



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

RAPID RESULTS

DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

Somalia 2016/17



Urgent action to change the course of people's lives
January – June 2017

Photos ©FAO Somalia.

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SUMMARY

FAO seeks USD 26 million to deliver four key results that will change the course of 1.5 million people's lives.

1. Immediate cash relief	2. Livestock preservation	3. A better harvest – Gu 2017	4. Livelihood diversification
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FAO's Rapid Results Drought Response Plan addresses the most time-sensitive needs of rural families across Somalia. In 2016, Somalia's two main rainy seasons were poor, both *Gu* (April-June) and *Deyr* (October-December). Drought has been declared across the country: from the north's largely pastoral arid lands, down through the central and southernmost breadbaskets. By December 2016 – following the poor *Deyr* rains – conditions worsened, with most of the country experiencing severe to extreme drought. The *Jilaal* dry season follows from January to March 2017. This is the driest and hottest time of year in Somalia. During these harsh months, rural families rely on remaining water and pasture from the preceding rainy season, and food and income from the preceding harvest. This *Jilaal*, however, pastures, wells and grain stores will be largely barren.

Farmers and pastoralists have most to lose when the rains fail: their food sources, income and assets. The two consecutive seasons of poor rainfall in 2016 created a domino effect of losses. First, insufficient *Gu* rains in the southern breadbasket led to a 49 percent drop in cereal production compared to an average year. In some areas, production failed entirely – leaving farmers without food, income, as well as seeds to plant for the next season. In turn, low cereal stocks and water supplies triggered price hikes, further diminishing households' purchasing power. The second season of poor rains during *Deyr* will have similar knock-on effects on crops in the first part of 2017, but will impact families more profoundly as losses compound losses. When farmers lose a cereal harvest, there is a six-month time gap between that failed harvest and when the next season's crop matures.

Similarly, pastoralists have become increasingly vulnerable. The rains were insufficient to replenish animal feed and water sources. High livestock losses are reported from north (Somaliland and Puntland) to south (Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba and Lower Juba). The surviving animals are weak, more susceptible to disease, less productive and less valuable. In turn, pastoralists are increasingly unable to provide for their families. When animals' body conditions deteriorate, they supply less milk and meat. They are also worth less when sold or traded for other food items – commonly cereals. In a traditional pastoral household, livestock represent a family's lifetime savings, most valuable productive asset and main source of cash. When lost, the poorest families have little, if anything, to fall back on.

Families need urgent support to make it through the harsh dry months of *Jilaal*, and make the most of the upcoming *Gu* rains. Acute food insecurity, which currently affects 5 million Somalis, is expected to spike during *Jilaal*. Nearly 1.4 million people are estimated to be in 'Crisis' (IPC Phase 3) or worse between January and May 2017, up from 1.1 million in late 2016.

Within the first months of 2017, FAO seeks USD 26 million to provide:

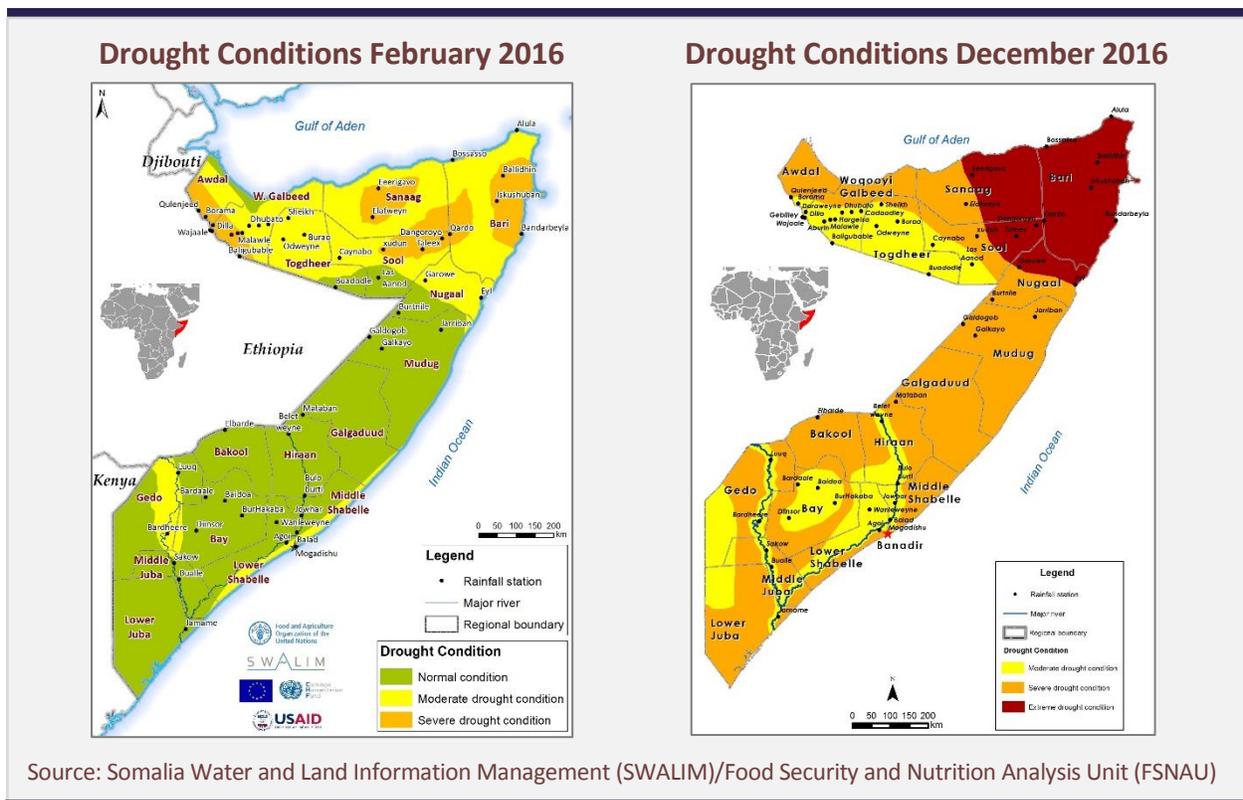
 Cash-for-work and unconditional cash to save lives of those without income and food	<i>Cash in people's pockets to buy food</i>
 Emergency veterinary care and water for animals to survive the dry season	<i>Protecting 8.5 million livestock</i>
 Quality crop seeds to plant by April to secure <i>Gu</i> – Somalia's biggest harvest	<i>26 600 tonnes of cereals, to feed 200 000 people for a year</i>
 Diversified livelihood inputs to increase access to nutritious food	<i>Fish & vegetables to boost nutrition and bridge the hunger gap</i>

| WORSENING DROUGHT

Drought has now spread across all of Somalia. The crisis first manifested in the north – in Somaliland and Puntland. In late 2015, both governments declared drought and appealed to the international community for assistance. By then, parts of Somaliland had already experienced poor rains for two years. Drought was the most severe manifestation of the 2015/16 El Niño in Somalia, which brought increased rainfall to parts of southern and central Somalia and depressed rains in the north. Effective early warning and early action – such as the repair of broken river embankments led by FAO and the government – prevented flooding in many areas. However, drought conditions continued to deepen in the north in early 2016, then spread throughout the country as both of Somalia’s rainy seasons failed. In November 2016, drought was declared nationwide by federal and regional authorities, with conditions ranging from moderate to extreme. By December 2016 – as the poor *Deyr* rains came to an end – conditions worsened, with most of the country experiencing severe to extreme drought.

In 2016, Somalia’s two rainy seasons were poor: *Gu* and *Deyr*. The drought’s negative trends are not expected to reverse until the next *Gu* rains, anticipated in April 2017.

- ***Gu* (April to June 2016).** Rainfall was low, started late and ended early in most regions – except in parts of Somaliland. Dry conditions were interrupted by flooding in May along segments of the Shabelle and Juba rivers, which overflowed due to heavy *Gu* rains in the Ethiopian highlands. The floods displaced 70 000 people, destroyed property and caused livestock deaths. Ultimately, the poor 2016 *Gu* rainy season halved cereal production compared to a normal year, and failed to regenerate pasture and renew water sources for both people and their livestock.
- ***Deyr* (October to December 2016).** Rainfall began late and was poorly distributed, leading to significant moisture deficits across the country. Most regions recorded below 50 percent of the normal total rainfall for the season. Both the Juba and Shabelle river levels are below normal as rains were poor in the Ethiopian highlands. Competition over water will likely lead to the deliberate breakage of embankments, especially impacting communities along the Shabelle where crops are irrigated. Cereals are likely to fail again in many areas for a second consecutive season, and increased livestock losses are expected.



Source: Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM)/Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)

| WORSENING FOOD SECURITY

Food security deteriorated in 2016 across Somalia, alongside the worsening drought. Five million Somalis – 40 percent of the population – are acutely food insecure through December 2016. Of this total, 1.1 million people are in food security ‘Crisis’ and ‘Emergency’ (IPC Phases 3 and 4) – a 20 percent increase between February and July 2016. Acute malnutrition also rose by 6 percent, affecting 323 350 children under the age of five.

40% 

2 out of 5 Somalis are acutely food insecure 

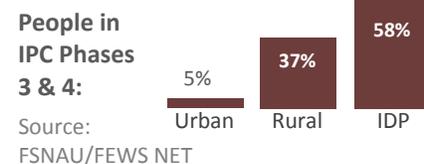
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phases 2, 3 & 4, through December 2016.

In rural areas, the proportion of people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 increased markedly – from 26 to 37 percent of the total in just six months. This increase is alarming but not surprising, as drought has the greatest direct impact on rural communities. These farmers, herders and their children – who have suffered significant crop, livestock and income losses from the drought – make up 50 percent of Somalia’s 12.3 million people.

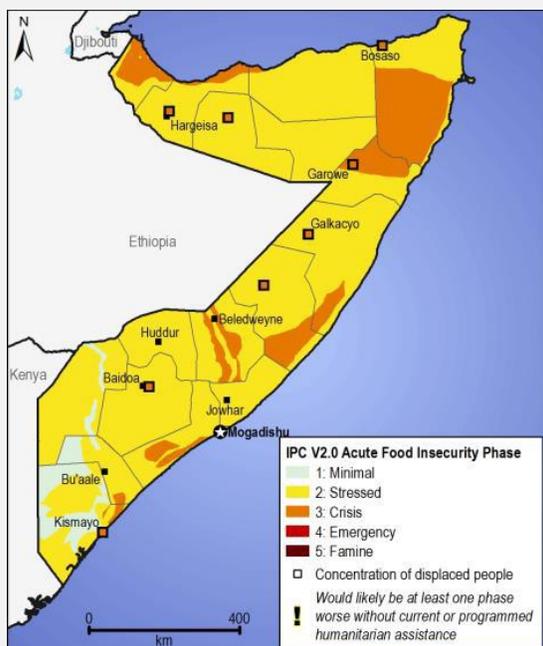
IPC Phase	People
4 - Emergency	43 000
3 - Crisis	1 096 000
2 - Stressed	3 861 000

Food security is expected to deteriorate further in 2017.

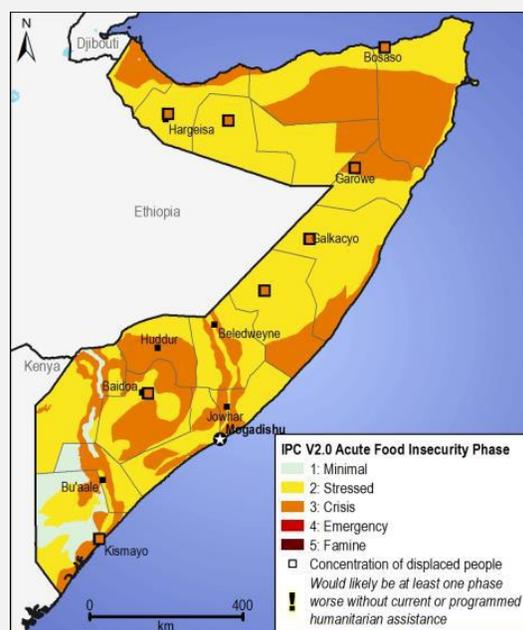
According to the Somalia Food Security Outlook issued by FEWS NET and FSNAU in November 2016, an estimated 1 371 500 people will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse between February and May 2017 primarily due to below-average rains during *Deyr* (October-December 2016) following poor *Gu* rains (April-June 2016). Food insecurity is expected to be highest in agropastoral areas of southern and central Somalia, and in Northern Inland Pastoral and Guban Pastoral livelihood zones in the north. There is also serious concern for people in areas where malnutrition has persisted for multiple years, such as Beletweyne and IDP settlements in Dollow and Galkayo.



Projected Food Security Outcomes October 2016 to January 2017



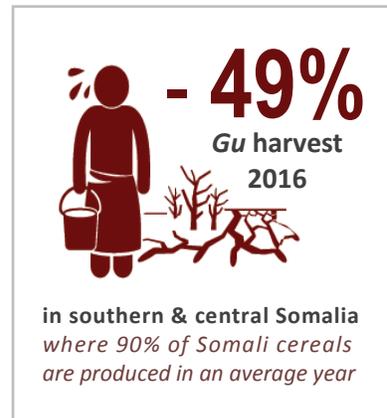
Projected Food Security Outcomes February to May 2017



Source: FEWS NET/FSNAU ([Somalia Food Security Outlook, October 2016 – May 2017](#)).

| WHY FARMERS AND PASTORALISTS NEED SUPPORT NOW

Somalia's two poor rainy seasons in 2016 will lead to two poor harvests. The math is simple, and grim. During *Gu*, Somalia's main agricultural season (April to June), farmers produced 49 percent less cereals compared to an average year (1995-2015). In food and people terms, the shortfall amounts to over 63 000 tonnes of staple food loss that could have fed nearly half a million Somalis for a year. Monetarily, farmers lost around USD 17.5 million in income, while farm laborers lost seasonal employment. At the same time, low production led to increases in local cereal prices, further reducing people's purchasing power. Prospects for the *Deyr* harvest are also bleak, with total crop failure expected again in many areas. One poor harvest will impact another, as farmers must save a portion of their grains as seed for the next planting season.



Pastoralists are struggling to keep their animals alive. The extremely dry conditions, acute water shortages and lack of pasture have made animals weaker, more prone to disease and less productive. Weak animals supply less milk and meat. They are also worth less when sold or traded for other food items, such as cereals. Livestock often represent a pastoralist's lifetime savings, main currency and primary source of nutrition. When they die, families have very little, if anything, to fall back on. A recent interagency assessment reports livestock losses from north to south. In Somaliland and Gedo, for example, more than 85 percent of surveyed households reported loss of animals to the drought. For every productive female goat that dies, one Somali child loses a daily supply of milk.



Rural livelihoods will only begin to recover with the next *Gu* rains – anticipated in April 2017. Until then, the hardest times lie ahead during *Jilaal* – Somalia's harshest and hottest dry season – from January to March. Farmers and pastoralists do not have the resources to weather the season. During this time, these most vulnerable families need time-sensitive, phased support. Firstly, they urgently need cash to meet their immediate food needs, and support to keep their animals alive. Secondly, families need quality seeds to plant with the first rains in April for a better *Gu* harvest in July/August, as well as supplementary inputs to bridge the lean season such as vegetable kits and fishing equipment for riverine families.

There is a limited time window to help families protect and restore their livelihoods before greater losses set in. FAO appeals to resource partners to respond in this critical time of need in Somalia.

Value for money	"Cash +"	Veterinary treatment	Farming inputs
	Time- & cost-effective support Combining cash transfers with livelihood support ensures that families meet their immediate food needs while restoring their own food production.	100x cost savings It is 100 times more cost effective to keep a goat alive than to replace a dead goat (USD 0.40 versus USD 40).	1 family can feed 3 With USD 20 of quality seeds, a farming family can cultivate 1 hectare with cereals and produce enough to feed three families for a year.
			



FAO seeks USD 26 million to deliver four key results that will change the course of 1.5 million people's lives.

FAO's Rapid Results Drought Response Plan is a time sensitive call for funds. It responds to the most pressing food security and livelihood needs of drought-affected people across Somalia. The Plan focuses on four short-term achievable results that need to be delivered for families to preserve their sources of food and livelihoods: (i) immediate cash relief, (ii) livestock preservation, (iii) a better *Gu* harvest in 2017, and (iv) livelihood diversification.

FAO has all of the necessary systems, networks and staffing in place to deliver a timely, effective and well monitored response, using its Monitoring and Evaluation and Risk Management Frameworks. The activities link to FAO's wider Resilience Programme in Somalia, and build on the momentum and successes of its Drought Response Plan for Somaliland and Puntland issued in March 2016. Evidence from the response shows that cash-for-work beneficiaries spent 60 percent of their first cash payment on food, with subsequent payments going towards livelihood investments. Livestock assets worth USD 240 million were protected through emergency livestock support – these 6 million animals produce enough milk in one day to nourish half a million people.

IMPACT Farming and pastoral households withstand and recover from drought conditions quickly, food security levels are maintained or improved, and levels of displacement do not increase.

PRIORITIES

1

Immediate cash relief

Put cash in people's pockets to buy food, while restoring food production. This year, FAO has expanded its cash-based programming beyond cash-for-work to include unconditional cash transfers as well as "Cash +" schemes that combine unconditional cash with livelihood support.

(a) Cash-for-work. 22 100 families will receive cash to repair productive infrastructure prioritized by communities. During drought, the work commonly focuses on infrastructure that improves water access, use and management, such as rehabilitating water pans and irrigation canals, constructing contour bunds to control erosion, and repairing river embankments and water catchments.

(b) Unconditional cash transfers. 3 900 vulnerable families unable to engage in cash-for-work will receive unconditional cash. This will enhance social protection and ensure that the most vulnerable households are not left behind, including those headed by pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

(c) "Cash+". 5 200 families will benefit from unconditional cash, plus training and in-kind productive assets (i.e. fishing kits, seeds and storage bags, or equipment to process *prosopis* into animal feed).



31 200 households



Regions: Awdal, Bakool, Bari, Bay, Galgadud, Gedo, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, Nugal, Sanag, Sool, Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed.



USD 12 555 783



Funds by: February for Cash+, to accompany farm inputs; January for cash-for-work to start activities in February.

Result

Cash quickly received or earned to meet immediate food security needs, while restoring livelihood assets and food production.

2

Livestock preservation

Save lives and livelihoods by saving livestock. FAO urgently seeks to help pastoral communities keep their animals alive and productive, maintaining livestock prices and preserving vital sources of food and income. The sooner funds are received, more livestock will survive.

(a) Emergency supportive treatment. 8.5 million livestock across Somalia will be treated against a variety of debilitating conditions that threaten animal productivity, value, health and survival, such as endo and ecto parasites, respiratory diseases, blood parasites, wounds and mastitis.

(b) Water supply for livestock. 60 collapsible water bladders will be distributed in Somaliland and Puntland, combined (where needed) with water trucking services to fill them. Each tank holds up to 20 000 litres of water and will be placed in strategic locations (i.e. where there is pasture for grazing but no water, and along livestock migratory routes). These will add to the 140 tanks already distributed by FAO in the north, extending coverage to the most-affected 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.



212 500 households



Regions: Awdal, Bakool, Bari, Bay, Galgadud, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba, Middle Shabelle, Mudug, Nugal, Sanag, Sool, Togdheer, Woqooyi Galbeed.



USD 6 614 774

Result

Livestock assets, and related food and income sources, saved.

3

A better *Gu* 2017 harvest

Ensure planting by April, and a better harvest by July/August 2017. Following two poor agricultural seasons in 2016, it is critical that farmers regain the means to plant during 2017 *Gu* – Somalia’s main planting season. Rains permitting, around 19 000 households will receive agricultural input packages, including tractors hours in some areas. Each household will receive enough seeds to cultivate 1 hectare with cereals (sorghum) and pulses (cowpea), as well as assorted vegetable seeds and hermetic storage bags to safely store their harvest. The seeds provided will be of varieties adapted to local agro-ecological conditions. Sorghum and pulses can be planted with the first good rains, anticipated in April. Vegetable gardening will give households quick access to nutritious food to bridge the gap before the main harvest. FAO will target areas hit hardest by the drought, as well as those with high production potential that can contribute to improving food security also in surrounding districts. Seeds will be procured only after climate forecasts in late February 2017 confirm favourable planting conditions. Around one-quarter of the most vulnerable families will receive unconditional cash with their farming packages, through FAO’s new “Cash+” programme.



18 979 households¹



Regions: Awdal, Bay, Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Woqooyi Galbeed.



USD 3 642 196



Funds by: February 2017, for farmers to plant with the first *Gu* rains in April, anticipated in April.

Result

A better harvest, and related food and income, secured by farmers in 2017.

¹ Of these, 4 000 households will receive unconditional cash as well as agricultural inputs. These households are included in the beneficiary targets for both Priority 1 (Immediate cash relief) and Priority 3 (A better *Gu* 2017 harvest).

Supplement livelihood activities and diets through riverine fishing. Despite the low level of Somalia’s rivers, there are still fish. Helping people to fish will give them immediate access to food and a source of income. Around 1 000 households in riverine areas will receive fishing kits – with equipment such as hooks, lines, fishing weights, knives, solar-powered torch, cooler and chopping board – to help them bridge the gap before the *Gu* harvest. Solar-powered fridges will be distributed and shared at the community level. Training on fishing techniques and safety, fish handling, processing and hygiene will ensure beneficiaries are able to make the most of the inputs they receive. All households will also receive unconditional cash with their fishing inputs as part of FAO’s new “Cash+” programme, acting as a safety net. 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 (more than 85 percent reported consuming fish on a daily basis) and an increase in fish sold at the local market. More than 80 percent of interviewed households saw their income increase due to the use of their kit. The kits were particularly valuable in supporting riverine fishing as an income-generating livelihood for communities that relied heavily on fishing as a coping strategy during prolonged dry seasons, but lacked the equipment to do so effectively.



1 000 fishing households²



Regions: Gedo, Lower Juba, Middle Juba.



USD 520 000

Result

Improved food access, nutrition and income during the lean season, and throughout the year.

BUDGET

Priorities	Results	Beneficiaries	USD
1. Immediate cash relief cash-based interventions (cash-for-work, unconditional transfers and “Cash+”)	Cash quickly received or earned to meet immediate food needs, while restoring livelihoods and food production	31 200 households	12 555 783
2. Livestock preservation supportive treatment and water storage and supply	Livestock assets, and related food and income sources, saved	212 500 households (8.5 million livestock)	6 614 774
3. A better <i>Gu</i> 2017 harvest agricultural input support	A better harvest, related food and income, secured by farmers in 2017	18 979 households	3 642 196
4. Diversified livelihoods riverine fishing equipment	Food access, nutrition and income during the lean season, and throughout the year	1 000 households	520 000
Sub-total		258 479 households³	23 332 753
Indirect costs (10% of sub-total)			2 333 275
TOTAL REQUEST			25 666 028

² These households are also included in the beneficiary target for Priority 1 (Immediate cash relief).

³ This figure does not double count those households which will receive cash plus either agricultural or fisheries inputs.

For more information contact:

Richard Trenchard

FAO Representative in Somalia

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Tel: +254 722 2020 146

Email: FAO-SO@fao.org

