 *Deyr* rainy season (September-December) began in some parts of Somalia, according to the FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) service. The rains are expected to continue spreading over the coming weeks. Light to moderate rainfall is expected in early October, mostly in the northern regions and some areas in the south. Moderate rains are also expected in the upper parts of the Ethiopian highlands during the first week of October.

A forecast issued by the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF50), in August 2018, indicates a high probability of normal to above-average *Deyr* rains across Somalia. Specifically, the forecast indicates a 35 per cent chance of above-average rainfall in the north-western areas. This probability is higher (40 per cent) in the rest of the country.

The anticipated rains are expected to further enhance pasture and water availability for livestock, improve livestock body condition and reproduction, and facilitate increased crop cultivation in rain-fed crop-growing areas of Somalia, which might see food production continue to improve. On the downside, average to above-average rainfall is also likely in parts of the Ethiopian highlands, which contribute significantly to the flow of water in the Juba and Shabelle river. As a result, there will be an increased risk of flooding along the rivers and the risk of flash flooding in low-lying areas of Galgaduud, Mudug, parts of Nugaal.

7-day cumulated rainfall forecast (27 Sept to 03 Oct 2018)



FIGURES

# of people in need	4.6m
# of people in humanitarian emergency and crisis (IPC Phases 3 &4)	1.5m
# of people Emergency (IPC Phase 4)	0.2m
# of children projected to be malnourished	1.2m
# of people displaced internally by drought since November 2016	1.6m
# of people in protracted internal displacement	1.1m

FUNDING

\$1.5 BILLION

requested in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

\$579 MILLION

Total humanitarian funding received towards the 2018 HRP

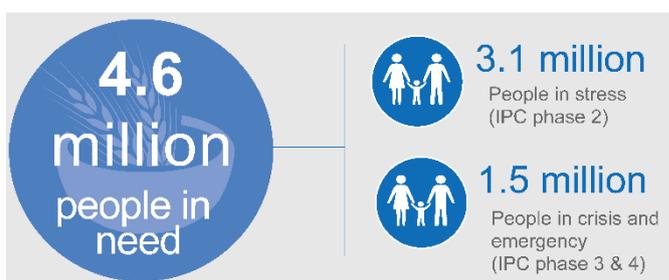
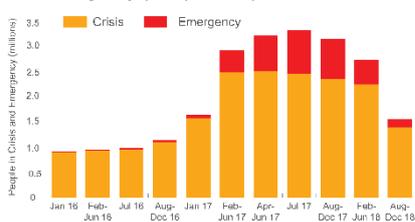
(Source : <http://fts.unocha.org>, 4 October 2018)

Needs high among IDPs & rural populations

Although improvements have been recorded in the overall food security situation, these gains will depend on continued favorable rains. The number of people facing food insecurity has reduced from 5.4 million (in February 2018) to 4.6 million, but it is still higher than at pre-crisis levels.

An estimated 1.5 million Somalis are in need of urgent life-saving food assistance, 58 per cent of whom are internally displaced people (IDPs) – a particularly vulnerable group that largely depends on aid due to losses of livelihood systems and marginalization. The displacement figure has surged by over 1.5 million since November 2016, bringing the total estimated IDP population figure to 2.6 million people. Overall, the nutrition status of children under the age of five has remained largely unchanged, despite the improvement in food security, with children consistently constituting more than half of the overall people in need. Malnutrition rates remain high, especially among the highly-vulnerable IDP population. Treatment and nutrition support is needed for approximately 294,000 acutely malnourished children, including 55,000 who are severely malnourished. The situation may worsen as a lack of funding is limiting the availability of public health and nutrition services.

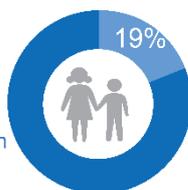
Trend in number of people in crisis (IPC phase 3) and emergency (IPC phase 4)



Also of concern are rural populations in the north-east, which received slightly below- to near-average *Gu* rains in 2018. These rains offered limited improvements in areas where people are chronically food insecure. Rural populations which had suffered the brunt of damage/losses due to drought are also extremely vulnerable. Livelihood losses (e.g. ruined harvests, lost livestock etc.) and debt, incurred over multiple seasons, have left rural communities without means to recover. They therefore remain very vulnerable to future shocks. Without humanitarian assistance, the food security situation is expected to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in the Guban pastoral livelihood zone and to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the Northern Inland Pastoral zone of Sool and Sanaag.

294,000

acutely and severely malnourished children under age 5



55,000

children of 294,000 are severely malnourished

Those facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3), or worse, urgently need humanitarian assistance and livelihood support for the remainder of the year. Integrated support interventions should be

sustained to maintain recent improvements, as well as to prevent a further deterioration in the nutrition situation.

Humanitarian Needs Overview process kicks off

As part of preparations for the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), due to be released in October, OCHA conducted a series of state-level consultations across Somalia. Aimed at gathering input from federal and state authorities, NGOs and UN agencies, the consultations kicked off with a national-level consultation on 5 September in Mogadishu that was followed by a Banadir region-level consultation. The HNO process supports the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in developing a shared understanding of the impact and evolution of the humanitarian situation in Somalia and to inform collective response planning, resulting in the 2019 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

The consultations helped partners to jointly identify the priority needs and gaps that will inform humanitarian response planning, and to better understand the integration of protection concerns into the 2019 HRP. During the consultations, the FAO-led Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and REACH presented the final results of the 2018 post-*Gu* assessment and the Joint Multi Cluster Needs Assessment, respectively, which will feed into the HNO document. Between 10 and 23 September, there were further consultations held at the state level in Baidoa, Belet Weyne, Doolow, Garowe, Gaalkacyo, Hargeisa and Kismayo, the results of which will also be used in developing the HNO. A joint meeting between the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and cluster coordinators to validate data for the 2019 HNO took place on 25 September.

OCHA continues to ensure that the HNO is a Somali-driven and consultative process that includes the voices of authorities and affected people. Communities.

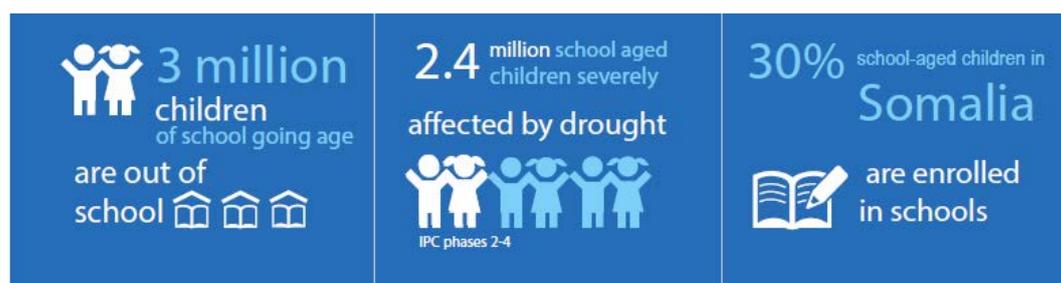
The HNO document describes the impact of the humanitarian crisis, provides and explains an estimate of which population groups are affected, analyzes their situation and gives an overview of the operational environment. OCHA continues to ensure that the HNO is a Somali-driven and consultative process that includes the voices of authorities and affected communities in the country, providing a solid evidence base to inform the HRP.

Promoting literacy & skills development

Somalia joined the rest of the world to celebrate the 52nd International Literacy Day on 8 September, under the theme, "Literacy and Skills Development". The promotion of literacy is part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. Literacy was central to the development of Somalia in the 1970s. In 1974, some 75 mass literacy campaigns resulted in significant reductions in illiteracy rates, according to UNESCO. The collapse of the central government affected these efforts extremely negatively, with literacy rates in Somalia being among the lowest in the world. At least three generations have been affected by the collapse of the education system; humanitarian partners estimate that, currently, three million children and youth (of school-going age) are out of school.

This year's theme explored approaches that support the development of literacy, which ultimately improves people's lives and contributes to equitable and sustainable societies. The day was marked by the promotion of crafts and storytelling as ways of making learning easy and fun that encourage children to pursue education despite the hard situations they may face. The story-telling, singing and craft was organized with the support of UNICEF. Being able to read and write has profound benefits not only on a person's educational opportunities, but also for their health, economic prospects and well-being of their children.

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Humanitarian access update

Operating environment continues to be challenging.

The number of violent incidents affecting humanitarian organizations in Somalia has remained high. Since the beginning of this year, over 90 violent incidents have impacted humanitarian organizations, accounting for the death of eight humanitarian workers, the injury of 12, the abduction of 18, and the arrest and temporary detention of 13. Collateral damage from terrorist attacks in populated areas of Mogadishu has continued to account for the majority of the deaths and injuries, as well as for the destruction of humanitarian facilities and assets. The 5 August vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack at a local restaurant accounted for the highest number of humanitarian workers' deaths in a single incident this year with three humanitarian personnel killed.

Attacks on 2 and 10 September in the capital led to the destruction of a primary school, a secondary school and a maternal and child health center that was supported by humanitarian organizations. These attacks also led to the death of one child and the injury of three others. Active hostilities in Lower Shabelle (Hirshabelle) continue to cause displacements and disrupt humanitarian programming. As parties to the conflict continue to temporarily take control of smaller towns and villages – holding them for short durations that range from a couple of hours to a few days – the resultant anxiety and unpredictable security situation has led to increased displacements. Humanitarian organizations operating in the affected locations have been forced to scale down their activities and/or suspend operations. In August and September, over 34,000 civilians fled areas of Lower Shabelle.

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Since January this year, nearly 100 administrative/bureaucratic impediments have impacted humanitarians.

Rising bureaucratic impediments imposed by authorities at various levels have continued impacting the ability of humanitarian organizations to operate. Since January this year, nearly 100 administrative/bureaucratic impediments have led to disruptions, delays, intrusions on humanitarian facilities, arrests, the detention/expulsion of humanitarian workers, the confiscation of travel documents required for personnel to travel, and the occasional temporary suspensions of humanitarian programmes. Immediate follow-up, usually in the form of dialogue with the concerned authorities, continues to be the main mitigating measure in place. However, humanitarians continue to urge authorities to expedite the process of putting in place a centralized regulatory framework for NGOs country-wide and to effectively implement it as a sustainable solution to current obstructions.

Road access challenges along the Cadaado–Gaalkacyo route continue to mount. Extortion at illegal checkpoints, the looting of supplies and personal belongings are common occurrences. The number of illegal checkpoints mounted by armed clan militias along the aforementioned road, particularly between Cadaado and Galinsoor, have been on the rise. Ten illegal checkpoints – targeting trucks loaded with goods and public transportation vehicles that shuttle between the two towns – are often reported. Although Galmudug security forces continue to carry out operations to remove the many illegal checkpoints, these are often quickly re-established due to a lack of permanent presence of security forces in the area. The Mogadishu–Jowhar and Mogadishu–Afgooye–Marka corridors also continue to be hotspots, with non-state armed actors mounting increasing challenges.

On 2 September 2018, the Federal Government directed International NGOs (INGOs) to relocate their leadership from Kenya to Somalia by the end of 2018, advising that failure to comply by January 2019 will result in the deregistration of non-conforming organizations. The affected INGOs have taken measures in response to the directive. A committee to facilitate the relocation process and to address the implications of the directive has been established; related discussions have also been initiated between NGOs, relevant stakeholders, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and authorities.

Humanitarian funding update

Life-saving & restoration of facilities continue, four months after Cyclone Sagar

In mid-May, tropical cyclone Sagar made landfall in the coastal areas of Somaliland and Puntland, leaving widespread destruction in its wake. It was one of the strongest storms to ever hit Somalia, according to the FAO-led Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) unit. Somaliland's National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) estimates that 168,000 people were affected, with 53 dead and several dozens injured. The cyclone destroyed livelihood assets, farmland and infrastructure, with subsequent displacement. Its widespread impact is estimated to have indirectly affected a total of 700,000 people.

Funds to support a response in the immediate aftermath of the storm were extremely limited, as the country swung from a protracted severe drought to record rainfall in the south and central areas of the country, resulting in historic levels of flooding. Nonetheless, humanitarians joined local authorities and bilateral partners in mounting a life-saving response operation given the gravity of the situation. The restoration of damaged infrastructure and the provision of basic services were among the top priorities.

To scale-up response efforts, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Mr. Peter de Clercq, was quick to allocate funding from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund. The allocation enabled aid agencies to increase the provision of urgently needed life-saving assistance, including WASH, health, nutrition, shelter and infrastructure support. Part of the funding has supported integrated emergency response teams and the restoration of prioritized communal infrastructure (schools, water points, hospitals, nutrition centres). Projects include school feeding, the restoration of sanitation facilities and the provision of teaching materials to schools, to support some 7,000 learners who were affected by the impact of the cyclone. An integrated health-nutrition project is ongoing in the north, targeting those

not yet reached after Cyclone Sagar; mobile health units have significantly increased their reach. Shelter and livelihood support were also provided in the northern regions of Sool, Sanaag, Bari and Nugaal, which were among the worst affected.

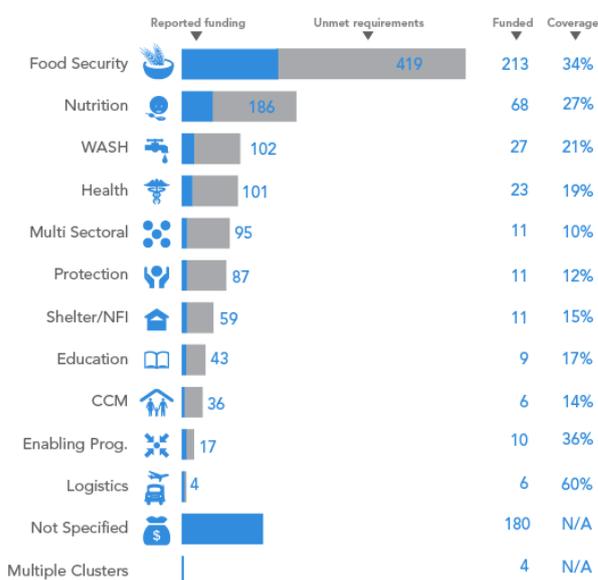
An additional \$7.5 million from the SHF Reserve was recently allocated for areas facing the most worrying food insecurity outlook in the northern areas. The new SHF grant prioritizes life-saving responses to communities affected by Cyclone Sagar, as well as IDPs, and is meant to rebuild the livelihoods of communities that have lost up to 70 per cent of their livestock during four consecutive seasons of drought. The interventions will be implemented by 13 SHF non-governmental partners, whose projects were selected through a competitive, inclusive and transparent process. Additional funds will be released by the SHF through its second 2018 Standard Allocation in the fourth quarter of the year.

Response Plan critically under-funded

The Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains critically underfunded. While humanitarians continue to provide life-saving assistance, the shortfall is hampering the sustainability and effectiveness of delivery of vital services and the restoration of facilities destroyed by natural disasters or ongoing conflict. The HRP has received \$579 million. The Somalia humanitarian operation overall has received \$757 million in contributions, with 24 per cent (\$180 million) in support of projects outside the HRP.

While good rains and aid have contributed to improvements in food security, other humanitarian indicators remain poor. Sustained funding is needed to boost the provision of emergency assistance and, ultimately, to put affected communities on the path towards recovery. The challenging operational environment is hampered by restricted humanitarian access and ongoing conflict that continue to inhibit effective service delivery. Cluster funding, across the board, remains below target, limiting partners' abilities to address the underlying causes of vulnerabilities. Of concern is the forecasted deterioration of pastoral

HRP FUNDING PER CLUSTER (million \$)



communities in the north, who have not recovered from the drought and the effects of Cyclone Sagar, to Emergency (IPC4); the same concern exists for poor riverine households which were adversely affected by flooding in May. Humanitarian assistance and funding remain critical for these groups, to continue restoring their livelihoods.

Persistently high acute malnutrition levels are unlikely to decline before contributory factors such as WASH and health are addressed, yet funding for both clusters has not reached even a third of their original requirements, currently at 19 and 21 per cent, respectively. Achieving sustained access to potable water and safe sanitation is also critically undermined by funding shortfalls. The assurance of a protective environment for IDPs, children and the marginalized is similarly hindered by persistently poor funding across its complementary clusters: CCCM, Education, Protection, and Shelter. With less than a fifth of their funding requirements met, Protection Cluster partners struggle to holistically address protection concerns, such as gender-based violence, and to work towards durable solutions. Ensuring adequate access to basic services and improving living conditions in IDP settlements remains a challenge for CCCM and Shelter, while the Education Cluster remains concerned about access to education for more than 7,000 learners whose schools suffered damage from Cyclone Sagar.

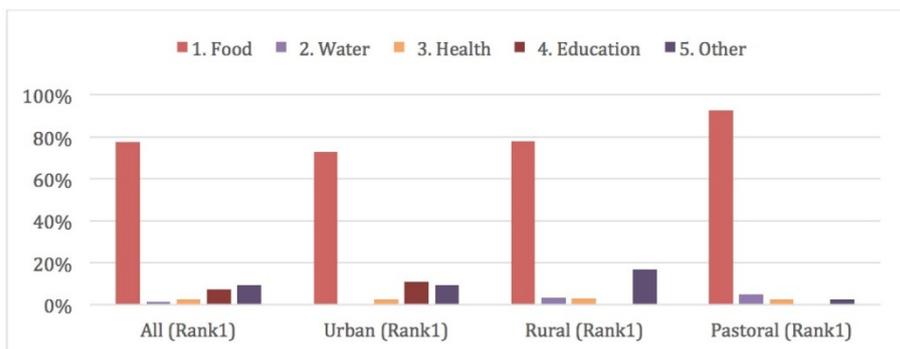
Somaliland and Puntland tend to receive more, on average \$254 per month, whereas households in southern and central, excluding the cities of Mogadishu and Kismayo, receive \$191, a significantly lower monthly total.

Remittances, a crucial safety net in times of drought

According to a briefing paper by the Rift Valley Institute, titled *Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia*, remittances act as a crucial safety net to – and are the basis for – household level resilience for many Somalis. The briefing paper, which is based on a recent survey carried out in Somalia for the World Bank, noted that in times of drought and food insecurity, remittances protect people from resorting to more harmful coping strategies such as reducing household food intake and selling household assets. They also improve their ability to meet basic needs on a monthly basis, including in relation to the quantity and quality of their diet. The impact of this was visible in 2017 in areas with ties to a large diaspora population.

Estimates on remittances to Somalia vary from \$1.3 to \$1.4 billion per year, and constitute 23 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the briefing paper, an estimated 40 per cent of the population (nearly five million people) receive remittances. For these families, monthly remittance receipts range from \$50 to over \$300, with an overall monthly average income from remittances of \$229.

Depending on the frequency with which they are received, remittances are vital in two significantly different ways. When received on a regular basis, they improve access to credit and contribute to the smoothing out of income and expenditure cycles. When only received on an occasional basis, they act more as an insurance mechanism in times of stress. Despite their clear benefits in alleviating food insecurity, the impacts of remittances are markedly uneven, regionally and socially (including clan-wise) and perpetuate patterns of structural inequality. Yet, 35 per cent of those households who receive remittances only receive them occasionally, including at times of livelihood stress and during Ramadan and 'Eid' and cannot rely on them as a dependable financial resource. This is an important point of difference between the surveyed households.



Ranking of remittance uses

It is worth noting that it is rurally-based families, and pastoralist households in particular, who make up the largest category of those who receive remittances on an occasional basis only. This is in contrast to urban households, where only 28 per cent report receiving remittances solely on an occasional basis, with the remaining 72 per cent receiving them regularly. In other words, for one group of households, mainly in urban areas, remittances are a regular source of income, adding a financial predictability to their economies (including improved access to credit), whereas

for households that receive occasional remittances, mainly in rural areas, they act more as an insurance mechanism.

Somaliland and Puntland tend to receive more, on average \$254 per month, whereas households in southern and central Somalia, excluding the towns of Mogadishu and Kismayo, receive \$191, a significantly lower monthly average. This is because the populations who emigrated first predominantly came from the northern areas and are now well established abroad. Meanwhile, southern and central areas receive less, despite their larger rural populations, who are more vulnerable to conflict and displacement, climatic shocks and marginalization. Many countries adopted and strengthened their anti-money laundering regulations for fund transfers to Somalia after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in New York. Following the closure of many Money Transfers Operators, some Somalis in the diaspora now rely on the informal money transfer mechanisms, which make it more difficult to track transfers, especially for areas in southern and central Somalia.

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