

# HORN OF AFRICA

## Drought

The Horn of Africa (HoA) (including northeast Uganda) is currently experiencing a prolonged drought, largely as a result of below average precipitation from the seasonal short rains (April-July) and long rains (October-December). Prevailing dry conditions across the region have led to the deterioration of farmland and pastures, loss of livestock, sharply increased food prices, and reduction of the availability of water in large areas of Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya. At the regional level, the number of severely food insecure people has increased to approximately 12 million, in large part as a result of the drought. Pre-existing protection, health, WASH, and shelter needs have been also exacerbated. The humanitarian needs of the region's growing displaced population are of particular concern.

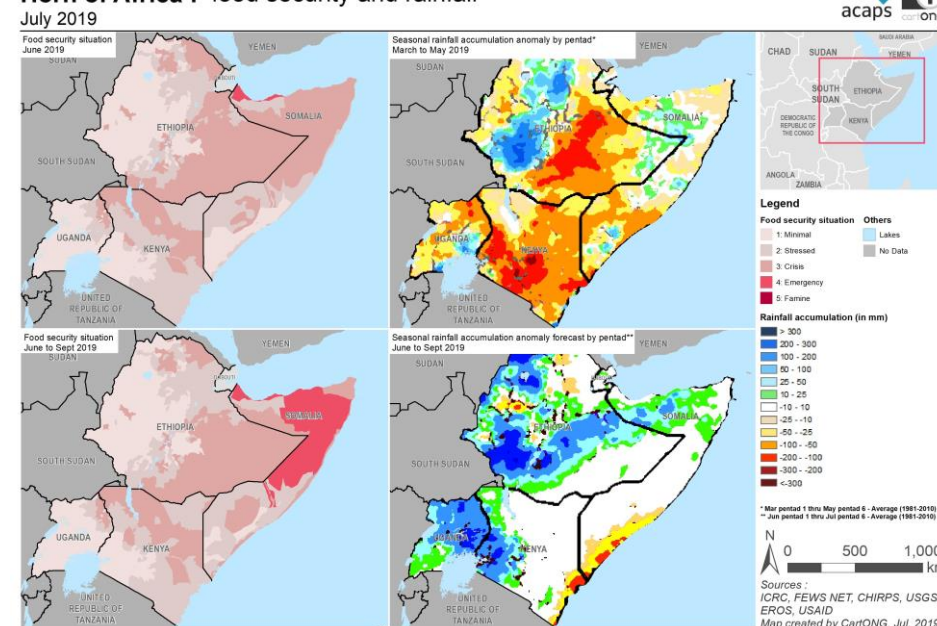
### NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



### IMPACT



### Horn of Africa : food security and rainfall



### Anticipated scope and scale

**Somalia, northern Kenya, and south-eastern Ethiopia** are the areas **most affected by the drought**. Northern Uganda and Djibouti have also been affected. Drought conditions are likely to persist and intensify with the continuation of the dry season. The number of **food insecure people** across the HoA may increase to up to **17 million** by August, barring a significant increase in humanitarian operations. Many drought-affected have a high level of vulnerability as a result of repeated exposure to droughts in recent years and issues related to conflict and insecurity.

### Key priorities



**12 million**  
severely food insecure



**896,000**  
children experiencing SAM



**1.8 million**  
displaced by drought

### Humanitarian constraints



Access throughout Kenya and Uganda remains relatively unconstrained. In Somalia, and to a lesser extent Ethiopia, intercommunal clashes and insecurity have led to access constraints. Many rural areas are difficult for humanitarian actors to reach as a result of underdeveloped road and transportation infrastructure.

#### Limitations:

Difficulty distinguishing between drought-related and pre-existing needs. Information on the impact of the drought is uneven across countries. Limited information on vulnerable groups.

## Crisis impact

### Climate overview

The Horn of Africa (HoA), in particular Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda and Djibouti, is experiencing a severe drought. The drought has been caused by the poor rainy season from October-December 2018 and the harsh dry season of January-February 2019; followed by a delayed and poor start to the March-May rainy season, causing severe dryness in the HoA (FAO 23/04/2019). Rainfall totals between March and mid-May were less than 50% of the annual average across the region and in large areas of eastern and northern Uganda rainfall averages were less than 80% of the annual average (FEWS NET 19/04/2019; OCHA 21/06/2019). The rainfall deficit resulted in a second consecutive below-average season in a region still recovering from the prolonged 2016/17 drought (FEWS NET 19/04/2019).

Although rainfall significantly improved from mid- to late-May, which improved water availability and some pastoral activities in southern Somalia and Kenya, cumulative totals remained widely below average in Kenya, eastern and western Ethiopia, and most of Somalia (FEWS NET 27/06/2019). In northern Somalia and localised areas of eastern Uganda, western Kenya, and southeastern Ethiopia, the rainy season has been either the driest or second driest on record (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

Despite the improvement in rainfall from mid-May to mid-June, cumulative rainfall totals are not expected to be sufficient to offset the early shortfalls and are too late to help cropping activities across Somalia, Kenya and central and eastern *Belg* cropping areas of Ethiopia (FEWS NET 30/05/2019; OCHA 21/06/2019). Little to no rainfall is expected in Somalia or eastern Ethiopia, as the rainy season is about to end, or in eastern Kenya, where the long rains have ended (FEWSNET 27/06/2019).

### Seasonal forecast

The rainfall outlook for June-September is mixed across the region. There is an increased likelihood of less than normal rainfall over much of Ethiopia, as well as some areas along the Sudan/Ethiopia border, northern and far-western Uganda, as well as coastal areas of Kenya and Somalia (IGAD 29/06/2019). Such weather will exacerbate the existing drought conditions. Other areas are forecast to receive favourable rains. Above normal rainfall over Djibouti and northwest and southwest Ethiopia, western Kenya and the eastern region of Uganda is forecast (IGAD 29/06/2019). This is the main production season in western Kenya, and Karamoja sub-region of Uganda, and an important secondary season in western Ethiopia and northwestern Somalia (FEWS NET 28/06/2019).

In regards to land surface temperatures, higher than average temperatures are forecast in the July-September dry season in most regions, particularly in pastoral and

agropastoral areas of Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti (IGAD 10/07/2019). High temperatures could stagnate or reverse recent gains in pasture, browse, and water. This coincides with the lean season in most affected areas (FEWS NET 28/06/2019). Cooler to near normal temperatures are indicated across central parts of Greater HoA (IGAD 29/06/2019).

### Overall impact

Severe drought conditions have disrupted planting operations and have severely impacted crop germination and growth, affecting large portions of the region's cropland, with the most severe drought conditions recorded over central Uganda (the main cereal exporter for the region), southeastern Kenya and southern Somalia (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

In pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, the combined impact of the poor October-December rains, followed by the current dryness has resulted in the deterioration of already poor rangeland conditions, and widespread pasture and water shortages (FAO 23/04/2019). Worst-affected areas include southeastern Ethiopia, northern Kenya and central and northern Somalia, where livestock body conditions are currently poor, and drought-induced livestock diseases, abortions and deaths have been reported (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

The failure of crops and livestock are fuelling hunger and displacement throughout the region, hitting farmers and herders in the rural communities of Somalia, northern and eastern Kenya, and southeastern Ethiopia particularly hard.

Insecurity and political instability further compound the situation and remain important drivers of humanitarian need in the region. Many of the areas impacted by drought have also been affected by internal violence and conflict (OCHA 21/06/2019; World Vision 10/07/2019). 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 (World Vision 10/07/2019). Some 21.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the HoA (UNICEF 07/06/2019).

### Sectoral impact

**Food:** Drought in the HoA has led to widespread deterioration in food security. Across the region, almost 12 million people are currently severely insecure (IPC Phase 3+). In Ethiopia, 8.1 million people are at present food insecure. In Somalia, Kenya and the Karamoja region of Uganda, there are 1.7 million, 1.6 million, and over 400,000 food-insecure people, respectively (FAO 18/07/2019). Food consumption gaps are being driven by a deterioration in livestock body conditions, reduced livestock assets, depletion of household food stocks, and low agricultural labour opportunities, which have reduced poor households' purchasing power, as prices increase (FEWS NET 21/05/2019). Areas of

concern include the lowlands of Amhara and Oromia and Somali region of Ethiopia; eastern and northern pastoral and marginal agricultural areas of Kenya; north-central pastoral and several agropastoral areas of Somalia; and Karamoja of Uganda (FEWS NET 28/06/2019).

Although rainfall increased in May, livestock and crop production are unlikely to recover to normal levels until the start of the next rainy season, in October (FEWS NET 21/05/2019). Due to the delayed and poor start to the March-May rainy season, harvests normally gathered in June-July will be delayed and up to 50% below average in central and southern Somalia, western and southern Uganda, and marginal long rains cropping areas of Kenya. The current situation will both prolong the current lean season and result in an early depletion of household food stocks later in the year, extending the period that households rely on market purchases until their next harvest in early 2020 (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

Driven by unfavourable crop prospects, cereal prices have begun to increase and are expected to continue increasing due to expected below-average production, both locally and in Uganda, the main maize exporter for the region, severely constraining food access for vulnerable households (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

There is a high risk of a deterioration in food security due to current and forecast drought conditions that have destroyed livelihoods and eroded the ability of communities to cope. Across the HoA, increases in the number of people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) are expected (IFRC 12/06/2019). Deterioration to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) is now expected in northern and central Somalia and deterioration to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) across southeastern Ethiopia, pastoral areas of Kenya, parts of southern Somalia, and Uganda, with peak needs occurring between July-October (FEWS NET 21/05/2019). If action is not taken in time, it is anticipated that 2.6 to 5.6 million people currently facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) food insecurity will fall into Crisis (IPC Phase 3+). The food insecure population (IPC Phase 3 and higher) in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda could reach 14–17 million people by August (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

**Livelihoods:** Recurrent droughts have undermined household resilience, consequently depleting livelihood and coping mechanisms (OCHA 07/07/2019). The majority of farmers and herders in the region are dependent on rain (FAO 23/04/2019; OCHA 20/06/2019). Pasture and water availability are currently insufficient for what is required for livelihoods (IFRC 12/06/2019).

Death of livestock, deterioration in livestock body conditions, decreasing livestock prices, and a degradation of pastureland following below average seasonal rains has had a negative impact on pastoralist livelihoods (FEWSNET 28/06/2019). Pastoral areas continue to experience high levels of atypical livestock migration in response to below-average forage and water availability (World Vision 14/06/2019).

The drought will likely have a severe and potentially long-term negative impact on the livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists. Urgent support to agricultural livelihoods, particularly for people categorised as Stressed or worse (IPC Phase 2 or higher), is critically needed to prevent further decline (OCHA 05/02/2019; FAO 23/04/2019).

**Health:** Currently 896,000 children are severely malnourished and up to 4 million suffer from undernutrition across the HoA and nutrition levels are deteriorating, particularly among IDPs (UNICEF 07/06/2019; OCHA 21/06/2019; ECHO 27/06/2019). Worst-affected areas include southeastern Ethiopia, northern Kenya and central and northern Somalia. In these areas, the availability of milk, a key source of nutrients for young children, is extremely limited. If action is not taken in time, it is anticipated that up to 1 million additional children under the age of 5 years will require treatment for acute malnutrition (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

Ethiopia has the highest burden of acutely malnourished children in the region, with the largest concentration in Somali region (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019). The nutritional status of children under five has exceeded emergency thresholds in most IDP camps in Ethiopia and is likely to deteriorate through September (FEWS NET 21/05/2019).

In Somalia, impoverished pastoralists, particularly those in the northern and central region whose livestock herds were depleted due to the 2016/17 severe drought, will face large food consumption gaps. As a result acute malnutrition and excess mortality risk will be heightened through October (OCHA 07/07/2019).

Across the region, malnutrition, health-related morbidity and mortality can be expected to increase if drought conditions persist, especially among the most vulnerable sections of society. Even if the drought improves, the nutrition situation will be concerning (ACF 12/06/2019).

The HoA is prone to epidemic outbreaks due to low vaccination coverage, high undernutrition rates, and mass population movements (ECHO 27/06/2019). Drought further exacerbates the risk of infectious diseases (OCHA 21/06/2019). Currently measles and cholera outbreaks within the region are at risk of expanding due to the effects of the drought, increasing the pressure on the already overstretched health systems (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

**WASH:** Water is becoming increasingly scarce across the HoA. There are an estimated 14.4 million people in need of water in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, and Uganda (UNICEF 07/06/2019).

In pastoral and agro-pastoral areas water scarcity is a major concern due to rainfall deficits (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019). People are being forced to travel longer distances to reach clean water and livestock trekking distances to watering points from grazing fields have increased (FAO 07/06/2019). In Somalia, water prices are twice the average price during

the past five years (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019). In Uganda overuse of and stress on existing boreholes has led to extensive mechanical failures (UNICEF 05/2019). Water scarcity is a driver of displacement and can fuel existing conflict.

Limited access to safe water and sanitation will also increase the risk of infectious and waterborne diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections and measles (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019; OCHA 21/06/2019). Households impacted by the drought can expect a sharp rise in acute malnutrition if WASH conditions do not improve. In Somalia the WASH response is scaling back in several drought-affected rural areas and urban centres due to inadequate funding, heightening the fears of disease outbreaks (OCHA 30/04/2019).

**Protection:** Many of the areas impacted by drought are also affected by political instability, insecurity, conflict, and escalating food insecurity that is likely to heighten protection risks (OCHA 21/06/2019; World Vision 10/07/2019).

Drought is worsening protection conditions, particularly for women and girls who are forced to travel longer distances to reach clean water and food. Previous droughts in the HoA have placed women and girls at an elevated risk of experiencing gender-based violence (Action Aid 22/03/2017; OCHA 31/05/2019). For instance, girls have to travel further to reach water.

Family separation is increasing as a result of drought, with household breadwinners moving in search of livelihoods, leaving children under alternative care arrangements. Protective family and community structures are disrupted, placing children and female headed households at high vulnerability to GBV, exploitation and further isolation from humanitarian assistance (OCHA 03/01/2019; WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

Drought-impacted households with depleted food stocks are more likely to deploy negative coping strategies that lead to protection concerns, such as missing or reducing meals, selling assets, taking loans with interest, and child marriage and labour (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019; Emergency Nutrition Network 02/07/2019).

Conflicts and weather-related disasters have displaced over 6 million people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, including 1.8 million due to drought (OCHA 21/06/2019; ECHO 27/06/2019). Of specific concern is the large number of drought-affected IDP communities from conflict areas, largely consisting of separated families whose men and older boys stayed behind (OCHA 03/01/2019). In Somalia 80% of IDPs live in urban areas, where they face serious risks of eviction, marginalisation and exclusion (OCHA 31/05/2019). The drought could further exacerbate the risk of displacement and will impact the already precarious situation of the IDPs, especially newly displaced ones (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019).

Taken together, Somalia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya and Djibouti host more than 2.7 million refugees displaced by conflict and food insecurity, mainly from South Sudan, Somalia,

the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi (ECHO 27/06/2019). Refugees already face heightened protection needs and the drought is likely to worsen protection issues.

**Shelter:** There are over 6 million IDPs in the HoA, including around 1.8 million estimated to have been displaced by drought (OCHA 21/06/2019; ECHO 27/06/2019). Most IDPs reside in host communities and crowded camps with insufficient access to basic services and poor shelter conditions that raise protection, health, privacy, and dignity concerns (OCHA 17/06/2019; OCHA 21/06/2019).

Makeshift shelters in informal camps are prone to fire and are not completely rainproof (which will be a problem during the October-December rainy season) (OCHA 16/06/2019). With the continuation of drought conditions, further drought-related displacement is likely which would increase overcrowding and shelter needs. Urban influx is likely (OCHA 17/06/2019).

**Education:** Drought conditions are likely to lead to further school drop-outs as parents migrate with their children and livestock in search of forage and water and utilise negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and labour (ALNAP 26/04/2019; WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019). Migrants, refugees and IDPs are more likely to be unable to access education (Development Initiatives 06/2019; UNICEF 06/2019).

## Vulnerable groups affected

### Pastoralists

Pastoralists have been disproportionately affected by the recent droughts in the HoA. Pastoralists who lost most or all of their livestock during the 2016/17 drought have an elevated baseline level of vulnerability to food insecurity and will likely have fewer coping strategies at their disposal to deal with the effects of the present drought (WFP, UNICEF, FAO 03/06/2019). Impoverished pastoralists will face large food consumption gaps, expected to result in heightened acute malnutrition and excess mortality risk through October (OCHA 07/07/2019).

### Children

Children are particularly vulnerable in the context of recurrent drought, affecting their level of nutrition and impacting their health status more than adults. Children also face an elevated risk of protection concerns as a result of negative coping mechanisms utilised by families, such as having to help their families search for water, or to seek work to be able to buy food (Action Aid 22/03/2017; Child Fund Alliance 31/09/2019). Such negative coping mechanisms result in an increase in school dropouts, poor school attendance, neglect, and exploitation of children (UNICEF 31/12/2017). In previous droughts in the HoA more than half of the total deaths have been among children under the age of five, as a result of malnutrition and other causes (The Guardian 26/03/2014).

## Displaced people

Many areas affected by the drought are also hosting large numbers of IDPs. The Somali region of Ethiopia alone has more than 1 million IDPs (GoE 23/05/2019). IDPs have a high level of humanitarian vulnerability, even before the effects of drought are considered. Of specific concern is the large number of drought-affected IDP communities from conflict areas, largely consisting of separated families whose men and older boys stayed behind (OCHA 03/01/2019). Drought is also driving displacement and worsening protection challenges, particularly for women and children, as families lose their socio-economic safety nets (OCHA 03/06/2019). Newly displaced IDPs will be particularly vulnerable.

## Minority groups/clans

Clans and ethnic groups, and divisions are a dominant feature of many of the areas affected by drought, particularly in Somalia and Ethiopia. Some groups have comparatively less social capital, resulting in reduced clan-based protection. Armed conflict and violence, as well as recent droughts, disproportionately heightened protection risks for marginalised social groups (OCHA 03/01/2019).

## Humanitarian and operational constraints

### Somalia

Bureaucratic impediments imposed by local and state authorities, such as arbitrary taxation, interference in supply and procurement, and staff recruitment procedures, impact the ability of humanitarian actors to reach people in need (OCHA 20/01/2019; OCHA 07/07/2019). There have also been arrests, detentions and expulsions of humanitarian workers, and suspension of programmes (OCHA 07/07/2019). Security forces have demolished informal settlements, including humanitarian infrastructure, displacing people without warning or providing alternative shelter (HRW 2019).

Generally, access is better in the north, with the exception of the disputed Sanaag and Sool regions, where sporadic armed clashes between Somaliland and Puntland states' security forces represent an operational constraint (UN 21/12/2018; OCHA 03/01/2019). In southern and central Somalia, illegal and legal roadblocks and checkpoints manned by government-affiliated and non-state armed actors restrict the delivery of assistance and nearly 2 million people are living in hard-to-reach, conflict-affected areas (OCHA 03/01/2019). Road access is severely constrained in 42 districts across the country. The Mogadishu-Afgooye-Baidoa, Mogadishu-Balcad-Jowhar and Cadaado–Galkayo roads are the most affected (OCHA 07/07/2019).

Humanitarian operations are further disrupted by seizure of goods and attacks against aid workers. Sieges by Al Shabaab in some government-held towns in Hirshabelle,

Jubaland and South West states have hindered access for humanitarian supplies (OCHA 07/07/2019). Some areas controlled by Al Shabaab are inaccessible for humanitarian actors.

Decades of conflict have resulted in explosive remnants of war contamination as well as landmines, particularly along the border with Ethiopia. Continuing armed violence is also leaving explosive material in the areas of conflict. Meanwhile, the use of IED in urban areas and along main roads has hampered humanitarian operations (OCHA 04/04/2019).

### Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government has eased some restrictions on civil society groups in recent months, though the activities of humanitarian organisations remain heavily regulated (Devex 14/12/2018).

The humanitarian response continues to be affected by localised conflicts that pose access challenges, particularly along regional boundaries (OCHA 30/04/2019). Hostilities between different ethnic groups coupled with clashes between Ethiopian Defence Forces and Unidentified Armed Groups affects thousands of people in need across the country, the Somali region being one of the major regions affected (Sida 2019; UNICEF 31/05/2019). Some zones in Somali region, such as Dawa, Doolo, Fafan, Liben and Siti, have seen an escalation of intercommunal violence leading to increased insecurity and humanitarian access being almost completely restricted (OCHA 15/06/2019). The security situation is likely to remain volatile in 2019, posing challenges for humanitarian partners to access affected populations.

Humanitarian access has also worsened as a result of restrictions on IDP access to assistance, against a backdrop of massive government-led IDP returns (OCHA 31/05/2019). In Gedeo (SNNPR) and West Guji (Oromia), the government has been accused of barring agencies from providing assistance to IDP populations as a strategy so IDPs will return to their place of origin (Refugees International 01/11/2018; ECHO 22/01/2019).

There are a number of physical access constraints, particularly in rural and/or remote areas where transportation infrastructure is relatively underdeveloped (UNICEF 01/01/2019). Poor road conditions because of the rainy season have also hindered access in SNNP and Oromia (UNICEF 31/05/2019).

### Kenya

Humanitarian access throughout most of Kenya remains relatively good, though periodic clashes between the Kenyan military and Al Shabaab, mostly concentrated near Kenya's border with Somalia, have taken place in recent months. In Mandera county, ongoing insecurity may make it more difficult for humanitarian actors to deliver assistance to populations in need (Xinhua 04/06/2019; Critical Threats 05/10/2018). In northern Kenya, parts of



Marsabit, Wajir and Turkana face conflicts between pastoralists, which also restricts access to these areas for humanitarian workers and Kenyan authorities (ALNAP 26/04/2019).

## Uganda

There are no severe administrative and bureaucratic humanitarian access constraints reported in Northern and Eastern region. Some remote areas have limited road infrastructure.

## Aggravating factors

### Previous droughts

The HoA is one of the most drought-prone regions of the world and has experienced numerous below average or failed rainy seasons in recent years. Recurrent droughts had a negative long-term impact on livelihoods and coping capacities across the region and will likely aggravate the impact of the present drought.

#### 2016/17 Horn of Africa Drought

Many households and communities affected by the current drought are still recovering from the effects of the 2016/17 drought, which impacted large areas of Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya, and to a lesser extent Djibouti and Uganda. Like the present drought, the 2016/17 HoA developed as a result of consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall and had the effect of limiting crop production, pasture growth, and water availability across the region (FEWS NET 13/07/2017). At the regional level, vulnerability in pastoral areas remains elevated as a result of pastoralists losing or being forced to sell livestock during the 2016/17 drought. Many poor families remain in debt as a result of losing livelihood assets (FEWS NET 21/05/2019).

#### 2015/16 El Niño emergency

In 2015, the HoA experienced an unusually strong El Niño, which contributed to drought across some parts of the region. Northern and central regions of Ethiopia were the most severely affected by the drought, which caused a sharp deterioration in food security and contributed to a tripling of humanitarian needs between 2015 and 2016 (UNICEF 05/07/2015). In Somalia, drought emergencies were declared in Puntland and Somaliland, and the number of food insecure people increased to nearly 4.7 million (FAO 06/07/2016). Across drought-affected areas in the HoA, El Niño induced climate conditions led to the destruction of livelihoods, increased displacement, and the death of livestock, which in turn increased the level of underlying vulnerability to further shocks (OCHA 28/11/2016; FEWS NET 12/04/2015).

## Political stability and security

### Intercommunal conflict

Several areas impacted by the HoA drought have been affected by intercommunal clashes in recent years, leading to a heightened level of humanitarian vulnerability. In Ethiopia, Somali region and Oromia continue to experience localised violence as ethnically aligned militias and other non-state armed groups clash with one another and carry out attacks against civilians. The overlap between drought and intercommunal conflict can be seen particularly clearly in Dawa zone, Somali region – one of the areas in Ethiopia most affected by drought and also a hotspot for conflict and conflict-related internal displacement (GoE 23/05/2019). In Northern Somalia, several clashes have occurred in recent weeks, pitting rival clans against one another (UNSOM 08/07/2019; SA News 09/07/2019). In a context where clashes are often driven by competition over dwindling land and water resources, it is foreseeable that a continuation or worsening of drought conditions might lead to a further escalation of violence.

### Presence of armed groups

The presence of Al Shabaab and other militant groups remains an important and enduring security threat in southern and central Somalia, as well as parts of northern Kenya. In 2019, numerous targeted assassinations, roadside bombs, and armed clashes linked to militant groups including Al Shabaab have been reported, particularly in Banaadir, Lower and Middle Shabelle regions, Somalia (FEWS NET 20/06/2019). Attacks by Al Shabaab have also been periodically reported in Kenya's Garissa county near the Somalia-Kenya border (Reuters 22/06/2019). By disrupting livelihoods and access to markets, continued insecurity linked to armed groups has aggravated the drought's negative effect on food security. Humanitarian access remains extremely limited in areas such as Gedo, Middle Juba, Bay, and Banaadir where the presence of Al Shabaab and other armed groups is significant, which will likely hamper drought response efforts (GoS 12/07/2019).

### Risk of floods

Despite the ongoing drought, short but intense bursts of rainfall during the April-July rainy season have led to localised flash flooding in some areas, including in parts of northern Somalia and Ethiopia's Somali region. In Puntland state, Somalia, flash flooding in late May killed 15 people and affected the livelihoods of approximately 2,000 families who were already affected by the drought (OCHA 31/05/2019). Some areas of Somali region, Ethiopia have also been affected, including Melkadida, which experienced heavy rainfall that destroyed maize and sesame crops, in addition to inflicting significant damage to roads in the area (UNHCR 06/06/2019). Rather than alleviating the effects of drought, flash flooding threatens to increase the vulnerability of some drought-affected communities

by washing away crops, causing fatalities, and creating additional humanitarian access constraints.

Based on the experience of previous years, the risk of further flooding will likely increase towards October. In 2015, the onset of the October-January rainy season triggered widespread flooding across southern Somalia, affecting more than 90,000 people, mostly in Bakool, Bay, Lower and Middle Juba, and Middle Shabelle regions (OCHA 11/11/2015). The extent to which the threat of flooding materialises in the coming months will be heavily dependent on how much rain is received and the evolution of region-wide weather patterns. Many communities across the HoA are still recovering from the 2018 floods that affected large regions of southern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia, and displaced nearly 290,000 people in Somalia alone (OCHA 07/06/2019).

### Pests

Pests such as desert locusts and fall armyworm represent a potentially significant threat across the HoA that could increase the vulnerability of drought affected communities in the coming months. Mature swarms of desert locust have been spotted in northeast Somalia in July and are expected to increase in number during the summer months (FAO 16/07/2019). The Ethiopian government has raised an alert about the possible spread of locusts to Oromia, Somali, Amhara, and Tigray regions during the same period (GoE 27/06/2019). In Kenya and Ethiopia, fall armyworm outbreaks have been recorded in a number of areas since April, which will likely place strain on food production and agrarian livelihoods that are already affected by the drought (GoK 31/05/2019; FEWS NET 28/06/2019). In Kenya specifically, fall armyworm numbers have tended to spike following below average rainy seasons in recent years (FEWS NET 28/06/2019).

## Response capacity

### Local and national response capacity

#### Somalia

Government drought preparedness and response efforts in Somalia are primarily managed by the Ministry for Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADMD) (Adeso 05/03/2018). In conjunction with international partners, MoHADMD has released a Drought Impact Response Plan (DIRP), which requests USD 686 million in additional humanitarian funding and provides a framework for scaling up humanitarian programmes to respond to the ongoing drought in Somalia. Overall, approximately 4.5 million people affected by the drought are targeted to receive assistance, with a particular emphasis placed on administering multi-purpose cash grants (GoS 12/07/2019).

Government response efforts are ongoing, but are not enough to fully meet humanitarian needs due to limited resources (OCHA 07/07/2019).

#### Ethiopia

The Government of Somali Region has launched a prioritised Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) following the poor performance of the 2019 April-July rainy season, which targets approximately 1.3 million people (GoE 23/05/2019). Food and livestock interventions have been prioritised and account for the majority of the USD 20 million requested as part of the plan (EHCT 10/06/2019). The government of Ethiopia has been providing cash and food assistance to vulnerable households the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) (FEWS NET 29/06/2019).

#### Kenya

A number of actors affiliated with the Kenyan government have been mobilised to provide assistance to drought-affected communities including the ministries of agriculture, water, and devolution (The Star 10/04/2019). The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) has played an important role in coordination. Among other forms of assistance, the Kenyan government has been transporting food and water by truck to drought-affected areas. The extent to which national response efforts are able to meet humanitarian needs remains largely unknown. So far, a state of emergency has not been declared and no request for additional funding for drought response efforts has been made.

### International response capacity

#### Somalia

As of 30 June, 236 humanitarian organisations are present in Somalia (OCHA 30/06/2019). A variety of UN agencies and international NGOs are implementing programmes in drought affected areas, though coverage is less extensive in central and southern regions, where ongoing insecurity poses operational and access challenges. WFP is providing food and nutrition assistance to approximately 1.3 million people in the form of in-kind and cash-based transfers to address nationwide needs related to the drought (WFP 30/04/2019). Despite increasing humanitarian needs, many agencies have been forced to maintain or decrease their activities as a result of persistent funding shortfalls. In critical sectors such as health, only about half of targeted households are being reached with assistance. Similar coverage gaps are present for shelter, education, and protection (OCHA 17/06/2019).

## Ethiopia

A large number of international humanitarian actors are present throughout Ethiopia and are providing assistance to meet needs arising from the drought, as well as other concurrent conflict and displacement-related crises. In Somali region, the area most affected by the drought, WFP has provided food rations and cash to approximately 1.5 million people (WFP 20/04/2019; FEWS NET 28/06/2019). The health cluster has been providing medicine and medical supplies in drought affected areas, though pipeline breaks have been reported stemming from funding gaps. Similar interruptions to emergency operations have been reported by the food and nutrition clusters (OCHA 30/04/2019).

## Kenya

UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations are present in many drought-affected areas and are responding to the crisis. Along with government partners, international humanitarian actors are providing assistance in the form of food, cash, and support for WASH and livelihoods activities, among others (USAID 31/05/2019; Islamic Relief 20/02/2019). In response to escalating needs from the drought, IFRC has scaled up response operations in Kenya has been supporting drought-affected communities through a variety of initiatives including in-kind food distribution, emergency cash transfers, and the construction of boreholes, among others (IFRC 08/07/2019). WFP is currently providing food assistance and nutrition support in Kenya's arid and semi-arid (ASAL) counties, which are among the areas worst affected by the drought (USAID 12/06/2019).

## Funding

In response to worsening drought conditions, humanitarian donors and the UN have increased the level of assistance being provided across the HoA. In June, the European Union pledged an additional 110 million euros to address food, shelter, WASH, health, protection, and education needs across the region. The largest share of the funding will go to Somalia and Ethiopia, which are slated to receive approximately 36 million and 31 million euros, respectively (ECHO 27/06/2019). Funding for regional drought response efforts in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya has also been bolstered by a 45 million dollar contribution from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) mechanism (OCHA 04/06/2019). In Somalia, USAID has provided 185 million dollars to address elevated needs for food assistance in the country (Shabelle 18/06/2019).

Despite significantly expanded funding pledges, large funding gaps persist across the HoA region, which threaten to undermine efforts to scale up the humanitarian response to the drought. In Ethiopia, humanitarian actors have received less than 30% of the 1.3 billion dollars requested as part of the country's humanitarian response plan (HRP),

despite increasing levels of humanitarian need stemming from the drought. Approximately half of these funds have been provided by the Ethiopian government. Funding shortfalls for humanitarian response efforts in Somalia are similarly severe. In May, it was reported that humanitarian organisations were being forced to scale-back their drought operations in some areas due to a critical lack of financial resources. Though the funding situation has improved somewhat since then, Somalia's HRP, remains less than 50% funded.

Relatively little information is available concerning the overall funding situation in other countries affected by the drought, though it can be inferred that significant gaps are also present. In Kenya, key humanitarian actors like UNHCR and UNICEF have reported facing 80% and 90% funding gaps, respectively, relative to projected annual requirements. Across the HoA region, a lack of funding has been highlighted as a risk factor could lead to a serious deterioration of humanitarian conditions as the dry season continues (FAO 03/06/2019).

## Information gaps and needs

- Information about the impact of the drought is highly uneven between countries. Very little is known about how Djibouti and Uganda have been affected.
- Information about humanitarian needs in some conflict-affected areas of Somalia and Ethiopia is extremely limited as a result of access constraints for humanitarian actors.
- Though previous droughts in the HoA have caused widespread displacement, accurate and comprehensive displacement figures for the present drought are not available.
- Very little information is available regarding how refugee populations, particularly in southeastern Ethiopia and northern Kenya, have been affected by the drought.
- Due to the overlapping nature of humanitarian crises in the HoA, it is difficult to discern the impact of the present drought from other drivers of vulnerability, notably previous droughts and conflict.



## Lessons learned

Cash transfers proved to be an effective response during the 2011 drought as they allowed people to support family and the wider community. Furthermore, they distributed aid among themselves where access was limited (Rift Valley Institute 19/10/2016). However, analysis by WFP indicates that price inflation is common during droughts, so localised inflation is an issue that should be taken into account when deciding on the utility of cash transfers, especially instead of food aid (Aidforum 04/10/2016).

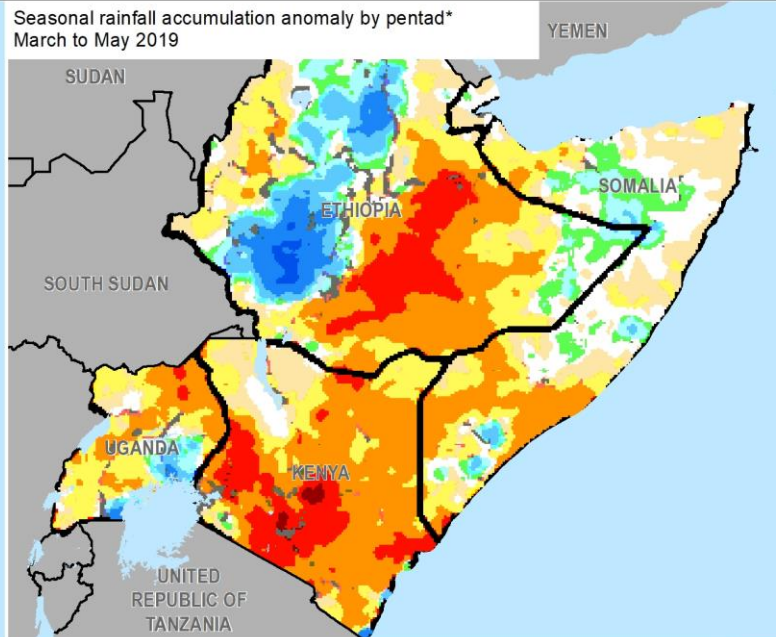
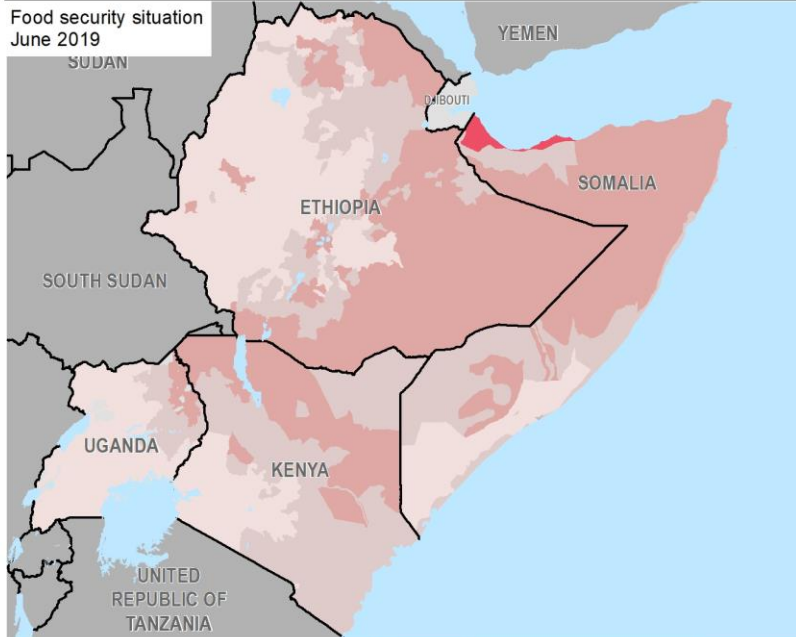
A scaled-up response averted famine in 2017 in Somalia. Such response was made easier by a focus on strengthening household level resilience achieved in previous years. To ensure Somalia, and other affected areas, move away from recurrent humanitarian emergencies, investments in long-term climate responses and disaster management interventions are essential (GFDRR 2014; OCHA 07/07/2019).

## Key characteristics

Key indicators	ETHIOPIA	SOMALIA	KENYA	UGANDA	DJIBOUTI
<b>Population</b>					
Total pop (2018)	109,225,000	15,000,000	51,393,000	42,723,000	959,000
% pop in rural areas	80%	58%	73.5%	83.5%	22.5%
Age and gender distribution	<b>0-14 years:</b> 43.2% (male 23,494,593/female 23,336,508) <b>15-24 years:</b> 20.2% (male 10,857,968/female 11,011,100) <b>25-54 years:</b> 29.7% (male 15,978,384/female 16,247,086) <b>55-64 years:</b> 3.9% (male 2,059,129/female 2,185,814) <b>65 years+:</b> 3% (male 1,445,547/female 1,770,262)	<b>0-14 years:</b> 42.9% (male 2,410,215/female 2,416,629) <b>15-24 years:</b> 19.3% (male 1,097,358/female 1,081,762) <b>25-54 years:</b> 31.2% (male 1,821,823/female 1,694,873) <b>55-64 years:</b> 4.3% (male 245,744/female 243,893) <b>65 years+:</b> 2.2% (male 95,845/female 150,887)	<b>0-14 years:</b> 39% (male 9,474,968/female 9,416,609) <b>15-24 years:</b> 19.6% (male 4,737,647/female 4,752,896) <b>25-54 years:</b> 34.3% (male 8,393,673/female 8,193,800) <b>55-64 years:</b> 4% (male 894,371/female 1,040,883) <b>65 years+:</b> 3% (male 640,005/female 852,675)	<b>0-14 years:</b> 47.8% (male 9,753,880/female 9,789,455) <b>15-24 years:</b> 21% (male 4,250,222/female 4,347,313) <b>25-54 years:</b> 26.5% (male 5,422,096/female 5,412,112) <b>55-64 years:</b> 2.6% (male 522,637/female 554,287) <b>65 years+:</b> 2% (male 351,481/female 450,266)	<b>0-14 years:</b> 30.7% (male 136,191/female 135,263) <b>15-24 years:</b> 21% (male 87,520/female 98,239) <b>25-54 years:</b> 39.6% (male 145,427/female 204,927) <b>55-64 years:</b> 4.8% (male 18,967/female 23,639) <b>65 years+:</b> 3.8% (male 15,136/female 18,708)
Poverty rate	23.5%	73%	37%	21%	21%
<b>Food security</b>					
IPC 2	n/a	3,400,000	3,700,000	1,317,000	329,000
IPC 3 and above	n/a	1,700,000	700,000	465,000	180,000
<b>Nutrition</b>					
SAM	n/a	4-6%	85,000 total caseload children U5	0.1% (national), 2.6% (Karamoja)	6%
GAM	5-10%	10-15%	511,000 total caseload children U5	4% (national), 7% (Karamoja)	18%
<b>WASH</b>					
Access to improved drinking water	<b>32% total</b> 70% urban 9% rural	<b>57% total</b> 93% urban 57% rural	<b>63% total</b> 82% urban 57% rural	<b>79% total</b> 96% urban 76% rural	<b>90% total</b> 97% urban 65% rural
Access to improved sanitation facilities	<b>28% total</b> 27% urban 28% rural	<b>24% total</b> 52% urban 6% rural	<b>30% total</b> 31% urban 30% rural	<b>19% total</b> 28.5% urban 17% rural	<b>47% total</b> 60% urban 35% rural
<b>Health</b>					
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	353	732	510	343	229
Infant mortality ratio (per 1,000 infants)	48	93	36	49	44

# Horn of Africa : food security and rainfall

## July 2019



**Legend**

- Food security situation**
- 1: Minimal
  - 2: Stressed
  - 3: Crisis
  - 4: Emergency
  - 5: Famine

- Others**
- Lakes
  - No Data

**Rainfall accumulation (in mm)**

- > 300
- 200 - 300
- 100 - 200
- 50 - 100
- 25 - 50
- 10 - 25
- 10 - 10
- 25 - -10
- 50 - -25
- 100 - -50
- 200 - -100
- 300 - -200
- < -300

\* Mar pentad 1 thru May pentad 6 - Average (1981-2010)  
 \*\* Jun pentad 1 thru Jul pentad 6 - Average (1981-2010)



Sources :  
 ICRC, FEWS NET, CHIRPS, USGS/  
 EROS, USAID  
 Map created by CartONG, Jul. 2019

