SITUATION OVERVIEW

Severe drought exacerbated by El Niño conditions has hit parts of Puntland and Somaliland, affecting hundreds of thousands of people. Compounding an already challenging humanitarian situation in the area, this has brought the estimated number of people who face acute food insecurity in Somaliland and Puntland to 385,000 people. A further 1.3 million people risk slipping into acute food insecurity if they do not receive assistance. This brings the total number of people in need of some form of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support to 1.7 million, or 37 per cent of the 4.6 million people living in Puntland and Somaliland.

The drought conditions follow four successive seasons of below-average rains in parts of Somaliland (spanning two years), and a below-average Deyr rainy season in Puntland (October-December 2015). According to projections by Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), there is an increased likelihood of near-normal to below normal Gu rains (April-June) in Somaliland and northern parts of Puntland. This is expected to further negatively impact the drought situation and urgent life-saving humanitarian and livelihood support is required for people living in the drought-affected areas.

Currently, the drought is most severely and directly impacting pastoral and agro-pastoral communities – approximately three-quarters of the population – whose sources of food, income and water are diminishing and increasingly at risk. The below normal rainfall and drought conditions have led to a severe reduction in access to safe water and cereal harvest in Somaliland (87 per cent below the five-year average)², large-scale abnormal outmigration of livestock (including 60-70 per cent of households from the main inland pastoral areas of Puntland), and sharp increase in debt levels among poor households. The acute water and pasture shortages have caused pastoralists to migrate to areas with better conditions, resulting in increased competition and tension over scarce resources, and an overcrowding of animals that could increase the spread of contagious livestock diseases. Drought-affected pastoralists from Ethiopia and Djibouti have also sought relief in the few remaining pastures, particularly in Awdal region of Somaliland, where rains were favourable in the last quarter of 2015. The most vulnerable pastoralists stayed behind, unable to afford the high cost of transport.

The most urgent needs include access to water, food, cash relief, emergency livelihood support, nutrition and health services to reduce morbidity and mortality. Education, protection and shelter support is also 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.

The drought comes against a backdrop of a complex and protracted humanitarian crisis with an estimated 4.7 million people³, or 38 per cent of Somalis, acutely food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than one million displaced people.

This Call for Aid outlines the main needs, gaps and response plans developed by humanitarian partners to help avert a further deterioration of the situation in drought-affected areas. It covers the six-month period from April to September 2016, and builds on the 2016 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Somalia Contingency Plan for El Niño developed in 2015. It outlines the priority activities presented in the HRP for 2016 that relate to drought in Somaliland and Puntland and emerging needs. The consequences if we do not act now are outlined in the final portion of this document and would result in a very different call for aid further into the year should we not deliver now.

Humanitarian partners urgently require US$105 million to provide humanitarian assistance to over one million people in Puntland and Somaliland over the next six months. With $97 million already received against the $885 million requested for the 2016 HRP, this represents 13 per cent of the remaining $788 million required for humanitarian assistance in Somalia in 2016.

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¹ SWALIM, seasonal rainfall outlook for Gu 2016, February 2016
² FAO’s Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) and partners, February 2016 post Deyr assessment
³ FAO’s Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) and partners, February 2016 post Deyr assessment
⁴ This includes existing elements already in the framework of the 2016 HRP, focusing on responding to drought and emergency in Puntland and Somaliland.
People affected and in need of assistance

According to FAO’s Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET), an estimated 1.7 million people⁵ are in need of humanitarian assistance in Puntland and Somaliland. 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 struggle to have one meal a day 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 estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance includes rural and urban areas, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs). Drought has also increased the risks of conflicts over scarce resources and has direct protection implications. Harmful coping strategies with increased stress due to drought result in an increase of involuntary family separations, child labour, forced marriages of girls and boys aged 12-18⁶, exposure of children to violence, abuse and economic exploitation⁷, and increase of work pressure on women exposing them to harm and health problems⁸.

Ongoing Response

Humanitarian partners are working with authorities in Puntland and Somaliland to scale up the response. A total of 95 national and international humanitarian organizations are currently operational in the area, of which 67 are in Puntland and 28 are in Somaliland. Thanks to reprogramming of existing resources and additional funding made available by donors in late 2015 and early 2016, hundreds of thousands of the most vulnerable people have already been assisted.

During the first two months of 2016 alone, clusters assisted 41,000 people with seasonal livelihood inputs, such as seeds, tools, fishing equipment, irrigation vouchers and livestock distribution. 91,000 people were reached with livelihood assets such as conditional cash transfers, cash/food for work and training, and 183,000 people were reached with improved access to food and safety nets (food, cash vouchers and unconditional cash) in Puntland and Somaliland. Supplementary feeding programmes were carried out targeting about 4,000 malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers. Nearly 41,000 people received primary and basic health services and an estimated 3,000 displaced people were provided with non-food items. An estimated 30,000 people in Puntland and Somaliland have also received temporary access to safe water and 25,000 people in Puntland and Somaliland have gained sustained access to safe water. Some 10,000 children were reached with education services and an estimated 9,000 people were reached with protection services. In addition, according to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, another 259,000 people were reached with bilateral food assistance in Somaliland.

Access constraints in areas affected by drought are mainly related to insecurity and administrative impediments. Movements of humanitarian goods and personnel have occasionally been affected by temporary suspensions and security operations that result in delays. Overall, markets and supply routes

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5 Population in need estimated from FSNAU post-Guyr 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 and drought condition from SWALIM drought update map of February 2016.
7 Save the Children rapid needs assessment of the drought situation in Bari, Nugaal and Sanaag regions, February 2016.
remain open and functional. The ban on road transportation of humanitarian supplies into Puntland from Somaliland nevertheless continues to be a challenge. Administrative impediments have also been on the rise and continue to delay and interrupt aid programming, mainly in Puntland9.

Humanitarian partners are ready to further scale up time critical humanitarian assistance to save lives and livelihoods but more funding is needed to effectively avert a deterioration of the crisis. To date, the 2016 Somalia HRP has received US$97 million, or 11 per cent of the $885 million requested. Additional resources are urgently needed.

9 There is a possibility that new government policy may evolve regarding the operating environment prior to the launch.

**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.
Gaps

Humanitarian partners have scaled up operations in food security, health, nutrition and WASH interventions, particularly in Somaliland. However, critical gaps remain:

- Pre-positioned stocks deployed as part of El Niño preparedness are being exhausted. Food security partners report a reduction in delivery to improve access to food and safety nets and livelihood assets in January 2016, just as conditions worsen, as compared to previous months due to dwindling stocks.
- Absenteeism has been on the increase in schools in areas affected by drought, as families are forced to enlist children to search for water resources and it is estimated that thousands of children are at risk of dropping out of schools due to the drought. Rising food and water prices have cut into the incentives for teachers provided by parents and communities, specifically in Puntland, further jeopardizing education. This has an impact on other services as fewer children benefit services offered in conjunction with schooling. Overall, across Somalia around 1.7 million school-age children are already out of school.
- Livelihood support needs to be scaled up, particularly given the likelihood of near-average to below-average Gu rains, in order to prevent a further loss of livelihood assets and related food production and income generation.
- While assistance has targeted the most vulnerable communities, an expansion of coverage is required to reach communities at risk of sliding into crisis and in areas where assistance has not been provided.
- With the emphasis on access to safe water for affected populations within the limited existing resources, WASH partners have not been able to effectively implement sanitation and hygiene activities, which increase the risk of infectious disease and malnutrition.
- The protection response has been minimal due to a lack of funding. Apart from response to GBV, which was stepped up in January and February 2016 in drought-affected regions, other protection concerns have gone largely unaddressed.

Impact of drought and planned response per cluster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPACT</th>
<th>RESPONSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absenteeism has been on the increase in schools in areas affected by drought, as families are forced to enlist children to search for water resources and it is estimated that thousands of children are at risk of dropping out of schools due to the drought. Rising food and water prices have cut into the incentives for teachers provided by parents and communities, specifically in Puntland, further jeopardizing education. This has an impact on other services as fewer children benefit services offered in conjunction with schooling. Overall, across Somalia around 1.7 million school-age children are already out of school.</td>
<td>The cluster targets 34,000 children and youth (14,481 girls and 20,259 boys) in 180 schools (out of 117,000 students living in drought-affected regions) and 991 teachers (141 female and 850 male). The focus of the response will be to halt the increasing dropout rates and ensure a safe and conducive learning environment for students as well as an effective catchment strategy for other forms of assistance. Education services will be provided in the most drought-affected areas and will be considered as a pull factor for people who previously fled these areas, thus reducing the number of informal settlements in or around urban areas. The response focuses on provision of school supplies and teacher incentives, establishment of temporary learning spaces including basic WASH facilities, and training on...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 Data collected from Education Cluster partners February 2016 and rapid needs assessments Puntland Save the Children, February 2016
Impact of drought and planned response per cluster

EDUCATION

Life-saving messages for the school management and communities. In addition, school feeding will be provided to 100 schools with 14,000 students affected by the drought, which do not have existing school feeding programmes. Schools will, to the extent possible, remain operational during the school break in June-August to allow for catch-up programmes for children who have missed parts of the academic year. This will prevent students from having to repeat a full school year to proceed to the next grade and to sustain access to affected populations.

FOOD SECURITY

The effects of the drought-induced El Niño have significantly deteriorated the food security and livelihood situation in both Puntland and Somaliland. The vast majority of affected people are pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, whose livelihoods are at a tipping point. For multiple seasons, they have experienced a loss of income and food sources, reduced purchasing power and rising debt. The 2015 cereal harvest in Somaliland is estimated at only 13 per cent of an average year – a devastating shortfall – and has left farmers with no income, high debt and reduced household seed stocks to plant in April. Acute water and pasture shortages have weakened animals, making them more susceptible to outbreaks of disease such as Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCP), which has been confirmed in the drought-affected areas. When animals are weak, their price goes down and the amount of food that can be bought from selling an animal also declines. This forces livestock owners to sell more animals to satisfy household food needs, which in turn can further reduce livestock prices, triggering a fast-accelerating spiral of falling animal prices and increasing animal sales. Families are left impoverished, hungry and stripped of assets. If families continue to lose or sell productive assets such as livestock, they will lack the means to recover. This could further increase humanitarian needs and related costs, very sharply and very quickly. There is therefore a need for rapid action to scale up the drought response in Puntland and Somaliland in order to safeguard livelihoods and prevent further erosion of household’s nutrition and food security. There is a real risk in reversing the progress made in the drought-affected areas.

In Puntland and Somaliland, the Food Security Cluster (FSC) plans to provide unconditional assistance to approximately 311,000 people and and conditional assistance to 751,000 people on a monthly basis for the next six months. The FSC will meet the immediate food needs of affected families while ensuring that about 887,000 pastoralists and agro-pastoralists receive time-critical support to protect and maintain household food production, such as veterinary support to keep animals alive and productive and drought-tolerant seeds to secure a harvest in 2016.

In order to address immediate acute food insecurity and the life-saving needs of the drought-affected populations, the FSC aims to: protect key livelihoods assets (e.g. livestock) of the drought-affected population to preserve the future means of livelihoods and link immediate life-saving emergency response with households to rebuild community assets to restore livelihoods and reduce long term dependence. The FSC achieve this by providing: unconditional transfers (food, vouchers and cash) to improve access to food and safety-nets; life-saving conditional cash assistance rebuilding necessary infrastructure (collapsible water tanks in strategic locations) and promote recovery; protective interventions for livestock assets, such as vaccination and emergency supportive treatment to prevent the spread of CCP; and agricultural inputs (drought-tolerant seeds and fodder seeds) and land preparation support (including tractor hours) for agro-pastoral households.

HEALTH

An increase in the incidence of water borne communicable diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea (AWD)/cholera has already been recorded in health facilities, both in Puntland and Somaliland in the last quarter of 2015, as some of the only available remaining water sources are shared by both humans and livestock.

Health facilities have also recorded increased incidence of diseases associated with lack of water and poor hygiene, namely skin diseases, respiratory infections and febrile illnesses. Poor water availability, lack of sanitation coupled with decreased food availability, high malnutrition rates, outbreaks of communicable diseases...
**Impact of drought and planned response per cluster**

### HEALTH

The Health Cluster aims to reach an estimated 465,000 vulnerable people (those at high risk of malnutrition and disease outbreaks), including 18,600 pregnant women and nearly 69,750 children under 5 in Puntland and Somaliland. The cluster will provide emergency time-critical and life-saving health care for drought-affected vulnerable people and ensure the availability of life-saving health care services to underserved drought-affected communities. This will be achieved through the provision of basic health care services, measles vaccinations, disease surveillance and reporting, and provision of essential drugs and medical supplies. Key emergency activities include: provision of health services through mobile units and existing health facilities; establish/strengthen referral mechanisms by providing essential drugs and medicine, training staff and ambulances; improve the coverage of measles vaccinations and Vitamin A; continue capacity-building of health workers to better respond to diseases and drought-related health conditions; strengthen epidemiological surveillance and outbreak control mechanisms through regular information collection and analysis; provision of laboratory reagents and supplies; support safe motherhood and reproductive services; and, provide psychosocial support.

### NUTRITION

Based on prevalence estimates, the Nutrition Cluster estimates that 97,750 children under age 5 in Puntland and Somaliland are acutely malnourished. Hereof, 74,750 are in Somaliland and 23,000 are in Puntland. As a result of the ongoing drought, the nutritional status of vulnerable people, mainly children and mothers, has been significantly affected. In Somaliland, global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates are showing an increase (recent surveys in Jan 2016).

The number of malnourished children admitted into nutrition centres in Puntland and Somaliland steadily increased since July 2015, contrary to traditional trends during the same period in previous years. In an area already suffering poor health outcomes, the risk of increasing morbidity and mortality-related malnutrition is high. The deterioration in the nutrition situation due to the drought indicates that current ‘alert’ situation in parts of Bari, Sool, Sanaag, and Togdheer regions will elevate to ‘serious’ by April 2016.

### IMPACT

#### GAM and SAM rates per region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>GAM</th>
<th>SAM</th>
<th>GAM</th>
<th>SAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awdal</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W.Galbeed</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togdheer</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sool</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Impact of drought and planned response per cluster**

### NUTRITION

The cluster is prioritizing ‘hotspots’ with the highest rates of malnutrition levels through an integrated package of life-saving nutritional humanitarian assistance to children under 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers. A total of 178,230 people (60,296 girls and 60,295 boys and 57,639 pregnant and lactating women), will be targeted in a phased approach out of a total of 291,720 identified cases. Food-based and life-saving therapeutic interventions will target 89,521 moderate acutely malnourished and 31,070 severely acutely malnourished children under age 5 and 22,036 moderate acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women. The remaining caseloads will be reached with non-food based approaches.

The response package includes: nutrition programmes and treatment through targeted supplementary feeding programmes (TSFP) and preventive maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN) to address moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to reduce and/or prevent the rate at which children fall into SAM; outpatient therapeutic programmes (OTP)/stabilization centres (SC) to treat SAM, completing the full cycle of addressing acute malnutrition to avoid excess mortality. All nutrition programmes are community/facility-based and have robust community outreach components. The community nutrition workers conduct systematic screening and referral, IEC at community and household-level.

Priority interventions include: scale-up of regular identification of acutely malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; scale up of TFSP for treatment of acute malnourishment cases including; scale up of TSFP, OTP including via integrated mobile teams; and scale up of SCs; provision of high energy biscuits (where there is no BSFP) and nutrition supplies to partners/centres; micronutrient support for vulnerable groups (pregnant and lactating women and children under age 5) e.g. Vitamin A, zinc/ ORS, MMN; and, integrated nutrition, health, hygiene (NHHP) preventative and promotional support; and, IYCF and MCHB support (promotional and preventative) especially support to caregivers for feeding sick children.

### PROTECTION

In January and February 2016, 536 people were displaced due to drought in Somaliland and Puntland. In comparison, in all of 2015, 1,630 people were displaced due to drought12. This is a concerning trend that requires close monitoring as displacement can be a sign of an exacerbation of drought conditions. Displacement and migration in search for water and pasture can also cause communal conflicts over use of communal land and resources. With increasing displacement, the formation of new IDP settlements becomes more likely. Such displacement renders the displaced highly susceptible to loss of property, land, family separations, or GBV.

Priority protection interventions will focus on prevention of and response to gender-based violence; prevention of involuntary family separations and strengthening of identification, documentation and reunification capacities, including across borders as required; and, prevention of community conflicts over access and use of land and strengthening community-based conflict resolution. Protection partners will strengthen protection mainstreaming into strategies and interventions in other sectors. At the same time, the cluster will implement direct operational protection interventions to address the emerging protection needs and complement interventions through other Clusters.

### SHELTER

An estimated 60,000 people need non-food items (NFIs) and shelter. Currently, most drought-affected families live with host families. Families who cannot afford to migrate due to the high cost of transportation have built spontaneous and unplanned settlements next to their relatives and they require NFI kits. Poor host families and displaced households have inadequate shelter. Shelters are partially destroyed, making them susceptible to wind, heat and cold. Most displaced people do not have blankets, plastic sheets, bed mats and jerry cans13. The existing IDPs in Bossaso, Qardho, Garowe and urban centres in Sanaag region often live in over-crowded settlements and basic services are already overstretched. Further displacement would be detrimental for the existing settlements.

Shelter Cluster partners will provide assistance to 60,000 people through the distribution of NFI kits, combined with a small cash grant for shelter. The strategy aims to provide support to households in their place of origin so as to reduce the likelihood of displacement, which would subsequently have a detrimental impact on existing settlements.

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12 NRC - Displacement due to drought in Somaliland and Puntland in 2015 and January/February 2016.
Response strategy – April – September 2016

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

The deteriorating drought conditions in Puntland and Somaliland have resulted in an urgent need for life-saving assistance and emergency livelihood support. The response strategy focuses on the provision of immediate emergency life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to the most vulnerable, and restoring and strengthening livelihoods to build resilience to recurrent shocks.

This strategy is in line with the 2016 HRP objectives, extending from the El Niño contingency plan developed in September 2015. A core response parameter of the HRP is to ‘implement life-saving interventions in regions most affected by flooding and drought as a result of El Niño’. The main aim of the strategy is to ensure time-critical life-saving humanitarian assistance and livelihood support to affected people through multi-sectoral approaches, to enhance access to basic services necessary to avert deterioration of the drought-induced crisis over the next six months.

The response, in line with existing WASH Cluster guidelines, focuses on the temporary supply of water supply through the use of vouchers, repair of existing water infrastructure and distribution of hygiene kits. Vouchers for water supply are a short-term response for a limited period to fill the immediate gaps and will be accompanied by a phase-out strategy of repairing and rehabilitating water sources/boreholes.

Through the adoption of gender-sensitive approaches, the response will target more women than men overall as female-headed households are particularly vulnerable to water shortages given their relatively lower household income against the increased water prices exacerbated by the current drought situations.

3 Integrated approach across clusters

The Education, Health, Food Security, Nutrition and WASH Clusters are prioritizing an integrated approach considering the schools as entry points for the response. This will help ensure that children and teachers remain in schools, together with the support of the child protection sub-cluster, prevent exposure of children to the risks of family separation when receiving assistance, as well as child labor and abuse. Using the schools as an entry point allows for easy access to food assistance and basic services to a large group of the affected population. The clusters share a number of partners and target areas.
4 Costing – activities

Response is hampered by inadequate funding. In total $156 million has been received for the humanitarian response in Somalia in 2016\(^\text{15}\), including $97 million for programmes in the HRP. Funding is needed urgently, as the intensifying drought in Puntland and Somaliland may see many people relapse into crisis.

The following funding is requested for clusters to scale up emergency interventions in the next six months, from April – September 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLUSTER</th>
<th>Total needs (US$)</th>
<th>Amount already received for drought(^\text{16})</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$3.65 million</td>
<td>$0 million</td>
<td>$3.65 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security</td>
<td>$75 million</td>
<td>$8 million</td>
<td>$67 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$3.6 million</td>
<td>$2 million</td>
<td>$1.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>$25.6 million</td>
<td>$7.1 million</td>
<td>$18.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>$4 million</td>
<td>$0.5 million</td>
<td>$3.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>$1 million</td>
<td>$0.5 million</td>
<td>$0.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>$15 million</td>
<td>$5 million</td>
<td>$10 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$126.9 million</td>
<td>$23.1 million</td>
<td>$104.75 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 What if we fail to respond?

- Increased mortality and morbidity due to food insecurity and malnutrition;
- Increased mortality and morbidity due to lack of access to water and increase in communicable diseases;
- Increased number of people slipping into “crisis” and “emergency”;
- Reduction in livelihoods and household assets;
- Increase in school drop-outs, displacement, family separation and other negative coping mechanisms.

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\(^{15}\) Somalia Nutrition Cluster, 2016; Somalia Nutrition Cluster drought update, 3 February 2016

\(^{16}\) Including 2016 HRP funding already provided, requests submitted to CERF, SHF (not yet allocated) and funding outside of HRP