



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

UPDATE  
June 2017

# FAO SOMALIA

## FAMINE PREVENTION AND DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

### *January – December 2017\**

*What rural Somalis need now,  
through to the end of the year*



\* This Plan is an update and extension of [FAO's Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan](#) (February-July 2017)

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## KEY MESSAGES

*Somalia remains free of famine, but the risk is elevated.*

*Between February and May 2017, the number of acutely food insecure Somalis rose by 500 000 rural people, to 6.7 million.*

*9 out of 10 Somalis on the brink of famine (IPC 4) are rural.*

*Livelihoods remain rural people's greatest defense against famine and their greatest opportunity to recover quickly.*

*2017 Deyr rains can be the turning point – the first good rains in at least 2 years.*

*Deyr could produce the harvest Somalia needs to end this crisis. Farmers urgently need quality seeds to grow Deyr crops in October-December.*

*Animals will also begin to produce offspring during this time, if kept healthy, watered and well-fed.*

*Deyr rains combined with support in rural areas can be a key pull factor for early IDP returns.*

*Late 2017 also presents risks – such as floods and a 45% chance of El Niño developing.*

## FAO's Updated Plan at a Glance: June to December 2017

### A powerful mix of lifesaving and livelihood-saving interventions.



732 000 people  
(1/3 of rural people in IPC 3&4)



17 million livestock  
(belonging to 2.6 million people)

### Three goals.

1

#### **Keep Somalia famine-free,**

*High-impact cash relief, livelihood assistance and livestock support*

2

#### **Support early IDP returns and their communities,**

*Working with NGOs to create conditions for early returns and rapid recovery*

3

#### **Resist new shocks,**

*Early warning and preparedness for floods and possible El Niño event in late 2017*



**USD 115 million**

Requirements June-Dec. 2017

\$70 m raised  
by May 2017

\$115 m required  
June–December 2017

Jan. ----- May June ----- Dec.

# INTRODUCTION

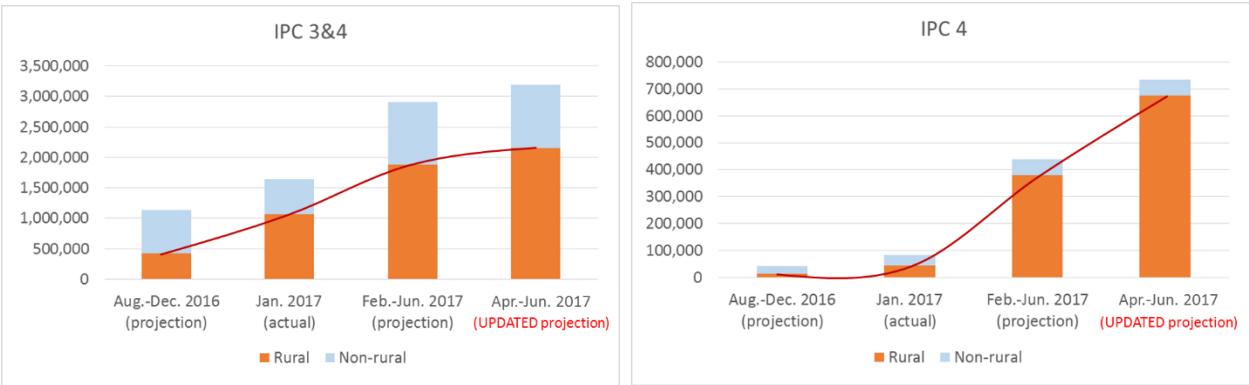
**Continued, massive support is needed to keep Somalia free of famine.** FAO is contributing to prevent famine and improve food security by helping families purchase and produce food in rural areas. Around 92 percent of Somalis on the brink of famine live in these rural parts of the country, where most humanitarian partners lack good access. With USD 70 million raised by May 2017, FAO is reaching nearly 600 000 people with cash relief and livelihood support for Somalia’s main agricultural season (*Gu*), while protecting 21 million livestock that provide food and income to more than 3 million people.

**The drought set off a chain reaction of losses, which started on Somalia’s farms and pastures.** Insufficient rain and water availability severely reduced food production and caused substantial livestock losses. Food and water prices rose beyond the means of farmers, pastoralists and wage labourers who, in parallel, lost their income and suddenly became even more dependent on market purchases. With each passing season, the losses intensified and compounded. Farmers in the south faced yield reductions of 50 percent in mid-2016 and 70 percent at yearend, while pastoralists in the north endured poor rains and livestock losses for up to three years. As families became increasingly destitute and indebted, a famine alert was issued in early 2017 and AWD/Cholera began to spread rampantly.

**Preventing Famine is not enough.** People have lost the ability to produce and afford food on their own, and cannot recover from 1-3 years of asset losses and debt in few months’ time. After two critically low harvests in 2016, farmers have no food or seed stocks left. Barren farms have no jobs to offer wage labourers. Poor pastoral and agropastoral families have lost up to 60 percent of their herd. People are leaving rural areas to where they think they will find food and water supplies, which humanitarian funding cannot sustain. According to UNHCR, 739 000 people have been displaced due to the drought since November 2016. Once their livelihood collapses, they become displaced and time passes, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to return.

**This food security crisis cannot be reversed without adequately addressing why and where it began.** Due to further deterioration, the estimated number of acutely food insecure Somalis between April and June rose by 500 000 rural people, to 6.7 million. Most of the increase was in people facing IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) – the stage of hunger that precedes famine. [FSNAU/FEWS NET’s Food Security Alert](#) of 9 May also showed a greatly expanded geographic area of where these people are concentrated. Almost all Federal Member States now have large areas classified as IPC 4 through mid-2017, and humanitarian needs are expected to persist at current levels until late 2017. The situation demands continued investment in averting famine, seizing recovery opportunities and preparing for any possible new threats in the coming months.

## Growing proportion of rural people in IPC Phases 3 and 4



## Many challenges and opportunities lie ahead.

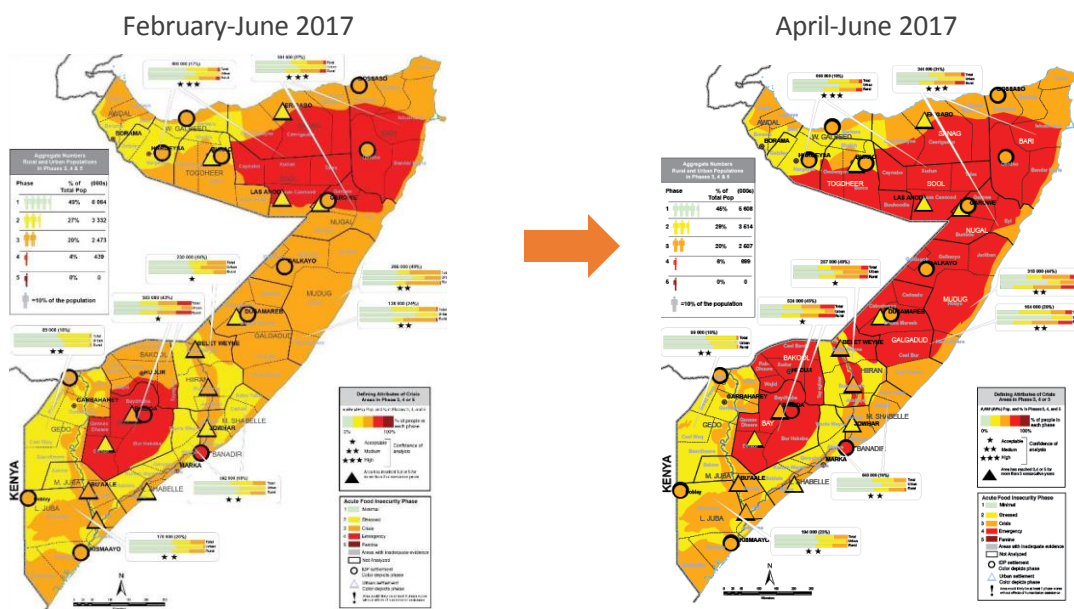
**Poor Gu rains** (April-June 2017) will likely lead to another poor harvest, especially among farmers and agropastoralists who planted poor quality seeds. *Deyr*, however, can be the turning point. *Deyr* rains (October-December) are forecast to be average to above-average, and could produce the harvest Somalia needs to end the current crisis and begin recovering. Humanitarian efforts must help farming families remain in rural areas and plant well in October 2017.

**Already high levels of displacement** could increase significantly if *Gu* renders little food and humanitarian assistance does not reach rural populations. Food security interventions must be scaled up and reach affected rural communities as quickly as possible to avoid further displacement. Where possible, cash- or food-based assistance should be combined with agricultural inputs so families can take advantage of the first good rains in at least two years. *Deyr* rains are also a key moment and opportunity to facilitate early returns if integrated support is provided to rural affected populations. Many displaced people, for example in Baidoa, are within close proximity of their homes and requesting basic inputs such as seeds and humanitarian assistance to help them return to farming.

**Livestock losses** have been very high among poor families, averaging 40-60 percent in the north and centre, and 20-40 percent in the south. The *Gu* rains somewhat replenished water sources and regenerated pasture. The imperative now is to restore the health and productivity of surviving animals through veterinary support and supplementary feeding. Healthy, vaccinated and well-nourished livestock produce more food for families and generate income for pastoral and agropastoral families. As pasture and water conditions improve, the remaining animals will also begin to produce offspring between mid-November and January – a critical opportunity for poor families to rebuild their herds.

**Floods** are likely in late 2017. Above average *Deyr* rains could cause flooding in some areas if flood risks are not managed properly. There is a 45 percent chance of an El Niño event, which may bring heavier than expected rainfall to Somalia (International Research Institute for Climate and Society). Breakages along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers need urgent repair, and weak or low sections in the river banks need reinforcing. Thanks to satellite imagery, their number and location are known. Community-based flood alert systems using SMS established in 2015/16 also need to be reactivated. Similarly, community surveillance networks must be mobilized to detect food chain treats, such as plant pests like locusts and fall armyworm, as well as transboundary livestock diseases.

## Worsening food security projections between February and June 2017 (FSNAU)



## FAO's updated Plan for 2017

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**FAO's updated Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan requires an extra USD 115 million between June and December 2017.** The Plan builds on priorities and activities set in the first half of the year to prevent famine, against an increased number of rural people and locations at risk. To begin laying the foundation for a quick recovery, the updated Plan also aims to support the early return of drought displaced families and to protect livelihoods against new or aggravating shocks. The revised total budget of this Plan amounts to USD 185 million, taking into account USD 70 million mobilized by May 2017 and additional funding of USD 115 million for June to December 2017. As part of the additional funds required, a World Bank grant of USD 30 million (contributed on 1 June 2017) allows the Updated Plan to roll out immediately.

**The Plan has three overarching goals.**

- 1.** Keep Somalia Famine-free, through cash-based interventions, emergency livelihood assistance for *Deyr* combined with cash transfers (Cash+) and livestock support.
- 2.** Support early IDP returns and their communities, by partnering with NGOs to restore productive livelihoods in a number of key districts.
- 3.** Resist new shocks, building on early warning and flood preparedness work that proved effective during the 2015/16 El Niño.

**FAO has made preventing Famine in Somalia a corporate priority.** In May 2017, FAO activated a corporate Surge Response for Somalia, applying Level 3 emergency response protocols to ensure that commitments to affected populations are met with utmost speed and effectiveness. FAO has the technical, operational and administrative capacities to continue delivering a 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 cash-based interventions and animal health campaigns implemented earlier in the year.

**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 aligns with the humanitarian community's Operational Response Plan for Famine Prevention (issued in February 2017) and Somalia's Humanitarian Response Plan (revised in May 2017). FAO is working closely with UN, NGO and government partners to ensure maximum reach and coverage. For the first time, FAO will jointly implement activities with partners of the NGO Consortium – Somalia Resilience Programme (SomReP) – to deliver agricultural interventions in nine districts.

**The three goals of FAO's updated Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan are outlined in more detail below.**

# Goal 1: Keep Somalia Famine-free



USD 97 million

The best defence against famine in rural areas remains putting cash in people’s pockets and keeping livelihoods intact.

FAO’s Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan for the first half of 2017 responded to three priority needs in rural areas: 1) cash to meet immediate food needs through a combination of cash-for-work and unconditional cash transfers; 2) livelihood support combined with cash (“Cash+”) to restore food production while ensuring families meet immediate food needs; and 3) livestock support to save livestock assets and related food and income. These priorities continue to reflect what is needed to stave off famine in rural areas in the second half of 2017. Activities and targets have been adjusted to the agricultural calendar (*Deyr*) and updated food security data on people and locations most in need.

## Activity description.

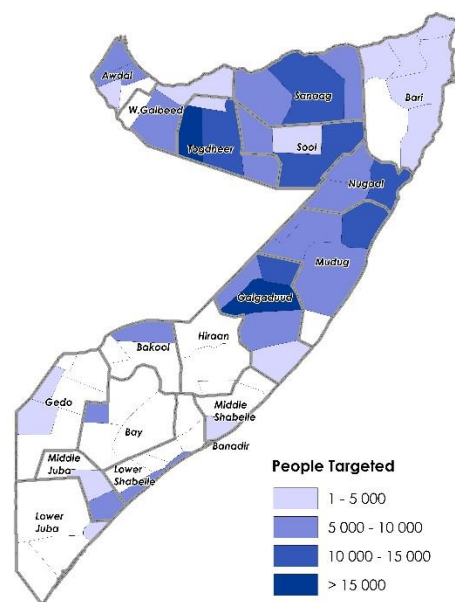
### 1) Cash (cash-for-work and unconditional transfers)

USD 44 million

Cash relief continues to be fundamental to preventing famine in Somalia. This is especially the case in rural areas, where families lack food and income to buy food due to extensive crop failure and livestock losses. Acute food insecurity is affecting more people and locations than anticipated in early 2017, and may deteriorate further if the *Gu* harvest is again poor.

FAO aims to scale up its cash-for-work programmes in the second half of 2017, with a target of 52 550 households. FAO has adjusted its cash-payment schedule to reflect the very poor food security situation and urgent need for cash. Families receive cash upon registration, equivalent to two weeks of paid labour. The front-loaded payment enables families to immediately improve their food intake and is on top of 12 weeks of paid work. Families unable to engage in work will receive unconditional cash, ensuring 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.

#### Beneficiary targets 52 550 households (315 300 people)



### Cash to 346 000 people from cash-for-work or unconditional transfers in the first half of 2017.

Work on 200+ productive infrastructures have been completed so far this year, and another 149 are ongoing. The infrastructure will increase crop yields through improved irrigation, expand water storage capacity, and prevent flood damage. For example, the catchments can store water for 425 000+ animals for an entire dry season.



European Union  
Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid



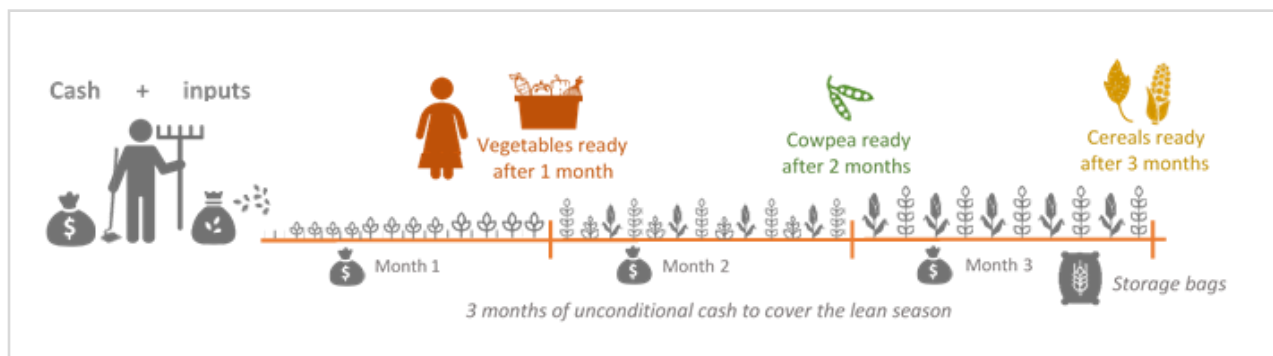
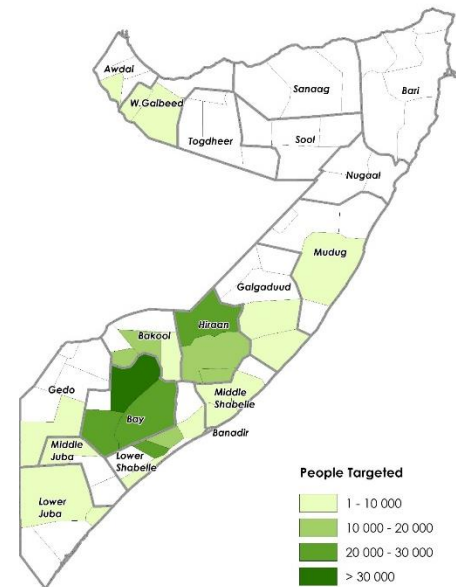
## 2) Livelihood support and cash (“Cash+”)

USD 33 million

Farmers and agropastoralists have distinct needs to survive the ongoing crisis. They need cash to buy food immediately, alongside livelihood support so they can produce their own food and avoid being in the same dire situation, or worse, in few months’ time. *Deyr* is expected to bring the first good rains in two years, starting in October. It is essential that farming families make the most of this cropping season; however, the most vulnerable have no seed stock and risk abandoning their farms for lack of food beforehand.

FAO seeks to scale up its Cash+ programme for the *Deyr* season, targeting 47 450 households. FAO’s “Cash+” programme combines unconditional cash transfers and emergency livelihood support. Families receive monthly cash transfers for three months – the time it takes to plant and harvest a staple crop. This time period coincides with the lean season, when food becomes increasingly scarce until a new crop is harvested. The livelihood package includes seeds to grow a variety of nutritious food, as well as hermetic bags to safely store the harvest, among other key inputs. Around 1 000 Cash+ beneficiary households will be from riverine communities along the Juba river. They will receive the cash together with fishing kits, which will boost their food security and nutrition in the immediate and longer term. The kits include hooks, lines, fishing weights, knives, solar-powered torch, cooler and chopping board, as well as solar fridges (to be shared by 20 households).

### Beneficiary targets 47 450 households (284 700 people)



### Earlier this year



### 39 000+ families supported with FAO’s Cash+ activities in the first half of 2017.

A programme of this scale was possible thanks to funding from the United States of America. USAID’s Food for Peace (FFP) and Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) joined forces to fund over 90% of the programme during *Gu* 2017. These families can produce 33 756 tonnes of sorghum alone – enough to feed 500 000 people for 6 months, and worth USD 11.8 million on the local market.





### 3) Emergency livestock support

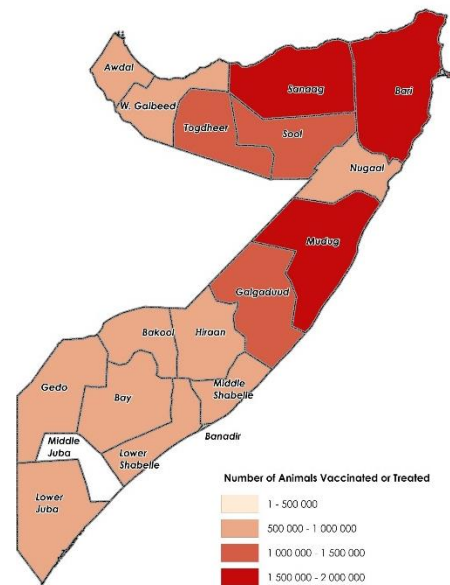
USD 20 million

Saving livestock will continue to save people at risk of famine, especially where pastoralism is the sole economic activity. Many livestock have died, leaving severely affected families depending on fewer animals for food and income. The key challenge and opportunity in the second half of 2017 is to ensure surviving animals recover as quickly as possible and produce offspring in late 2017. This will be a critical and cost-saving opportunity to help pastoralists reconstitute their herds and restore their livelihoods. With improved pasture and water sources from *Gu* rainfall, livestock will start recovering physically from the drought. Once strong enough, they must be vaccinated against major transboundary livestock diseases – such as *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) and Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP) – while being treated against other debilitating conditions like parasites, wounds and worms.

In the second half of 2017, FAO seeks to scale up its veterinary campaign to vaccinate around 14.5 million sheep and goats across Somalia, while providing follow up supportive treatment to around 2.5 million animals, including larger animals like cattle and camel. To supplement grazing, FAO will also distribute rangeland cubes that act as megavitamins for weak animals – adding proteins, vitamins and minerals to their diet. Livestock may be distributed to extremely vulnerable agropastoral families that lost the few animals they depended on for subsistence. Families such as these would each receive ten healthy productive goats (8 females and 2 males).

During the drought emergency, pastoralists desperately needed animal fodder that was deficient in-country, and extremely challenging, cumbersome and expensive to import. FAO will provide assistance for cooperative and community level fodder production by delivering seeds, training and equipment to around 2 000 households. Marketing support will also be provided to link producers with downstream traders and buyers, with a potential buy-back scheme for FAO to redistribute the production to pastoral and agropastoral families in need in the future.

#### Livestock targets 17 million animals (2.55 million people)



#### Earlier this year



#### 20+ million animals being treated to survive drought

In March 2017, FAO activated 120 vet teams across Somalia to keep drought affected animals alive. This massive veterinary campaign – 2/3 funded by the United Kingdom – is treating close to 21 million animals belonging to more than 3 million people. Preserving this vital source of food and income is saving lives and makes economic sense. It is 100-times more cost-effective to keep an animal alive with veterinary care than to replace a dead animal.



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**CENTRAL  
EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE FUND**



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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from the British people

## Goal 2: Support early IDP returns and their communities



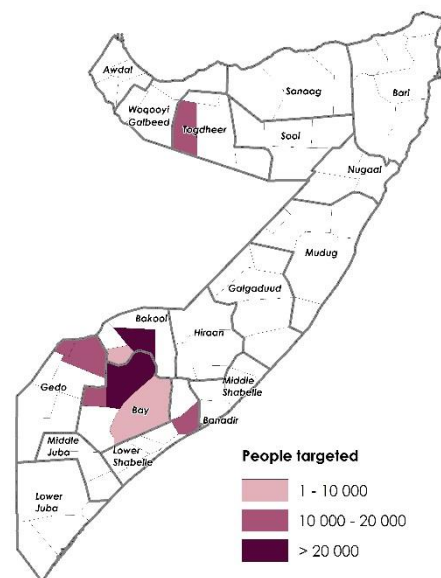
USD 5 million

***Deyr* is a prime time for humanitarian partners to combine their strengths to prevent further displacement and create the conditions for drought-displaced people to return early.**

FAO will partner with the SomRep NGO consortium to support the recovery of productive livelihoods in nine districts in northern and southern Somalia. This is part of an essential package of assistance being provided by NGO partners to address the needs of people in, or displaced from, severely drought affected districts, covering WASH, food security, non-food items and other vital forms of support. The upcoming *Deyr* rains (October-December) can serve as a catalyst for drought displaced people to return early. Based on early findings of intention surveys, many displaced people are requesting seeds and other forms of livelihood support to return home.

FAO will contribute to NGO efforts by supporting around 20 000 farming and agropastoral households to resume crop production for the upcoming *Deyr* season. FAO will provide the same livelihood support packages foreseen in FAO's Cash+ programme, which is proving an effective, high-impact intervention during *Gu* 2017. Farmers will receive vouchers to redeem quality seeds sourced from local suppliers in time for the *Deyr* cropping season beginning in October. Seeds include: sorghum (15 kg) or maize (20 kg), cowpea (10 kg) and assorted vegetable seeds (240 grams). The livelihood package also foresees training, irrigation or land preparation support where appropriate, and bags to safely store the harvest. Within three months, families can grow a nutritious food basket, comprising the key staples (maize and sorghum), protein (cowpea) and vitamin-rich fresh produce (vegetables). Few highly vulnerable agropastoral households may be supported with livestock restocking (8 female and 2 male goats per household).

### Beneficiary targets 20 000 households (120 000 people)



## Goal 3: Resist new shocks



USD 3 million

**Drought-affected communities must prepare for the potential downsides of good *Deyr* rains – flooding – alongside other emerging threats.**

People's livelihoods are extremely fragile now. Even the smallest new shock could have very big negative impacts on people's lives and reverse recent gains from massive and costly humanitarian efforts. These risks can be mitigated in cost-effective ways that put local communities and government on the frontlines of disaster risk reduction.

## Activities description.

### 1) Deyr flood prevention and preparedness

USD 2.5 million

Above-average *Deyr* rains could lead to severe flooding this October-December. The areas most at risk surround Somalia's breadbasket, along the Juba and Shabelle Rivers. These floods could easily wash away millions of dollars' worth of food, in areas at risk of famine, where food production and income are desperately needed. Stagnant flood waters are also a breeding ground for mosquitos that cause highly contagious and deadly livestock and zoonotic diseases. Poor agropastoral families in these areas depend on few livestock for subsistence, and already have lost many of their animals to the drought. The likelihood of an El Niño event is currently 45 percent and growing. This would bring increased rainfall to Somalia that could trigger greater floods and losses. Many of these risks can be mitigated, by replicating good practices from El Niño early warning and early action in 2015/16.



**Early warning.** River levels must be continually monitored, and local communities warned about impending floods to stay out of danger. A community-based SMS alert system created in 2015 called *Digniin* ("warning") is ready to use.



**River embankment repairs.** Currently, there are 37 open breakages along the Juba and Shabelle rivers that need repair through a combination of (i) machinery work to reinforce river banks and (ii) human effort to close small river breakages through sandbagging.



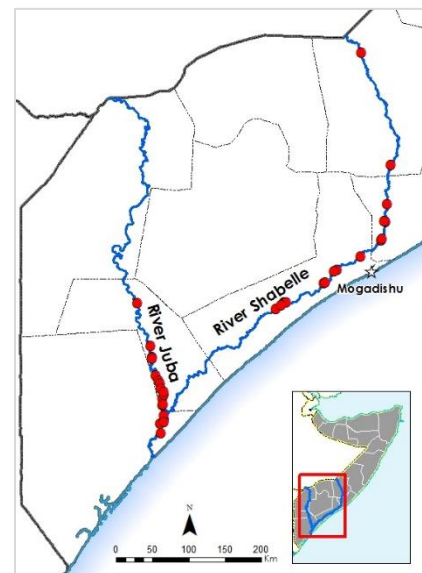
**Keeping people and assets safe.** Pictorial leaflets and posters can advise people what to do before, during and after the floods to protect their families and key assets. With basic materials and instruction, makeshift storage platforms can be built by families to protect their seed and grain stocks from water damage. Somalis traditionally store these underground.



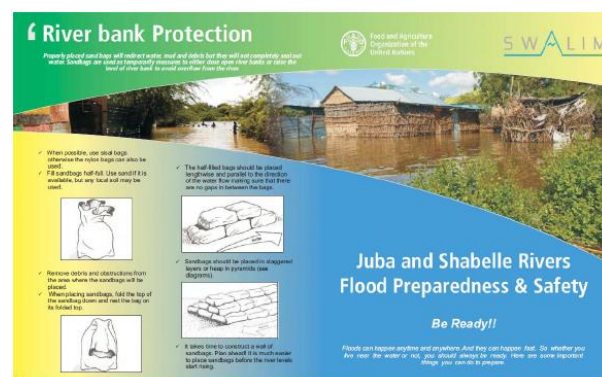
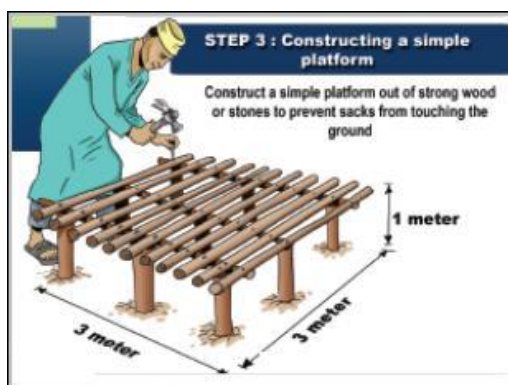
**Community-based livestock surveillance.** Awareness raising campaigns are essential to reduce the risk of flood-related infections and vector-borne animal disease outbreaks. FAO will reach out to communities with leaflets, posters, radio broadcasts and village meetings so they know how to identify risks, report signs of outbreaks to local veterinary authorities and take preventative measures, for example in disposing animal carcasses. Local slaughterhouses and butcheries will receive tailored training to avoid spreading disease and protect themselves and their customers.

### 37 open river points

Juba & Shabelle, April 2017



### Materials that helped communities prevent flood damage and stay safe in 2015/16



A new plant pest threatens to invade Somalia and cause severe losses to crops: fall armyworm. This is a relatively new pest to Africa, which in the last year has spread to various countries in the region, including Ethiopia and Kenya. It is essential to act early to ensure communities know how to detect something they have never seen before, and that local authorities develop a system to monitor and control it. Proper preparedness and early control are essential for a pest that has the potential to multiply exponentially. Foreseen activities include setting up a community-based armyworm forecasting system, provision of inputs such as traps and pheromones, mapping national pesticide availability, and training on Integrated Production and Pest Management as well as pesticide choice and use. It is also important to step up surveillance and preparedness for the desert locust, which has its breeding grounds in the northern Somalia highlands. The substantial rains received in those locations are a favourable factor for successful locust breeding.

## BUDGET

Goals	Results	Beneficiaries	USD
<b>1. Keep Somalia Famine-free</b> High-impact cash relief, livelihood assistance and livestock support	Cash quickly received or earned to meet immediate food needs, while agricultural production and related infrastructure is restored, and livestock is saved	612 000 people (102 000 households)	96 630 747
<b>2. Support early IDP returns and their communities</b> Working with NGOs to create conditions for early returns and recovery	Agricultural production is restored among households in – and returning to – drought-affected areas	120 000 people (20 000 households)	5 214 437
<b>3. Resist new shocks</b> Early warning and preparedness for flooding, possible El Niño, and other emerging threats	Communities are warned, prepared and able to prevent or lessen the impact of shocks	Indirect beneficiaries	3 001 600
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>732 000 people</b>	<b>104 846 784</b>
Indirect costs (10% of sub-total)			10 484 678
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>			<b>115 331 462</b>

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