

FAO SOMALIA FAMINE PREVENTION AND DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN February-July 2017



KEY MESSAGES

Famine will appear in Somalia in the second half of 2017, unless we act immediately and at scale to prevent this from happening.

Uniquely powerful information tools tell us where and when the famine risks are highest.

Famine starts in rural areas, and is prevented in rural areas.

Those most at risk of famine are Somalia's southern breadbasket, and northeastern pastoral areas.

Based on the latest projections, 2/3 of food insecure Somalis in IPC Phases 3 & 4 are rural. Nearly 9/10 of Somalis in IPC Phase 4 are rural.

Rural people know their livelihoods are their best defence.

It is not too late. Massive prevention actions are possible.

FAO's PLAN AT A GLANCE

A powerful mix of lifesaving and livelihood-saving interventions.



840 900 rural people (45% of rural people in IPC 3&4)



3 prevention priorities.

- Cash (cash-for-work and unconditional), to meet immediate food (and water) needs
- Livelihood support and cash ("Cash+"), to produce food while meeting immediate needs
- Ψ m
- <u>Livestock support,</u> to save livestock assets, and related food and income

INTRODUCTION

FAO's Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan is part of a wider humanitarian response involving UN, and international and local NGO partners to prevent a famine this year in Somalia. It complements WFP, UNICEF and other partners' response plans to address the main dimensions of food and nutrition insecurity. Within this Plan, FAO identifies the distinct needs of rural populations to resist famine, and seeks USD 160 million to urgently support them. FAO believes that famine can be prevented and that these efforts must concentrate on rural areas. More particularly, putting cash in people's pockets and keeping farming and pastoral livelihoods intact are rural people's best defence against famine in the coming months.

Across Somalia, 6.2 million people face acute food insecurity through June 2017. Compared to projections made six months ago, the people most at risk of hunger in IPC Phases 3 and 4 more than doubled to 2 912 000. Among them, those on the brink of Famine in IPC Phase 4 increased twenty-fold to 439 000 people. Early warnings are loud and clear: "In a worst-case scenario where (i) the 2017 Gu (April-June) season performs very poorly, (ii) purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/2011, and (iii) humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected."

Most of this massive, accelerated increase in food insecure people occurred in rural areas. This is where famine starts, and must be prevented. According to the latest projections, rural people make up 65 percent of the population in IPC Phases 3 and 4, and 87 percent of those in IPC 4. The latter represents a 25-fold increase, from 15 000 people (August-December 2016) to 380 000 people (February-June 2017). Famine risks are highest in southern agricultural and agropastoral areas of Somalia's breadbasket (Bay and parts of Bakool), and northeastern pastoral areas (Puntland).

IPC 3&4 IPC 4 3 000 000 450 000 400 000 2 500 000 350 000 2 000 000 300 000 250 000 1500 000 200 000 1 000 000 100 000 500 000 50 000 I year ago 6 months ago now l year ago 6 months ago now ■ Total ■ Rural ■ Total ■ Rural

Proportion of rural populations in IPC Phases 3 and 4 in the last year

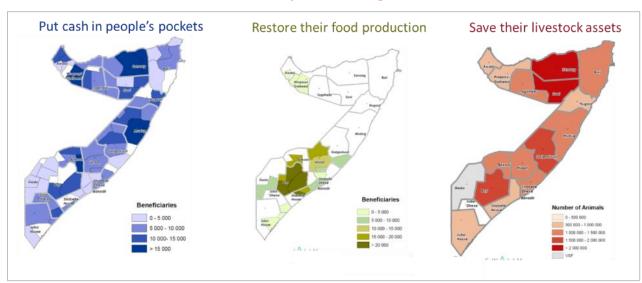
Hunger has spiked in rural areas primarily due to the loss of production, productive assets and income sources during the drought. In 2016, farmers suffered an entire year of severe food and income loss, including a 50 percent reduced *Gu* cereal harvest mid-year, compounded by a 70 percent reduced *Deyr* harvest at year-end. The low production also left farmers without seeds to plant, cut wage labour income by at least 50 percent, and increased food and water prices throughout Somalia. In northern pastoral areas, where families rely entirely on livestock to survive, total livestock losses and destitution are reported. Across the country, livestock are weak, supplying less milk and meat, and worth increasingly less when sold or traded for other food items, such as cereals. As livelihoods and coping strategies erode, people are becoming destitute and migrating out of rural areas.

¹ http://www.fsnau.org/in-focus/fsnau-fewsnet-technical-release-february-2017

FAO's Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan combines lifesaving interventions with emergency livelihood support to address the distinct needs of rural people at risk across Somalia. The Plan responds to three overarching priority needs in rural communities:

- 1. <u>Cash (cash-for-work and unconditional cash transfers)</u>, to meet immediate food (and water) needs;
- 2. <u>Livelihood support and cash ("Cash+")</u>, to restore food production while ensuring families meet their immediate food needs; and
- 3. Emergency livestock support, to save livestock assets, and related food and income.

Countrywide coverage



FAO's target is to directly assist 840 900 people – equivalent to around 45 percent of the rural population in IPC Phases 3 and 4, based on the latest FSNAU-FEWSNET projections. FAO has the technical, operational and administrative capacities to deliver a rapid effective response at this scale, and the necessary risk mitigation measures to reach communities in hard-to-reach areas. Many of the interventions will build upon successful operations in the affected areas, including extensive animal health campaigns and cash-for-work programmes. FAO is working closely with UN, NGO and government partners to ensure maximum reach and coverage. The three priorities of FAO's Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan are outlined in more detail below.

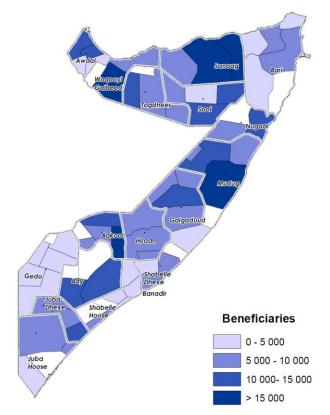
Priority 1: Cash (unconditional transfers and cash-for-work)

Providing cash relief will be fundamental to preventing famine in Somalia, especially in rural areas. Due to extensive crop failure and livestock losses, rural families lack food as well as income to buy food. In pastoral areas, especially in the north, livestock body conditions are so poor that most animals are no longer sellable. When sold or traded for other food items, livestock are fetching little in return due to their declining value and rising food costs. In southern Somalia, most families already have little to no food stocks and will soon rely entirely on market purchases for food. Labour wage rates will likely decline further due to projected poor rains during *Gu* (April to June) and increased competition for employment. These trends are expected to further diminish household purchasing power in the coming months.

FAO stands ready to massively scale up **cash-for-work** programmes across the country, with a target of 91 400 households. Learning from lessons from 2011 and beyond, FAO will adjust its cash-payment schedule to reflect the extremely poor food security situation and the urgent need for cash. For example, families to engage in cash-for-work activities will receive cash upon registration, equivalent to two weeks of paid labour. This front-loaded payment will enable families to immediately improve their food intake before engaging in work (two weeks later), and will be on top of the 12 weeks of paid work. During drought, this work commonly focuses on infrastructure that improves water access, use and management, such as repairing water catchments to make the most of the next rains and constructing contour bunds to control erosion.

Families unable to engage in work will receive **unconditional cash**. This will enhance social protection and ensure that the most vulnerable households are not left behind, such as those headed by ill family members, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The cash amount will be of equal quantity and duration as under cash-for-work schemes. FAO estimates that around 20 percent of households targeted under Priority 1 will receive unconditional cash. However, this is scalable depending on the distinct needs and vulnerabilities in targeted communities.

Cash-for-work and unconditional cash targets



Cash-for-work and unconditional cash transfers

Meet immediate food and water needs, while restoring productive rural infrastructure

548 400 people (91 400 households)

Cash in hand: 4-6 weeks

USD 70 440 891

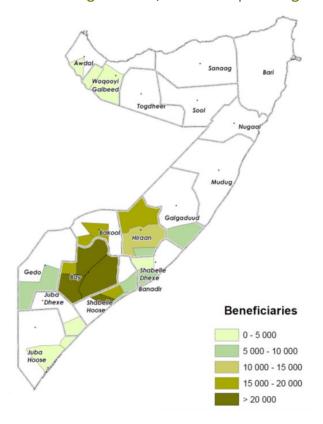
Priority 2: Livelihood inputs plus cash (Cash+)

FAO's "Cash+" programme provides unconditional cash transfers plus emergency livelihood inputs so families meet their immediate food needs while restoring their own food production. This combination of assistance is especially critical now in Somalia's breadbasket, where farmers have little to no food stocks left nor seeds to plant during Gu – the main planting season. By providing cash together with farming inputs, families will be able to cover their food needs until crops can be harvested in mid-2017. Without this assistance, farmers who miss the planting season will lack a staple harvest until 2018. Similarly, marginalized rural families in riverine areas will receive fishing kits to immediately diversify their diet and income sources.

<u>Cash+ agricultural inputs</u>. FAO aims to reach 46 750 farming households with unconditional cash transfers on a monthly basis for three months (i.e. the full duration of a planting season), plus phased agricultural input support at the beginning and end of the planting season (i.e. first drought tolerant seeds to plant, then hermetic bags to store their harvest). Each household will receive seeds to plant 1 hectare with cereals (sorghum) and pulses (cowpea) with the first rains, anticipated in April. Vegetable seeds will also be provided, which will give households quick access to nutritious food to bridge the gap before the main harvest. In agropastoral areas of Bay (IPC Phase 4), for example, families will be able to produce up to 1.1 tonnes of cereals – enough to feed themselves and 2 additional families for 6 months. Even with below average rains, families are expected to produce enough to at least meet their own food needs and generate some income from a surplus.

<u>Cash+ riverine fishing kits</u>. Similarly, 2 000 households in riverine areas will receive cash and fishing kits – including hooks, lines, fishing weights, knives, solar-powered torch, cooler and chopping board – to help bridge the gap before the *Gu* harvest. Solar-powered fridges will be distributed and shared at the community level. A study of FAO's work distributing fishing kits in 2016 found that beneficiaries were able to increase the amount of fish caught, which resulted in an increase in fish consumption at the household level (85 percent reported consuming fish on a daily basis) and an increase in fish sold at the local market.

Cash+ agricultural/fisheries inputs target



Cash plus farming inputs or fishing kits

Meet immediate food & water needs, while restoring food production

292 500 people (48 750 households)

Cash: 4-6 weeks Seeds: 8 weeks

Fishing kits: 6-8 weeks

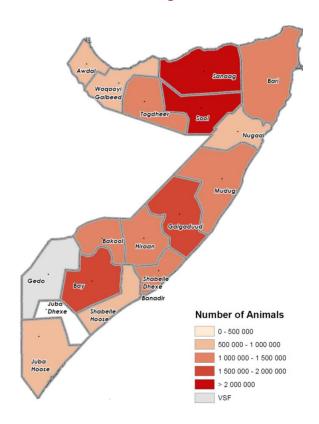
USD 30 341 114

Priority 3: Emergency livestock support

Saving livestock will save people's lives, especially where pastoralism is the sole economic activity. Consecutive seasons of poor rainfall have caused widespread shortage of water and pasture and increases in livestock deaths. It is now Jilaal – the hottest and driest time of year from January to March. The drier it gets, the further the distance people must travel with their animals in search of water and pasture – which is often too expensive a distance for poor families. Pastoralist and agropastoralists have increasingly less access to food as their herds reduce due to distress sale and death, milk production drops, livestock prices diminish and water and grain prices rise. Livestock survival during the dry season is not the only challenge. Once rains do fall, weak animals will be at high risk of hypothermia among other illness. Supportive livestock treatment must be delivered rapidly. The sooner animals are treated, the more will survive, and the sooner they will become productive again and regain value.

FAO will scale up its emergency livestock interventions across Somalia. This includes delivering emergency livestock treatment to 20.5 million animals, belonging to approximately 3 million people. These animals will be treated against a variety of debilitating conditions that threaten livestock productivity, value, health and survival, such as endo and ecto parasites, respiratory diseases, blood parasites, wounds and mastitis. FAO will also supply fodder and mineral blocks to nourish 6 million animals. In addition, FAO will scale up provision of collapsible water bladders in strategic locations, combined with water trucking. These include areas where there is some pasture for grazing but no water, along livestock migratory routes and in pastoral temporary settlements (established by government and drought committees to avoid further pastoral migration to urban areas). Water will also be trucked for livestock where other agencies are providing drinking water for people; otherwise, people will share their own, already-limited water supply with their animals.

Animal treatment target



Livestock supportive treatment, water trucking and fodder

Save livestock assets, and related food and income

3 million people:

- 20.5 m animals to be treated
- 6 m receive fodder &minerals
- 480 additional water bladders
- 8m litres of storage capacity

Treatment & water: 4 weeks Minerals & fodder: 6 weeks

USD 44 249 200

BUDGET

Priorities	Results	Beneficiaries	USD
1. Cash Cash-for-work and unconditional cash transfers	Cash quickly received or earned to meet immediate food and water needs, while restoring productive rural infrastructure	548 400 people (91 400 households)	70 440 891
2. Livelihood support and cash Cash plus farming inputs or fishing kits	Immediate food needs are met, while food production is restored	292 500 people (48 750 households)	30 341 114
3. Emergency livestock support Livestock supportive treatment, water trucking and fodder	Livestock assets, and related food and income sources, saved.	20.5 million animals (belonging to 3 million people)	44 249 200
Sub-total	840 900 people	145 031 205	
Indirect costs (10% of sub-total)		14 503 121	
TOTAL REQUEST		159 534 326	

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