UPDATE: CALL FOR AID

Drought & El Niño
July–September 2016
The Gu rains from April to June 2016 provided some relief and reduced the impact of the drought in parts of Puntland and Somaliland. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) managed Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed and Togdheer regions received near average to above average rainfall compared to the long term mean for the period. Recovery from the drought nevertheless remains very slow. The remaining parts of Somaliland, and most areas in Puntland recorded below average rains that were sporadic and ended prematurely.

In April 2016, a Somalia Inter-Agency Rapid Needs Assessment (SIRNA) was carried out at household level in most affected areas of Puntland and Somaliland to complement existing information and provide a broad multi-cluster overview of needs. The priority needs highlighted were food and water, as well as healthcare. In addition, nutrition, education, protection and shelter support were required to ensure minimum standards of living among vulnerable girls, pregnant and lactating women, boys and men, and prevent an exacerbation of existing vulnerabilities and exposure to protection risks.

Scarcity of pasture and water sources also increases the risk of inter-communal violence due to competition and related protection violations.

The outlook for southern and central Somalia is also increasingly worrying. According to the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), as of 30 June, the 2016 Gu harvest is expected to be 30 to 50 per cent below average in southern Somalia. In addition, with a 50 per cent chance of a La Niña event, the next Deyr rainy season (October – December) is likely to be below average in most parts of the country. The ongoing Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera outbreak in large portions of the country further compounds vulnerability.

This update of the “Call for Aid” provides a snapshot of the current situation, response and highlights gaps in Puntland and Somaliland in order to mobilize further response to avert a deterioration of the situation due to prolonged effects of drought in most affected areas. It also maps out a strategy for supporting recovery following four consecutive seasons of below average rainfall in Somaliland and one in Puntland that has compromised the coping capacities of the people.

It covers the three-month period from July to September 2016, and builds on the Call for Aid launched on 31 March 2016, Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2016 and the Somalia Contingency Plan for El Niño developed in September 2015. It continues to align with priorities outlined in the 2016 HRP related to drought in Somaliland and Puntland and emerging needs.

Of the US$127 million required as of 31 March, $49 million has been funded. These resources have enabled clusters to scale up, but a gap of US$61 million remains to provide humanitarian assistance over the remaining period to 1.7 million people in Puntland and Somaliland.
People affected and in need of assistance

The impact of up to four seasons of failed rains in some areas has been so severe that recovery for many will require more than one beneficial rainy season and in the event of poor rains will worsen. In many instances, Gu rains did not immediately translate into improved conditions, except in temporary water availability. As per the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), an estimated 1.7 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance in Puntland and Somaliland. This population was already in stress before the drought and had their situation worsened, directly or indirectly by the drought. This includes an estimated 385,000 people who face acute food insecurity, or are in “crisis” (IPC Phase 3) and “emergency” (IPC Phase 4), and 1.3 million people, classified as “stressed” (IPC Phase 2), who are at risk of slipping into acute food insecurity if they do not receive assistance. The target population includes rural and urban areas, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs). In order to mitigate the impact of the drought while faced with limited resources, life-saving assistance was prioritized for the most vulnerable people. During the initial response phase, efforts were targeted at life-saving activities, including the provision of clean water, food and emergency healthcare. The current focus on the same population is on the recovery phase, which includes livelihood support.

The findings of the SIRNA confirmed that the situation in drought-affected areas continues to be of serious concern. Even in areas where rains had alleviated quantity issues in water supply, the reliance on uncovered sources for drinking, and the limited use of water treatment either at source or at the household level meant that water quality was of concern. The knock-on effect of low-quality drinking water affects health and nutrition in the medium to long term. Some 74 per cent of households in both Somaliland and Puntland rely on uncovered water sources, such as berkads and/or unprotected wells.

Nutrition support to households with young children was also found to be particularly pertinent, especially improved access to nutrition support. A reported 38 per cent of households in Puntland and 55 per cent in Somaliland with children under the age of two indicated they experienced serious problems because feeding practices for children had changed since the drought, primarily as a result of shortage of food or water, or a reduction in frequency of feeding.

Given the slow onset nature of drought, severity of vulnerabilities within the assessed areas, and the likely knock-on effect on livelihoods, the assessment also confirmed that recovery from the impacts of the drought is likely to require support beyond immediate life-saving needs. Some 79 per cent of households in Puntland and 73 per cent of households in Somaliland reported the loss of livestock since the drought.

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1 Population in need estimated from FSNAU post-Deeyr assessment analysis, February 2016. The total population of Puntland and Somaliland is estimated at 4.6 million, according to UNFPA Population Estimation Survey from 2014.

Humanitarian partners continue working with authorities in Puntland and Somaliland to respond to the drought. As reflected in Annex 1 below, there has been a gradual increase in the response to drought through some clusters. The response continues to the extent more resources are being made available. The government, local authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, bilateral aid and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have also provided assistance.

During the first five months of 2016, the humanitarian clusters reached an estimated 277,800 people (89 per cent) with access to food and safety nets on monthly basis (out of a target of 311,000 people monthly), 105,240 people (14 per cent) with livelihood assets monthly (out of a target of 76,000 people) and 116,300 people (13 per cent) with seasonal inputs monthly (out of a target of 887,500 people). From a target of 178,230 people, nearly 133,200 children have been reached with nutrition activities. Some 465,000 people were targeted for health services. As at May 2016, humanitarian partners had only reached between 40 and 50 per cent of the targeted caseload. Local authorities, elders and communities expressed their gratitude for the responses made by the humanitarian partners during the drought, but frequently underlined that the response was quite limited compared to the impact of the drought on communities. They appealed for humanitarian assistance to continue and be scaled up. They also recommended that more emphasis should be on rehabilitation of boreholes, water pans and building the capacity and coping mechanism of the communities to be resilient against future shocks.

Access constraints remain, but authorities continue to make effort to address some of them, especially administrative impediments. Overall, markets and supply routes remain open and functional. The ban by Puntland authorities on road transportation of humanitarian supplies into Puntland from Somaliland nevertheless continues to be a challenge.

Humanitarian partners are ready to further scale up time critical assistance to save lives and livelihoods, but more funding is needed to effectively address the situation.

3 For the full report, see: http://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/report-rapid-inter-agency-assessment-bari-karkaar-and-parts-sanaag-regions-puntland

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**Ongoing Response**

Education was targeting 34,000 people but reached 19,300 in Somaliland and Puntland, largely through reprogramming of other resources for less expensive interventions, and unfortunately not undertaking the costly school feeding programmes due to lack of funding.

However, funding shortfall remains a challenge for a sufficiently robust response to assist the 1.7 million people in need of various types of humanitarian assistance and many have received little or no assistance to date. Sectors such as protection and education, in particular, have not made meaningful progress due to lack of funding. An inter-agency monitoring mission to selected locations in Bari, Sanaag, Nugaal and Sool regions in Puntland from 14 to 20 May 2016 identified several critical gaps in the response despite the current efforts. It was estimated that by May 2016, humanitarian partners had only reached between 40 and 50 per cent of the targeted caseload. Local authorities, elders and communities expressed their gratitude for the responses made by the humanitarian partners during the drought, but frequently underlined that the response was quite limited compared to the impact of the drought on communities. They appealed for humanitarian assistance to continue and be scaled up. They also recommended that more emphasis should be on rehabilitation of boreholes, water pans and building the capacity and coping mechanism of the communities to be resilient against future shocks.

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**EL NIÑO CRISIS TIMELINE**

- **July 2015**: SWALIM issues El Niño warning, predicting flooding and drought.
- **August 2015**: Somaliland authorities declare drought.
- **September 2015**: El Niño contingency plan issued.
- **October 2015**: Aid agencies ramp up efforts to mitigate El Niño impact.
- **November 2015**: Flooding affects 145,200 people.
The document provides a timeline of events in Somalia related to the drought situation in 2016, including:

- **January 2016**: Puntland authorities issue a drought appeal.
- **February 2016**: Somaliland authorities issue a drought appeal. CERF allocates US$ 11 million for drought response in Puntland and Somaliland.
- **March 2016**: SHF allocates $6.5 million for drought response. HCT releases the Call for Aid document. Land preparation and planting.
- **April 2016**: Gu rainy season starts. Land preparation and planting.
- **May 2016**: Gu rainy season ends. Land preparation and planting.
- **June & July 2016**: FSNAU begins assessment on food security and nutrition. Gu rainy season ends.
3 Response strategy – April – September 2016

Save lives and expedite recovery to reduce acute needs in Puntland and Somaliland

In view of the above, the Humanitarian Country Team and clusters have reviewed the strategy developed within the framework of the “Call for Aid” launched on 31 March 2016. Taking into consideration the various assessments and analysis of the response, adjustments have been made to reflect a reduction in the timeframe between now and the end of September, as well as a reduction in the targeted caseload where relevant.

The WASH cluster has, for example, revised its target population downwards from an initial 700,000 to 500,000 people in Sanaag, Bari, parts of Nugaal and north of Sool regions due to improved water availability in these regions. The WASH cluster seeks to continue addressing acute water shortages and prevent AWD by increasing access to safe water and the provision of hygiene kits. The response will focus on temporary supply of water through the use of vouchers as a last solution, but the repair and on the rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure (boreholes) and distribution of hygiene kits. The need for continued shelter and NFI support will depend on whether drought conditions until October will result in displacement.

The health cluster has also revised its target population from 465,000 to 400,000 people, including 60,000 children under the age of five and 16,000 of pregnant women in both Puntland and Somaliland. The health situation in these areas remains of concern. According to the SIRNA April 2016, the high cost of medicine is a key limiting factor to access to health services in Somaliland and Puntland. It is projected that the number of people seeking medical services will increase, resulting in increased risk of mortality and morbidity, including outbreaks of communicable diseases. Additional support is needed to strengthen the critical public health services delivery in drought areas. The health intervention strategy is to provide emergency critical and life-saving health care for vulnerable populations in drought areas, ensure the availability of life-saving health care services and improve hygiene (to minimize morbidity and mortality from preventable causes). The cluster will continue to procure emergency life-saving medical supplies, enhance communicable diseases surveillance and response, improve EPI coverage and build the capacity of health staff for better service delivery.

An integrated response of education, WASH and food security was initiated in some parts of the region and demonstrated that more can be achieved through a joined response. More financial resources are needed for the realization of the full benefits of a joined response. It was possible to do water distribution in four schools in Puntland were the joined response was seen as beneficial. There is need, however, to deliberately plan for an integrated approach in order to ensure inclusion in planning interventions and resource mobilization. There is also a need for the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group to earmark funding for the integrated approach.

4 Costing – activities

Donors generously supported humanitarian partners to scale up response in drought affected areas. However, the performance of the rains was below expectation in parts of Somaliland and most of Puntland with sporadic performance and an early cessation. Funding is needed to sustain the response to people in Puntland and Somaliland.

The table below shows funding requested and received per cluster by end of June 2016, and the funding gap for each clusters to implement the strategies from July – September 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUSTER</th>
<th>Total needs (US$)</th>
<th>Amount already received for drought4</th>
<th>Funding gap5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$3.65 million</td>
<td>$0.26 million</td>
<td>$1.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security</td>
<td>$75 million</td>
<td>$24.31 million</td>
<td>$37.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$3.6 million</td>
<td>$3.71 million</td>
<td>-$0.11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>$25.6 million</td>
<td>$11.17 million</td>
<td>$12.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
<td>$0.82 million</td>
<td>$3.18 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$1.09 million</td>
<td>-$0.09 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>$15 million</td>
<td>$8.11 million</td>
<td>$6.89 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$126.9 million</td>
<td>$49 million</td>
<td>$61 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Including 2016 HRP funding already provided, requests submitted to CERF, SHF (not yet allocated) and funding outside of HRP;
5 clusters that received less than half of their initial requirements by July had these funding gap reduced to half of their initial requirement
Annex 1: Drought response activities in Somaliland and Puntland (February 2016 to May 2016)
This document is produced on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners.