



OCHA

# SOMALIA

## DROUGHT RESPONSE & FAMINE PREVENTION

1-24 October 2022



Photo: OCHA/Mukhtar Nuur

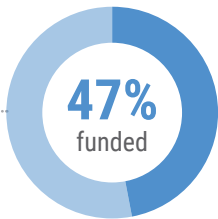
### KEY FIGURES

**7.8M**

People affected by drought, more than twice as many as at the start of 2022

**\$2.27B**

Total requirements

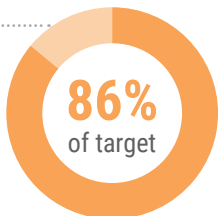


**\$1.07B**

Received

**7.6M**

People targeted



**6.5M**

Reached



**SOMALIA: Drought Response & Famine Prevention Dashboard / Overview**

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Somalia's longest drought in at least 40 years has surpassed the duration and severity of the 2010-2011 and 2016-2017 droughts and continues to drive high levels of humanitarian needs. The \$1.46 billion 2022 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) launched in January 2022 targeted about 5.5 million people in need. However, there are now more than 7.8 million people affected by drought in the wake of a fourth failed rainy season, more than double the 3.2 million people affected by drought at the beginning of the year. As a result, humanitarians have increased funding requirements to further step up assistance.

- Humanitarians are requesting additional funds to meet increased needs.** Humanitarians have revised initial targets for funding and people assisted to further support the unprecedented scale-up in response. These revisions bring 2022 funding requirements to \$2.27 billion to meet the needs of 7.6 million people. More than 80 per cent of the new funding requirement is related to drought.

going from 7,669 families (46,104 people) in the week of 3 October to 3,220 (19,320 people) in the week of 17 October, recent partner reports indicate large movements of drought-displaced people to sites for internally displaced people (IDPs) in Daynile and Kahda Districts in Banadir Region, Baidoa in Bay Region and other districts.

The 68,393 people displaced by drought in September 2022 are a 30 per cent decrease from the almost 99,000 recorded in August 2022. Bay and Lower Juba are the regions that have seen the most new arrivals, accounting for 26 and 22 per cent of all September arrivals respectively, followed by Gedo, Banadir and Bakool. More than 70 per cent of all movements were intra-regional.
- The revised funding requirements and target population come amid deteriorating conditions and forecasts of further drought.** About 6.7 million people are facing acute food insecurity, up from 4.3 million who were experiencing acute food insecurity between June and September 2022. More than 300,000 people are facing catastrophic food insecurity (IPC Phase 5), up from 121,000 who were experiencing it between June and September. The call for further scaled-up support also comes as Somalia braces for an unprecedented fifth consecutive below-average rainy season, as well as projections and increased risk of famine for areas in central and southern Somalia if assistance fails to reach those most in need.
- Drought displacement has increased threefold since the beginning of 2022.** People continue to leave their communities in search of food, water, pasture and basic services. More than 700,000 of the 1.1 million people displaced by drought since January 2021 have yet to receive any shelter assistance. Even though weekly tallies of new arrivals have declined over the past three weeks,

Humanitarians continue to step up life-saving assistance, reaching 6.5 million people through September. Partners have stepped up response in a bid to avert the worst outcomes. Donors have made generous contributions totalling more than \$1 billion, yet critical gaps remain, including in core lifesaving sectors, and additional funds are urgently required to sustain and further expand response efforts to keep pace with the increasing scale, scope and severity of needs across Somalia. Moreover, more funds must be channelled to national NGOs who are providing critical frontline response.

The names and designations used in this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The next publication will be on or around 14 November 2022.

Feedback: [ochasomalia@un.org](mailto:ochasomalia@un.org) | [www.ochasomalia.org](http://www.ochasomalia.org) | [www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/somalia)

## SPOTLIGHT: BAY REGION

According to the IPC Famine Review Committee, famine is likely in the Baidoa and Buur Hakaba Districts of Bay Region by the end of 2022 if humanitarian assistance is not urgently scaled up. Baidoa, in particular, has 466,000 affected people, or about 72 per cent of the district's population. Some 137,000 people are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 5), or 1 out of every 5 people in the district. The region also has more than 2,300 cases of cholera and/or acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) as of 25 September, trailing only Banadir's 4,700. Partners continue delivering life-saving assistance despite extreme access constraints and increasingly stretched capacities.

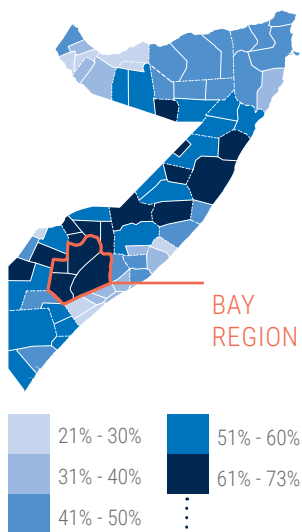
### Bay Region, South West State

After arriving at a stabilization centre showing signs of severe acute malnutrition (left), Ruweyda received therapeutic feeding and treatment that helped her gain more than a full kilogram of weight and visibly improve her health condition (right).

Photos: MARDO



### % OF POP. AFFECTED BY DISTRICT



# 68%

of Bay Region's population of 1.09 million are affected by drought



In October, the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia (FSNAU) noted that scaled-down humanitarian assistance due to funding constraints may contribute to food security, nutrition and mortality outcome indicators among agropastoral populations in Baidoa and Buur Hakaba and among IDPs in Baidoa town crossing famine thresholds by the end of the year.

Nutrition partners and the South West State Ministry of Health carried out a rapid mass mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening in Baidoa in September to assess nutritional status in the area. The screening found a global acute malnutrition (GAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 59 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively. These findings are significant increases to the GAM rate of 28.6 per cent and SAM rate of 10.6 per cent reported in FSNAU's June-July 2022 Post-Gu assessments, with the GAM rate, in particular, higher than the rates of 50-55 per cent frequently reported throughout parts of southern Somalia during the 2011 drought.

As such, there is an urgent need to scale up nutrition response with screenings and treatment of children suffering acute malnutrition in these areas and among these vulnerable populations. Organizations like the **Mandhere Relief and Development Organization (MARDO)**, a local NGO supported by the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), are actively working to support drought-affected children like Ruweyda Ali Hussein, an 18-month girl from Dugarhosle from just outside Diinsoor.

Ruweyda's mother Adey brought her daughter to a mobile nutrition screening team, where the team immediately referred her to the stabilization centre after confirming that Ruweyda was suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with complications.

Medics at the stabilization centre prescribed medications for dehydration, vomiting and fever, while also putting Ruweyda on therapeutic feeding formulas. Adey also received three meals a day while at the stabilization centre as part of the feeding programme MARDO established.

During her 15-day stay at the centre, Ruweyda's weight went from 6.5 kg to 7.1 kg as she recovered from complications. Her MUAC increased from 10.6 to 11.5cm as well. The centre then transferred Ruweyda to a MARDO-run outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) run at the same site for food and systematic treatments.

Ruweyda's weight reached 7.6 kg, more than a full kilogram higher than her original admission weight, while her MUAC reached 11.7cm. Upon her discharge from the OTP, Ruweyda was referred to the District Health Office's Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme.

## NEEDS & GAPS

### NUTRITION

Partners continue to report high levels of acute malnutrition, especially among IDP and rural populations. Per data on acute malnutrition admissions, the 137,848 admissions reported during September 2022 are 16,440 fewer than those reported during the previous month. Overall, there have been more than 1 million admissions for acute malnutrition between January and September 2022. Of these admissions, 308,569 have been for SAM, accounting for 30 per cent of all admissions.

### WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

About 5.2 million out of the 6.4 million people in need of water face acute water shortages, including more than 918,000 IDPs at risk of secondary displacement, as borehole capacities are overstretched, and groundwater levels are depleted. Recent reports from South West State indicate water price increases as high as 250 per cent due to increasing demand for water trucking and fast-depleting water sources. WASH partners indicate there are at least 108 IDP sites in Baidoa with 124,000 people without access to water and sanitation, with most sites hosting new arrivals.

### HEALTH

Decreased vaccination coverage of children is leading to a rise in measles. More than 13,800 suspected cases were reported through 19 September 2022, more than five times as many as the 2,450 reported during the same period in 2021. More than 10,700 cases are in children under 5. Limited access to safe water, especially at IDP sites, is also driving a growth in cholera. There are 10,164 cases and 56 related deaths in 25 drought-affected districts through 19 September 2022, compared to 3,424 suspected cases and 33 deaths reported in nearly twice as many districts during the same period in 2021. Some 6,809 cases are in children under 5.

### CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

The 9,066 complaint cases recorded during September 2022 by Camp Coordination and Camp Management's (CCCM) Complaint Feedback Mechanism (CFM) are a 17 per cent increase from August's 7,726 cases, and the most since CFM started. Partners note that the growth could be due to increased reporting and to scaled-up CFM in more sites and districts. Food security, livelihoods, shelter, NFI and WASH needs are the most commonly reported concerns. Sites in Kismaayo, Baidoa, Doolow, Qansax Dheere and Luuq accounted for the majority of September reports.

### PROTECTION

The Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) reports a recent spike in displacement from areas in Hiraan, Bakool and Middle Shabelle amid ongoing conflict involving Government and affiliated forces and non-state armed actors. There have also been reports of child recruitment at IDP communities and forced taxation of families at the hands of non-state armed actors, which has driven more displacement.

### EDUCATION

According to recent Education partner assessments in Banadir, Hirshabelle, Jubaland and South West State, 63 per cent of interviewed households at IDP sites indicate that their children were not attending school. Most households note that their main barrier is the costs, both direct and indirect, of education, especially as the drought continues to disrupt family livelihoods. Those surveyed also cited a lack of available services, as schools are too far or closed.

## RESPONSE

### NUTRITION

Since January, Nutrition partners have treated more than 268,200 children for severe acute malnutrition and more than 759,300 children and women have received life-saving health services. Partners also report a 96 per cent recovery rate for the more than 40,600 children admitted for severe wasting in August 2022. Partners are working with the Ministry of Health on a national campaign integrating measles, Vitamin A and MUAC screenings that seeks to reach 2.8 million children.

### WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

WASH cluster partners have reached 1.4 million people with assistance. WASH partners continue assisting with water trucking, water supplies, hygiene promotion, drilling and rehabilitating boreholes, latrine construction, community awareness raising on AWD prevention and referrals to Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) in drought-affected districts.

### HEALTH

Health partners have reached 2.7 million out of 5 million people targeted (54 per cent). Partners have deployed more than 2,100 community health workers to 66 districts to raise awareness among 1.2 million people on preventing epidemics. Community surveillance teams for early case detection have also deployed to Baidoa, Banadir and other drought-affected areas. Health partners continue to treat cholera cases at CTCs in Baidoa's Beyhaw Hospital, the Banadir General Hospital, the Kismaayo General Hospital, and the CTC in Jowhar.

### FOOD SECURITY

Food Security partners have reached 5.9 million people out of 6.4 million people targeted (92 per cent) as of September. In Baidoa District, food security partners have stepped up general food assistance, reaching 568,000 people in September up from 378,000 in July. While partners have scaled up operations to reach record numbers of people, pushing further into hard-to-reach areas, it is imperative that these efforts are increased and sustained to avert the worst outcomes. Partners should not wait for a declaration of famine to act; by then it will be too late. Half of the people who lost their lives in the 2011 famine died before it was officially declared.

### CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

CCCM partners have carried out site improvements at more than 650 IDP sites during August, including cash-for-work for creating/rehabilitating site draining, cleaning and solar light installation. Partners are prioritizing action through the end of 2022 in 345 IDP sites in Laas Caanood (13), Buuhoodle (18), Dhuusamarreeb (48), Gaalkacyo (32), Xudur (16), Daynile/Kahda (170) and Afgooye/Marka (48) totalling a population of 341,500 people. Partners are providing MUAC screenings to new arrivals and making referrals to Nutrition partners.

### EDUCATION

As of September, Education partners have reached 312,500 drought-affected children, 48 per cent of whom are girls. This includes 38,270 children with disabilities. Education response has reached 274,000 children with school feeding/food grants, 103,000 children with access to safe drinking water and hygiene awareness promotion and 130,000 children with learning materials. Partners continue developing an IDP education services mapping tool, with data to be collected by State clusters.