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Coordination Saves Lives

Somalia: Drought response
Situation Report No. 7 (as of 9 May 2017)

This report is produced by OCHA Somalia in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 3 – 9 May 2017.

Highlights

- UNICEF projects that the number of children who are or will be acutely malnourished has gone up by 50 per cent since the beginning of the year to 1.4 million, including over 275,000 who have or will suffer life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in 2017.
- An estimated 680,000 people have been displaced due to drought since November 2016. Approximately 7,000 people have crossed into neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya.
- Major disease outbreaks are spreading, with more than 36,066 cases of AWD/cholera and 7,031 suspected cases of measles since the beginning of the year. Acute malnutrition is increasing in most parts of the country, increasing the risk of disease.
- WHO and the Federal Ministry of Health of Somalia launched the first round of a preventative oral cholera vaccination campaign on 3 May in Baidoa, targeting 224,000 persons aged 1 year and older.
- The first round of an emergency livestock treatment campaign has concluded, reaching nearly 8.4 million animals since March 2017. A second round has begun, aiming to treat an additional 12.7 million animals.
- Moderate to heavy rainfall has been recorded in parts of the country, as well as in the Ethiopian highlands. Riverine flooding has been reported in Middle reaches of the Shabelle River due to existing open river banks and weak river embankments.

6.2m People in need
2.9m in IPC Phase 3 and 4
680,000 Internally displaced due to drought since November 2016
7,031 Reported cases of measles in 2017 as of 30 April
1.4 m Children projected to need treatment for acute malnutrition in 2017
1.9% AWD/cholera case fatality rate as of 30 April (697 deaths to 36,066 cases)
$672m Total humanitarian funding in 2017

Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation continues to worsen. Acute malnutrition is on the rise, increasing the risk of diseases. UNICEF estimates that 1.4 million children are or will be acutely malnourished, including over 275,000 who have or will suffer life-threatening severe acute malnutrition in 2017. Nearly 40,000 children have stopped attending classes due to the drought. Of the 6.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, more than 1.5 million are women of child-bearing age and nearly 130,000 pregnant women may require urgent care. Protection needs remain critical for the most vulnerable groups especially women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and minority communities. The increase in drought and conflict-related displacement, as well as stress migration induced by forced evictions, is raising protection needs. Grave violations against women and girls children are on the rise, particularly in areas with high concentration of newly displaced persons such as Baidoa and Mogadishu.

According to the FAO-managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), rainfall activities intensified in many parts of the country over the last three days. Flash floods were reported in some places including Bari, Bay, Mudug and Nugaal regions following the heavy rains. The rains are expected to continue in most parts of the country in the next seven days, but with less magnitude. The Ethiopian highlands are also expected to continue receiving rains during the same period. This will in turn lead to increased river levels along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers. In the past week, humanitarian partners reported that some 30 commercial trucks were stuck along supply corridors due to the rains.
Some supply routes have been rendered impassable by the rains and sudden flash floods.

A slight decrease in the number of new Acute Watery Diarrhea/cholera cases and deaths was recorded – 3,475 cases and 43 deaths were reported in week 17 compared to 3,356 cases and 60 deaths in week 16. Of these, 897 cases were reported from Buhodle district, Togdheer Togdher region which represents 26 per cent of the total cases. Overall, some 36,066 cases of AWD/Cholera cases and 697 related deaths have been recorded since the start of 2017. AWD/cholera case fatality rates are higher in areas that are not accessible particularly in South West State (Bay, Bakol and Lower Shabelle regions), as well as Middle Juba and Gede regions of Jubbaland.

Cases of measles continue to rise across Somalia. A total of 7,031 cases have been reported as of 7 May. This is an increase of 685 cases compared to the previous week. Of the reported cases, 65 per cent are children under age 5. Banadir (1775) and Togdheer (1319) have reported the largest number of cases this year.

Massive drought-related displacement continues across Somalia, with most of the displaced people moving from rural to urban areas or other rural areas. According to the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) more than 680,000 people have been displaced by drought since November 2016. In the last week, a total of 63 people crossed into Dollo Addo town of Ethiopia. Nearly 420 people were displaced from Xarardheere district to Cadaado town as a result of forced child recruitment and heavy taxayon by non-state armed actors. Approximately 2,700 Somali refugees in Dollo Addo Refugee camp in Ethiopia reportedly returned to Doolow town in Somalia to access to cash assistance. Overall, most of the drought-triggered displacements in 2017 have arrived in Baidoa (Bay region), Mogadishu (Banadir), Gaalkacyo (Mudug), Belet Weyne (Hiraan), and Buuhoodle (Togdheer). Approximately 7,000 people have crossed into neighbouring Ethiopia and Kenya.

Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian partners in collaboration with Federal and local authorities 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 support throughout the country. During the past week, WHO and the Federal Ministry of Health of Somalia launched the first round of a preventative oral cholera vaccination campaign in Baidoa, targeting 224,000 persons aged 1 year and older. In April, 212,000 and 1,050,000 people benefited from sustained access to safe water and temporary access to safe water respectively. The FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) finalized its SMART surveys in Bay Agro-pastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, and Bakool Pastoral livelihood zones, Baidoa & Mogadishu IDPs. These surveys were intended as a follow-up of the post-Deyr assessment, given that these areas are projected to be in emergency and require "close monitoring" of the food and nutrition security situation.

Humanitarian Funding

Reported funding

Donors have made US$672 million available to scale up famine prevention activities. An estimated $313 million or 46 per cent of the funding has already been disbursed to humanitarian partners, while an additional $321 million is committed and $38 million pledged (as of 8 May 2017). The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), currently under revision has so far received US$473 million of the total humanitarian funding. An additional US$199 million ($38 million in pledges) has been reported as contributed to activities outside the appeal.
Pooled funds have further boosted the implementation of famine prevention activities by allocating an additional $15 million under the CERF rapid response to bridge the gap between limited resources available and the donor contributions and pledges expected beyond April 2017, further supporting the famine prevention activities Northern and Central Somalia. About US$60 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.

Compared to the requirements of the six-month Operational Plan ($825 million) and the revised annual famine prevention needs, the resources received and committed to-date are not sufficient to sustain the necessary response and to avert loss of lives. Contributions and commitments in the second half of the year need to be further scaled up.

Food Security

Needs

Preliminary results from FSNAU localized food insecurity, malnutrition and mortality assessments in Bay Agro-pastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, and Bakool Pastoral livelihood zones and Baidoa and Mogadishu IDP settlements indicate that the situation has deteriorated further. Rural areas are home to two-thirds of the 2.9 million people expected to be in IPC Phases 3 and 4 through June. Key needs in rural areas include emergency livestock support to keep animals alive and productive, cash-based interventions to meet immediate food needs of families while ensuring the availability of inputs to produce food during the planting season. Delivery on these priorities will prevent people from sliding further into food insecurity and will help stem further displacement out of rural areas. It will also potentially act as a trigger for the early return of those already displaced.

Response

- With available funds, FSC partners reached 2.7 million people in April through activities geared towards improving access to food and safety nets.
- Farmers continue to collect seeds for planting during the ongoing Gu season. To date, 84 per cent of the 230,000 people receiving seed vouchers have collected their seeds (a total of 837 tons of sorghum, maize, cowpea and vegetable seeds). They are also receiving cash vouchers for 3 months (the duration of a planting season) to ensure they can access food until their crops are harvested in June.
- In Somaliland, seed recipients are receiving tractor hours to assist in preparing their land for planting. This follows a specific request by the Ministry of Agriculture in Somaliland.
- Food security partners have provided 636,000 people in the rural areas with cash transfers amounting to $7.2 million since January. More than half (US$4.6 million) was disbursed in April.
- The first round of a massive livestock treatment campaign has concluded, reaching nearly 8.4 million animals since March (surpassing the target of 8 million). A second round has begun, aiming to treat an additional 12.7 million animals across Somalia.
- In April, 10.8 million litres of water were trucked to 90 sites in Puntland – enough for 180,000 animals per day. In Bay and Bakool, 220,000 litres of water was trucked to 40 sites on 29-30 April – enough for 22,000 animals each day. As of 1 May, rains were received in most parts of Puntland, Bay and Bakool, making the water trucking sites inaccessible due to muddy roads. As such, the intervention is currently on hold.

Gaps and Constraints

- Funding is one of the critical issue for FSC particularly in light of the new finding of FSNAU worsening food insecurity and malnutrition status in some of the hotspot area the need will increase
- The access constraint affecting the repose level of FSC in some of the area particularly middle Juba

Wash

Needs

The drought has had a devastating effect on most pre-existing water sources, leading them to progressively and completely drying-up. This is forcing people to buy water from private water vendors at high costs and increasing pressure on the limited existing water supply infrastructures. Alternatively, people have to rely on unprotected and unsafe surface water sources, exposing them to water borne diseases like AWD/cholera. Urgent needs exist for continued humanitarian intervention in the new but also the pre-existing IDP settlements. Although humanitarians are carrying out water trucking, some areas are still facing inadequate water supply, with the risk of AWD Cholera
and water-borne diseases continuing to rise. More needs to be done to address the acute sanitation and hygiene behavior needs among new IDPs settlements where open defecation is common and hand washing practices still poor. As a result, an estimated 4.5 million people are in need of Wash services. There is urgent need to increase funding and scale up activities for essential WASH needs for the AWD/cholera and drought-affected populations, especially in Bay and Bakool regions.

Response

- As at end of April, WASH Cluster provided emergency WASH support through sustained access to safe water to 471,000 people. The WASH cluster has also provided temporary access to safe water to more 2,2 million people affected by drought since the beginning of the year. Some 11,500 pupils from 103 schools have accessed safe water.
- Since January 2017, WASH Cluster partners have reached some 242,800 people with safe sanitation.
- WASH cluster is also conducting hygiene promotion including hygiene kits distribution and over 1,1 million,000 people have been reached with hygiene promotion activities including almost 539,000 people who have received hygiene kits since January 2017. The majority of hygiene kit distribution has been provided in AWD/cholera hotspots. This will support safe hygiene practices, household water treatment and safe storage to mitigate the spread of the AWD/cholera.
- To contain and control the AWD/Cholera outbreak, a total of 30 WASH cluster partner staff members have been trained on WASH in CTCs by UNICEF in April in Mogadishu. Similar trainings will be rolled out in Somaliland, Puntland and in Bay in the coming weeks.

Gaps and Constraints

- Low funding for WASH activities is affecting the ability of partners to respond simultaneously to the drought in rural areas, existing and new IDP settlements in urban areas as well as to the AWD/cholera outbreaks in more than 50 districts. Dramatic increases in water trucking costs means that additional funding is needed. Most of the ongoing projects are only short-term emergency interventions focusing on immediate needs including water trucking, hygiene kit distribution and emergency latrine construction that do not cover appropriate and costly exit strategies like boreholes rehabilitations.
- More funding is also needed for Cholera Treatment Centres support, provision of WASH services in schools, OTP centers, Health Posts and to support the new IERT approach.
- Wash response in Bay and Bakool is limited by the low number of partners in most of the districts of the two regions.

Education

Needs

An estimated 528,000 children are in need of emergency education assistance with the increased displacement and the rising vulnerability of people, the case load for education has increased. An increasing number of school children are not attending school due to drought and further scale up of the response is needed to prevent crisis-related school drop outs.

The Education Cluster is targeting 250,000 children with education in emergencies assistance

Response

- Education Cluster is working to support children where they live and ensure they can stay in school through provision of community-based school feeding and water in the schools, AWD/Cholera prevention and hygiene promotion, and the provision of appropriate teaching/learning materials. It is also important to support children where they move to and ensure they can continue their education.

Gaps and Constraints

- Total estimated gap in the Education Cluster response is 423,607 children
- The education response remains limited due to funding constraints. This has an immediate impact on school children’s lives and children are increasingly reported absent from schools due to the drought.
- Education has received only one per cent of the fund received to date.
- Displacement due to the drought is increasing the pressure on the existing education facilities especially in urban areas. In addition to the life-saving assistance (food, water, AWD/Cholera prevention), establishment of temporary learning spaces, and provision of teaching/learning materials are required to ensure continued access to education, protection and survival.
Needs
While the Gu rains have started in many parts of Somalia and brought relief to pastoralists and urban communities, they have created additional challenges for the delivery of humanitarian aid. The already poor infrastructure has further deteriorated, resulting in increased access limitations. With roads remaining the most affected, the need to maintain a scaled-up air response for humanitarian cargo and personnel is being prioritized.

Response

- The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with UNHAS, has facilitated two AWD/cholera response missions for the Somali National Drought Committee and the Ministry of Health to Adado and Belet Weyne. On 3 May, a team of eight professionals, including doctors, nurses and officials, were provided with air transport to Adado to respond to cholera outbreak in the area. In support to the mission, 14 metric tons of life-saving medical and nutritious supplies have also been airlifted. A second mission was arranged on 8 May, when a team of nine health workers and medical supplies were airlifted to Belet Weyne.
- During the reporting period, 120 metric tons of humanitarian supplies were airlifted for WFP, the Government and other partners. In total, since the beginning of the drought response in February, over 1,200 metric tons of humanitarian aid has been airlifted to and within Somalia.
- Two new refrigerated containers were received in Mogadishu in April to store heat-sensitive nutritious items. These are now fully functional to store critical cargo for UNICEF, Save the Children and WFP.

Gaps and Constraints

- Access, safe passage, delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid to the affected population is severely limited.
- Movement of personnel and humanitarian cargo is restricted due to insecurity and the presence of armed actors.
- Some key operational areas are only accessible by air while others are completely inaccessible.

Shelter

Needs
The Shelter Cluster mainly focused on the largest density of IDP populations in urban centres. The cluster projects that nearly one million individuals will be displaced in Somalia by the end of the year. Already over 620,000 people have been displaced in addition to the existing caseload of 1.1 million IDPs.

Response

- Over 100,000 newly displaced persons have received emergency assistance packages (plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans, sleeping mats, and kitchen sets) from Shelter Cluster partners since January

Gaps and Constraints

- Response is limited due to lack of access in some parts of south and central Somalia. Lack of funding for shelter activities continue to affect response. Lack of pre-positioned stocks, poor roads, numerous check points, limited flight capacity and limited NFI market information are also hindering response.
Latest Publications


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.

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](http://fts.unocha.org)) of cash and in-kind contributions. Reporting can done through the [online reporting form](http://fts.unocha.org) or by e-mailing the [reporting template](mailto:fts@un.org) 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.