

# SOMALIA

## Somaliland drought

The 2018 *Deyr* rainy season (October-December) was poor, with parts of Somaliland receiving only 25-50% of average rainfall. Some regions have experienced drought for several seasons. Sanaag and Sool are among the regions worst affected by poor rains, with large moisture deficits and drought conditions. The food security situation is worsening in multiple regions. Over half the total population are in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or higher levels of food insecurity in the following regions: Awdal, 368,000 people (55% of its population); Woqooyi Galbeed, 686,000 (55%); Togdheer, 412,000 (57%); Sanaag, 362,000 (67%); and Sool, 233,000 (71%). Areas of concern include Northern Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed, which are experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions. GAM rates of 10-14.9% are present in Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer. GAM rates over 15% are present in Sanaag and Sool. Populations classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse require interventions aimed at reducing food consumption gaps, eradicating acute malnutrition, saving lives, and protecting and saving livelihoods in order to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

Region	Population	Number of food insecure people			Number of acutely malnourished children under the age of 5	
		Stressed (IPC 2)	Crisis (IPC 3)	Emergency (IPC 4)	GAM	SAM
Awdal	673,000	195,000	142,000	31,000	33,000	4,000
Woqooyi Galbeed	1,242,000	480,000	192,000	14,000	51,000	6,000
Togdheer	721,000	283,000	123,000	6,000	27,000	3,000
Sanaag	544,000	245,000	116,000	1,000	47,000	9,000
Sool	327,000	133,000	100,000	-	22,000	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,507,000</b>	<b>1,336,000</b>	<b>673,000</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>

Source: FEWS NET 02/2019; FAO, FSNAU 03/02/2019

### NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



### IMPACT



## Anticipated scope and scale

Dry, hot conditions continue and the *Jilaal* dry season (January-March) is forecast to be longer and harsher than average. Little to no rainfall is forecast in the coming weeks. Food security outcomes are expected to deteriorate until June to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone and to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) levels in Northern Inland Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral of Sanaag and northwestern Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones. There is a need for immediate early action and targeted scale up of humanitarian response in order to prevent the deterioration of the humanitarian situation. The *Gu* (April-June) rainfall is forecasted to be average. This could mitigate a more severe deterioration in food security conditions, though forecasts are still early and uncertain.

## Key priorities



**673,000**  
people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3)



**180,000**  
children acutely malnourished



**Livelihoods**  
severely impacted

## Humanitarian constraints



In Sool region armed clashes between Somaliland and Puntland state security forces negatively impact security and humanitarian response. Access to people in need, and the ability of people in need to access assistance and basic services, are constrained in some parts of Somaliland. Buuhoodle district, Sool region has severely constrained road access.

### Limitations

Disaggregated data, for instance by sex, age and disability would help to better identify vulnerable groups.

## Crisis impact

Dry, hot conditions continue to prevail across Somaliland, leading to rapid deterioration in rangeland resources (FEWS NET 13/02/2019). The 2018 *Deyr* rainy season (October-December) started late, ended early and was below average across most of Somalia, with large parts of Somaliland receiving 25-50% of average rainfall (IPC 15/02/2019). The below average rainfall has resulted in a harsh *Jilaal* (January-March) dry season (FAO 11/02/2019). Little to no rainfall is forecast in the coming weeks, as is typical during the *Jilaal* dry season. The regions of Sanaag and Sool, are among the worst affected by the poor rains, leaving a large moisture deficit and resulting in mild to moderate drought conditions (OCHA 31/12/2018; OCHA 23/01/2019). This has severely impacted harvests and livelihood systems.

The food security situation in Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool regions of Somaliland is worsening (OCHA 13/02/2019). Across Somaliland, 1,336,000 people are experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) conditions, 673,000 Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 52,000 Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions (FEWS NET 02/2019). Some of these regions have experienced drought for several seasons (FEWS NET 02/2019). Households have lost their means of survival, while others are still recovering from the damage caused by Cyclone Sagar in May 2018 (OCHA 05/02/2019). Areas of particular concern include Northern Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed regions, which are experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions, and Sanaag and Sool which are experiencing (IPC Phase 3) conditions (USAID 29/01/2019). This deterioration in food security outcomes is expected to continue until June (FEWS NET 02/2019).

Many northern agropastoral and pastoral livelihoods zones will deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) by April (OCHA 05/02/2019). Food security outcomes are expected to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in Guban Pastoral livelihood zone and to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in Northern Inland Pastoral, East Golis Pastoral of Sanaag and northwestern Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones (FEWS NET 02/2019). Browse and water conditions are below-average in parts of Northern Inland Pastoral and northern Hawd Pastoral livelihood zones (FEWS NET 02/2019). Increased livestock migration is anticipated as surface water and pasture resources are depleted, until the onset of the *Gu* rains in April which is expected to improve livestock productivity, increase the number of saleable animals, and improve agricultural labour opportunities (OCHA 05/02/2019; FEWS NET 13/02/2019).

Populations classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse require interventions aimed at reducing food consumption gaps, eradicating acute malnutrition, saving lives, and protecting and saving livelihoods (FEWS NET 02/2019). 180,000 children under the age of 5 in Somaliland are estimated to be acutely malnourished, including 26,000 severely malnourished (SAM) (FAO, FSNAU 03/02/2019). Aid agencies in Somaliland, where security

and access are relatively good, have called for early funding to sustain aid operations as well as scaled-up development interventions (OCHA 05/02/2019).

**Food:** An estimated 673,000 people in Somaliland are currently in acute food security Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and struggle to meet their minimum food needs without food assistance (FEWS NET 07/12/2018; FEWS NET 02/2019). Households need humanitarian assistance through June to prevent further deterioration (FEWS NET 02/2019). Households in urban areas in Awdal and Sool regions are experiencing food consumption gaps and are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), driven by high cost of living and local currency depreciation (FEWS NET 02/2019). Without assistance, these households could slide into Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

52,000 people are already experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) conditions in Northern Awdal and Woqooyi Galbeed (FEWS NET 02/2019). They require an immediate humanitarian response.

**Nutrition:** GAM rates of 10-14.9% are present in Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer. GAM rates over 15% are present in Sanaag and Sool (UNICEF, Nutrition Cluster 04/02/2019).

The following areas are considered in need of urgent nutrition and health support interventions. They have a Critical prevalence of acute malnutrition ( $\geq 15\%$  GAM) or  $\geq 10.7\%$  of children have a Mid-Upper Arm Circumference below the 125mm threshold. They are: Guban Pastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral and East Golis Pastoral livelihood zones (FEWS NET 02/2019).

**Livelihoods:** Significant livestock loss (up to 70%) occurred during consecutive periods of drought in 2016/2017, devastating the region's pastoralist economy and forcing tens of thousands of families to flee their grazing land for urban camps (Financial Times 29/11/2018). The availability of animals that can be sold to markets remains low, constraining the ability of poor households to feed their families and purchase water for their animals (FEWS NET 02/2019).

Pastoral populations face depleted rangeland resources, while agropastoral households harvested below average *Deyr* agricultural production (FSNAU, FEWS NET 01/02/2019).

Displaced and socially marginalised groups in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas – including pastoral and agro-pastoral communities – require livelihood support to prevent a deterioration of their situation and to help protect their livelihoods and increase their resilience against climatic shocks (OCHA 03/01/2019). Livelihood support is required for people categorised as Stressed or worse (IPC Phase 2 or higher) (OCHA 05/02/2019; FEWS NET 02/2019).

**WASH:** Water scarcity is a major concern in northern pastoral livelihood zones. It has already triggered earlier-than-normal water trucking and at high prices. The scarcity is expected to worsen during the *Jilaal* dry season (FEWS NET 02/2019).

The coverage for safe drinking water stands at 56% in Somaliland (UNICEF 2018). Only 28% of households can access an improved water source in rural areas (UNPO 04/12/2018). Women and children often travel over 30 minutes to reach drinking water points (OCHA 03/01/2019).

Scarcity and the inadequate quality of water in Somaliland is a leading cause of displacement and conflict (OCHA 03/01/2019).

**Health:** People facing extreme food insecurity, malnutrition, and poor access to clean water and sanitation are at particular risk of diarrhoeal and communicable diseases (OCHA 20/01/2019).

**Protection:** Drought has prompted negative coping strategies that lead to protection concerns, such as child marriage and labour, school dropout and family separation (OCHA 29/11/2017; REACH 04/2018). Displacement is associated with protection concerns (including safety and security, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence), and IDPs are among the most vulnerable populations in Somaliland (REACH 02/2018; REACH 04/2018).

## Vulnerable groups affected

Certain groups are more severely impacted by food insecurity in Somaliland. In particular, acute food insecurity is projected to continue for (i) farmers and pastoralists who lost most or all of their livestock assets during the 2016-2017 drought, (ii) populations affected by flooding and Cyclone Sagar in 2018, and (iii) IDPs, who constitute a significant portion of those in need and have lost their livelihoods through displacement (OCHA 03/01/2019; FAO 11/02/2019). These groups require livelihood support to prevent a deterioration of their situation and to help protect their livelihoods and increase their resilience against climatic shocks (OCHA 03/01/2019).

Around 50,000 IDPs are living in Woqooyi Galbeed, Togdheer and Sanaag regions respectively and over 100,000 in Sool region (OCHA 07/2018). Reports indicate that some urban IDPs in Hargeisa and Burao cities are experiencing extreme food security outcomes and have been classified as Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) (FEWS NET 08/2018).

Additionally, other groups in vulnerable circumstances include female-headed households, children (particularly acutely malnourished children under the age of five), the elderly, people with disabilities and marginalised communities. These groups are particularly at risk and face specific protection concerns (OCHA 05/02/2019; IPC 15/02/2019).

## Humanitarian and operational constraints

State-level political disputes have negatively impacted security and the humanitarian response to drought. In the disputed Sool region sporadic armed clashes between Somaliland and Puntland states security forces represent an operational constraint (UN 21/12/2018).

Isolated violent incidents have been reported in some parts of Somaliland, particularly Sanaag and Sool, constraining access by humanitarian actors to people in need, and the ability of people in need to access assistance and basic services (OCHA 25/05/2018; Goobjoog News 21/10/2018; OCHA 03/01/2019).

Some areas are difficult to access due to poor road infrastructure. Buuhoodle district, Sool region has severely constrained road access (OCHA 03/01/2019).

## Aggravating factors

### Previous droughts

Somalia has been affected by regular droughts. The poor 2018 *Deyr* season follows several consecutive below-average or failed rainy seasons in Somaliland (OCHA 31/12/2018). In 2011-2012 famine as a result of drought caused in an estimated 250,000 deaths. The 2014 drought affected 70% of the population.

In 2015 consecutive years of poor *Deyr* rainfall diminished emergency food supplies and reduced vegetation coverage (ActionAid 15/03/2015). In February 2016 drought was declared by government of Somaliland (OCHA 03/01/2019). Droughts induced by the 2015-2016 El Niño phenomenon led to large-scale displacement in Somaliland as a result of food insecurity and death of livestock (Migration Policy Institute 06/02/2019). The 2015-2016 El Niño phenomenon worsened an already widespread drought in Somaliland. It had a devastating impact on communities and their livelihoods, including increased food insecurity, cash shortages, forced migration and death of livestock (OCHA 28/11/2016).

### *Jilaal* dry season (January-March)

The deficit or absence of *Deyr* rains, followed by a longer-than-average and particularly harsh *Jilaal* dry season is likely to lead to the deterioration in food security for the most vulnerable households in the rural areas in Somaliland as drought conditions intensify (OCHA 31/12/2018; Act Alliance 25/01/2019).

### Political stability and security

The risk of large-scale armed conflict between the states of Puntland and Somaliland over the disputed Sanaag and Sool regions has increased. The two states have fought over the disputed Sool region for more than 10 years (Garowe Online 15/06/2018; UN 21/12/2018). Violence could lead to the destruction of livelihoods and further displacement.

Furthermore, clan conflict remains a major concern, particularly in Sool region, where violence has resulted in the loss of lives and livelihoods, and widespread displacement (OCHA 03/01/2019).

## Conflict over resources

Clan-related conflict is mainly between pastoralist communities competing for scarce resources, such as water and pasture, or in areas where farmers clash with nomadic pastoralists over farmland (OCHA 03/01/2019).

Increasing competition for resources such as water and rangeland resources due to the dry, hot conditions which are expected to last until March (and possibly later) is already increasing local tensions and could trigger further inter-communal conflict. Resource- and clan-based conflicts were reported in Las Anod, Sool region (FSNAU, FEWS NET 22/12/2018).

## Key characteristics of Somaliland

- **Demographic profile:** Population: 3.5M (BBC 14/12/2017). IDPs: 594,000 (OCHA 11/2018).
- **Poverty rates:** Urban (less than 207,300 Shillings per adult/month): 29.7%. Rural (less than 180.900 Shillings per adult/month): 37.0% (World Bank 7/2015).
- **Food Security figures:** People in Stressed (IPC Phase 3) or above as percentage of total population: Awdal: 368,000 (55%), Woqooyi Galbeed: 686,000 (55%), Togdheer: 412,000 (57%), Sanaag: 362,000 (67%) and Sool: 233,000 (71%) (FEWS NET 02/2019).
- **Nutrition levels:** GAM rates: Sanaag and Sool: >15%. Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer: 10-14.9% (Nutrition Cluster 12/2018).
- **Health:** Infant mortality rate: 72/1000. Under-five mortality rate: 91/1000. Prevalence of female genital mutilation/cutting: 99.1% (UNICEF/MNPD 3/2014). Access to formal medical facilities when needed: urban: 82%, rural: 65% (World Bank 7/2015).
- **WASH:** Access to improved water sources across Somaliland: 68%. Access to improved water sources for rural households: 28% (UNICEF 4/12/2018). Households practicing handwashing with water and soap: 37% (OCHA 11/2018).
- **Education/Child Protection:** Primary school completion rate: 68.5% (UNICEF/MNPD 3/2014). Households describing schools as unsafe places for boys: 39% (OXFAM 6/2018). Child labour: 26%. Marriage before age of 18 among girls: 30.8% (UNICEF/MNPD 3/2014).

## Response capacity

### Local and national response capacity

Somaliland National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority is responsible for the management of national food reserves, developing policies and strategies for disaster management, emergency preparedness, the establishment of early warning systems, mobilising resources and coordinating humanitarian efforts in Somaliland (OCHA 05/02/2019).

### International response capacity

The Federal Government of Somalia and aid agencies operating in the country called on donors to provide sufficient and early funding to sustain aid operations in Somalia in 2019. The Humanitarian Response Plan seeks USD 1.08 billion to provide lifesaving assistance and livelihood support to 3.4 million Somalis affected by conflict, climatic shocks and displacement across the country (OCHA 01/2019).

The EU allocated EUR 89 million in humanitarian aid in 2018. Together, the EU and its member states provide approximately 60% of all humanitarian aid in Somalia (ECHO 02/10/2018).

The need for the immediate early action and targeted scale-up of humanitarian response was recommended by the inter-agency mission to Somaliland in early December, in order to prevent a deterioration of the humanitarian situation due to the poor 2018 *Deyr* rains (OCHA 31/12/2018).

### Population coping mechanisms

Negative coping strategies include skipping meals, borrowing money, selling livestock and crucial livelihood assets, selling crops as fodder for livestock, and sending children to work (UNOCHA 30/11/2017; OCHA 03/01/2019). This undermines livelihoods and food security in the long-term.

27% of households surveyed in Somaliland indicated begging as a coping mechanism. Often children are sent to beg (REACH 04/2018).

## Information gaps and needs

Disaggregated data by sex, age and disability would help to better identify vulnerable groups.

## Lessons learned

Agencies should engage at all levels, including with customary leaders and even local military commanders, based on humanitarian principles. Drought response requires building relationships based on participation, partnership, and joint activities. Horn Relief, a long-term actor in Somalia, was able to distribute cash to tens of thousands of drought victims through seeking acceptance from local military commanders and careful negotiation with customary leaders who agreed not to 'tax' the relief. This demonstrates that, even where governments are weak and security risks are high, delivery of cash relief based on need is possible (ALNAP 10/2011).

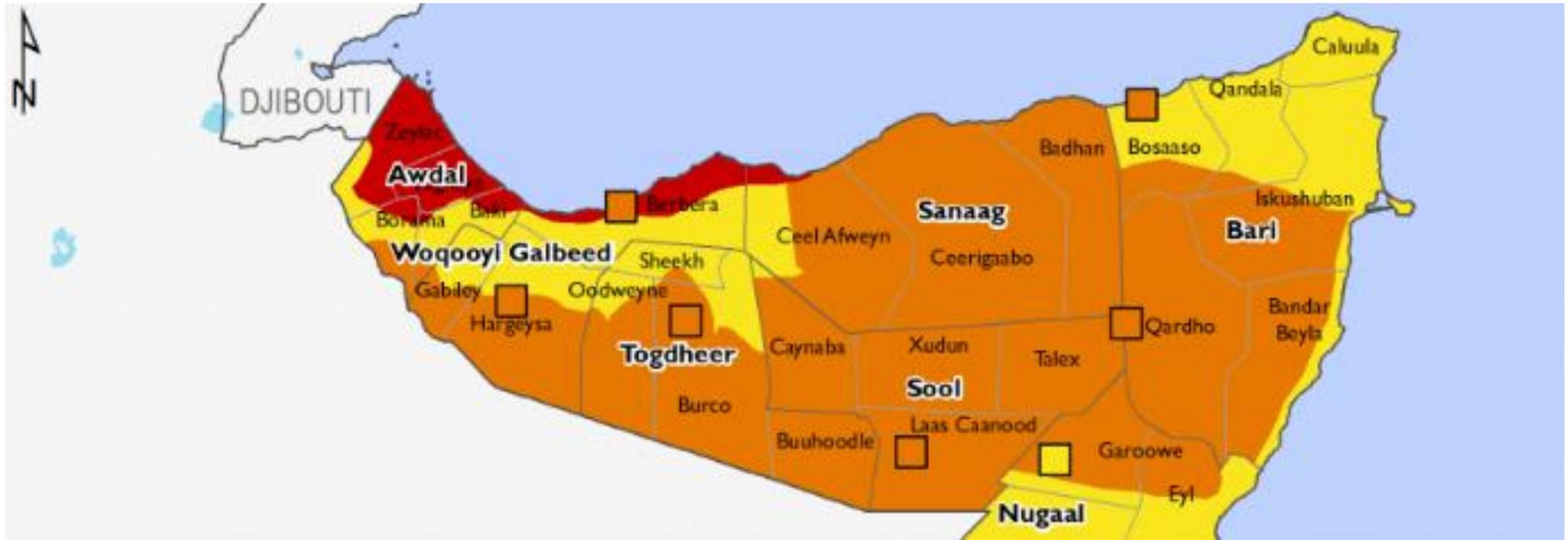
Cash transfers were an effective response during the 2011 drought. This allowed people to support kin and wider community and distribute aid among themselves where access was limited (Rift Valley Institute 19/10/2016).

## Nutrition situation summary for Somaliland livelihood zones

Population assessed	GAM (%)	SAM (%)	MUAC <12.5 (%)	MUAC <11.5 (%)	Per 10 000 per Day		Morbidity (%)
					CDR	U5DR	
Guban Pastoral	8.8	1.1	4.6	0.9	0.59	1.01	10.1
West Golis	8.9	1.3	5.2	0.3	1.04	0.26	27.3
NW Agropastoral	5.8	0.7	1.2	0	0.69	0.14	25.5
Hargeisa IDPs (W. Galbeed)	7.7	1.0	1.3	0.3	0.55	0.17	27.7
Berbera IDPs (W. Galbeed)	8.7	1.9	3.6	0.5	0.8	0.93	11.3
Burao IDPs (Toghdeer)	4.9	0.4	2.8	0.3	0.14	0.32	0.14
Lasanood IDPs(Sool)	10.5	2.1	3.8	1.3	0.59	0.16	5
Northern Inland Pastoral NW	16.5	3.0	5.3	1.2	0.72	0.27	11.0
NW Hawd Pastoral	7.1	1.2	1.4	0	1.02	0.53	6.7
East Golis	17.7	2.8	8.8	1.9	0.22	0.24	20.5

Source: FAO, FSNAU 03/02/2019

## February-May 2019 food security projection



### IPC 2.0 Acute Food Insecurity Phase

1: Minimal
  2: Stressed
  3: Crisis
  4: Emergency
  5: Famine
  Concentration of displaced people

Source: FEWS NET 02/2019