



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

RAPID RESULTS

DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

Somaliland and Puntland



SUMMARY

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 people severely affected by poor rains and drought conditions in parts of Somaliland and Puntland. The Plan focuses on short-term tangible results that need to be delivered for families to preserve their sources of food and livelihoods: quick economic gains, improved water access, livestock preservation and a harvest in 2016. The Plan is linked to FAO's El Niño Response Plan and wider Resilience Programme in Somalia, and the "Call for Aid: El Niño and Drought in Somalia" launched by OCHA on 31 March 2016.

In the worst affected areas, communities have not seen normal rains for four consecutive rainy seasons, spanning two years. These are especially dire conditions for agropastoral and pastoral families. In fact, 2015 *Gu* cereal production in Somaliland is 87 percent below average. Moreover, 60-70 percent of households from the main inland pastoral areas of Puntland have migrated with their animals in search of pasture and water, according to FAO Somalia's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU).

Food insecurity is widespread across the affected areas. In Bari, Awdal and Sanaag areas of Somaliland, for example, at least one in ten people are acutely food insecure according to the latest joint seasonal assessment by FSNAU and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Over the coming months, food security prospects will depend greatly on the upcoming *Gu* rainy season: when Somalia generally receives 75 percent of its annual rain, pastures grow well and the country produces around 60 percent of its national cereal output. Worryingly, forecasts point to yet another season of near-average to below-average rains in the north. Farmers around the world can normally manage 1-2 bad harvests in a row. Beyond that, the risks become far greater. Somaliland and Puntland are no exception.

Families are at a tipping point. It is now Somalia's main dry season. Temperatures are on the rise, and so is the cost of water. For multiple seasons, people have experienced loss of income and food sources, reduced purchasing power and rising debt. If families continue to lose or sell productive assets such as livestock, they will lack the means to recover and their resilience and coping capacity will be affected. This could increase humanitarian needs and related costs, very sharply and very quickly.

FAO seeks USD 17 million to help more than 1 million people rapidly secure cash to afford food and other vital needs, save their livestock and plant crops by April 2016 for the main planting season.

1.



Provide
cash relief

Cash-for-work will give families urgently needed income to buy food. The work will repair productive infrastructure prioritized by communities, such as:

- Water catchments to capture the next rains and maintain water availability for some months.
- Contour bunds to control soil erosion, promote water retention and increase production.

2.



Protect
livestock
assets

Emergency livestock support will keep animals alive, strong and productive, maintaining livestock prices, preserving vital assets, and related food and income sources:

- Vaccination and emergency supportive treatment to prevent the spread of disease, particularly *Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia*, reduce losses and maintain prices.
- Collapsible water tanks and prepositioned fodder seeds for sowing with the first rains to quickly regenerate pasture (i.e. within 3-6 weeks of planting).

3.



Restore
crop
production

Farmers need climate-smart inputs by April 2016 for the main *Gu* planting season:

- High performing, drought-tolerant seeds (cereal, pulse and vegetables).
- Land preparation support, such as tractor hours.

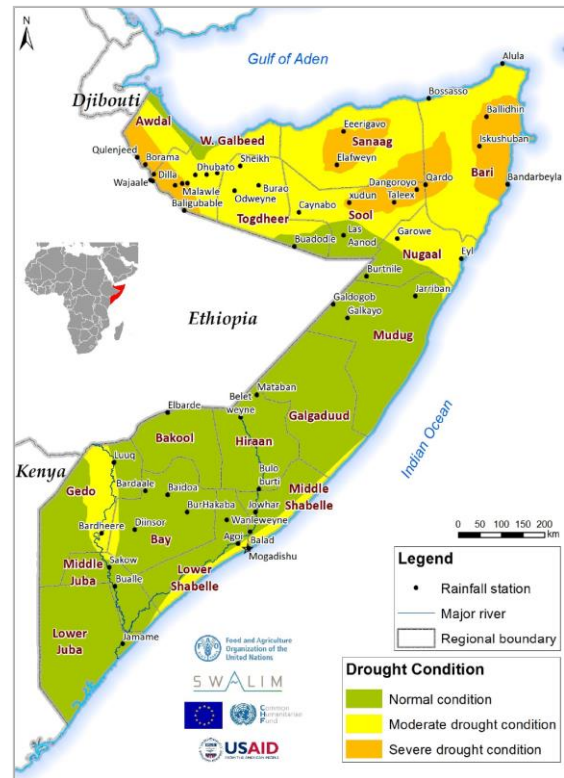
RAIN UPDATE – Deyr 2015 and Gu 2016

The good news: During *Deyr* (October-December 2015), southern and central parts of Somalia were fortunate not to experience severe flooding usually associated with El Niño, although some damage to standing crops and farmland did occur. Timely preparedness work to repair breakages and reinforce embankments along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers played a key role in protecting areas that would have otherwise been flooded. For example, FAO projects funded by the United Kingdom and the United States of America enabled the repair of 72 river breakages along the Shabelle through cash-for-work and the use of heavy machinery. Satellite images show that the repairs saved around 9 100 hectares of cropland from flooding and USD 6.7 million in crops – which is enough to feed 1.7 million people for one month. Moreover, abundant rains in central and southern areas were beneficial to all water-dependent sectors, including livestock and agriculture. In fact, cereal production, including off-season production expected in March, is estimated at 130 100 tonnes, which is 18 percent above the five-year average (2010-2014).

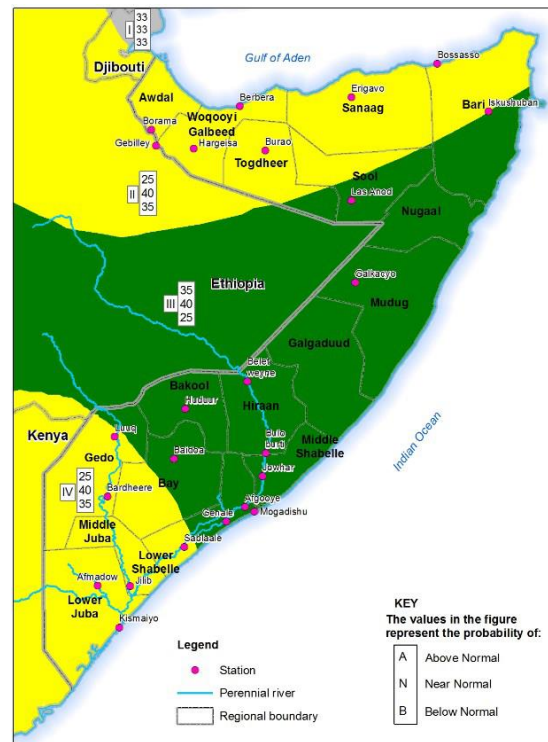
The bad news: The situation was far less favorable in the north, where El Niño conditions led to poor rains in much of Somaliland and Puntland. Below-average rainfall severely affected the *Gu/Karan* cereal harvest in Somaliland (October/November), estimated at 7 700 tonnes – 87 percent below the five-year average (2010-2014). Poor rains and drought conditions also led to a massive outmigration of livestock, rising water prices and a sharp increase in debt among poor households. Many of these pastoralists, as well as many from neighbouring Djibouti and Ethiopia, travelled with their livestock to the Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone of Awdal Region, which experienced improved pasture and water availability due to unseasonal moderate rains in November 2015 followed by near normal *Hays* rains in December. These resources will likely be exhausted soon.

Continuing concerns: According to climate forecasts for the Greater Horn of Africa in late February, the 2016 *Gu* rainy season for much of Somalia is expected to be within normal. However, there is increased likelihood of near normal to below normal rains (40 and 35 percent probability, respectively) in Somaliland, the northern parts of Puntland, Juba Valley and parts of Lower Shabelle (as shown in yellow on the Rainfall Outlook map). Proper use and conservation of rain water, and water harvesting are highly advised in these areas during the rainy season.

Drought condition map, February 2016, SWALIM (based on satellite and observed rainfall data)



Rainfall Outlook, March to May 2016, ICPAC



FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

The food security situation across Somalia remains alarming, and is being made worse by the drought in Somaliland and Puntland.

Nearly 4.7 million people – 38 percent of Somalis – are acutely food insecure and need humanitarian assistance through June 2016, according to FSNAU/FEWS NET joint countrywide seasonal assessment data released in February 2016. This includes 22 000 people in emergency (IPC Phase 4), 931 000 people in crisis (IPC Phase 3), and 3 700 000 people classified as stressed (IPC Phase 2). Internally displaced people and rural populations are disproportionately affected.

The main contributing factors to high food insecurity levels include the poor rainfall and drought conditions, trade disruption, new and protracted displacement and chronic poverty, among other factors. Acute malnutrition also remains high in many parts of the country, affecting 304 700 children under the age of five. Around one-quarter of acutely malnourished children are in Somaliland.

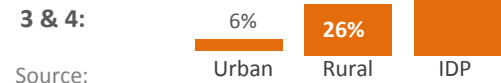
The food security and nutrition impact of the drought can already be seen in the most recent FSNAU assessment. Bari, Adwal and Sanaag have the highest prevalence of IPC Phases 3 and 4, after Banadir (22 percent). In these areas, one in ten people face emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity. People affected by the poor rains and drought conditions in the north need urgent assistance to prevent further deterioration to their food security and nutrition status.

38%

Nearly 4.7 million people – 38% of Somalis – are acutely food insecure.

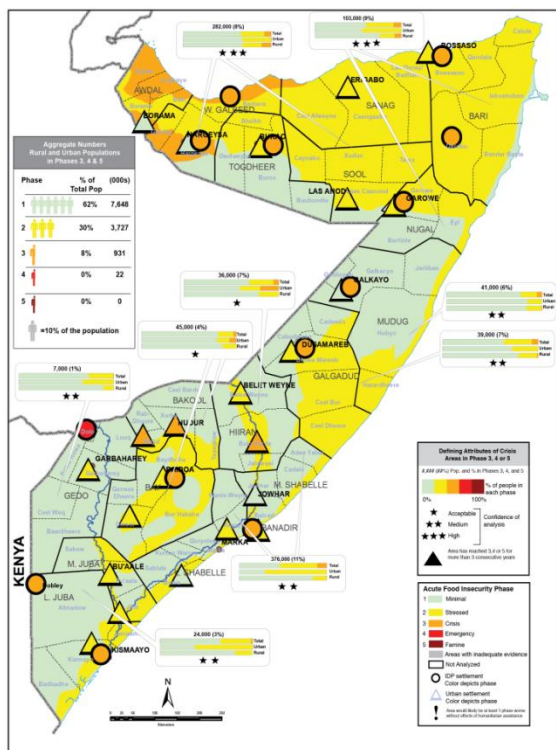
IPC Phase	People
4 - Emergency	22 000
3 - Crisis	931 000
2 - Stressed	3 700 000

People in IPC Phases 3 & 4:

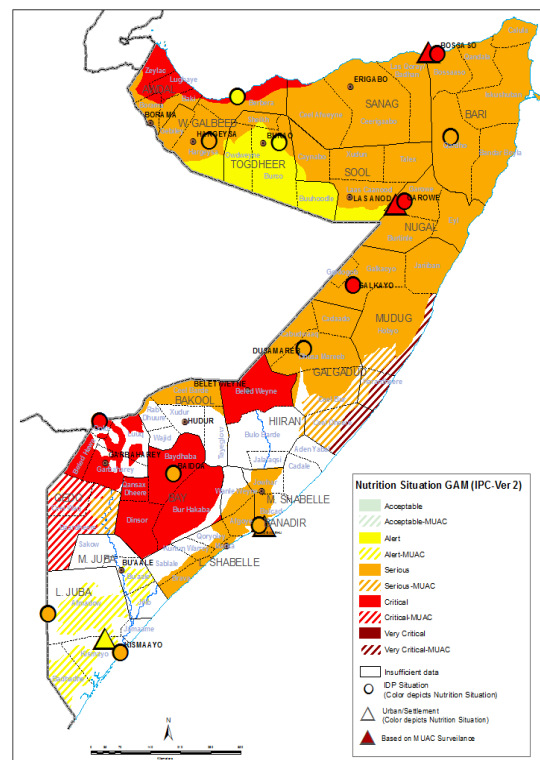


Source: FSNAU/FEWS NET

Acute Food Security Situation Overview: February-June 2016, Projection



Nutrition Situation Deyr 2015/16 February-April 2016, Projection



CHALLENGES TO FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

It is now *Jilaal* – Somalia’s main and harshest dry season (January-March). During this time, Somalis rely on remaining water and pasture from the preceding rainy season, and food and income from the preceding harvest. However, people have not seen sufficient rains for as long as two years in parts of Somaliland and their ability to cope has declined with each passing season. Most grazing lands are barren, wells are dry and crops have largely failed. Forecasts point to yet another season of average to below-average rains during *Gu*, when Somalia usually receives 75 percent of annual rain and produces 60 percent of its annual cereal output.







Last cereal harvest in agropastoral areas of Somaliland is estimated at 87% below average.

Around three-quarters of people in Somaliland and Puntland are pastoralists and agropastoralists, mainly farming under rainfed conditions. The 2015 cereal harvest in Somaliland is estimated at only 13 percent of an average year – a devastating shortfall – leaving farmers with no income and high debt. Acute water and pasture shortages also caused a mass exodus of livestock from central Puntland into, for example, parts of west Somaliland that received better rains. Drought-affected pastoralists from Ethiopia and Djibouti also fled there, putting massive strain on pasture and water resources that will likely soon be exhausted. The most vulnerable stayed behind, unable to afford the high cost of transport to reach areas with better conditions. FAO confirms the outbreak of *Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia* in the drought-affected areas. This will accelerate the morbidity and mortality of goats, which are already weakened and more susceptible to disease and infections.

The immediate and longer term threats to livelihoods will rise substantially if there are poor rains again this season and rural families do not receive the rapid support they need. Families urgently need cash to make up for lost income, pay off accumulated debt, refrain from selling productive assets and maintain their livelihoods. 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. Therefore, pastoralists need rapid veterinary support, water and pasture to keep their livestock healthy and productive. Infrastructure such as water harvesting and catchment structures need repair to make the most of the upcoming rains and production cycles. Poor crop production from the past seasons has reduced farmers’ own seed stocks. Farmers need quality seed to plant by April in order to harvest a cereal/pulse crop this year. Despite a poor rain forecast and the risk of a reduced harvest, farming remains their main source of food or income. Even a small harvest, or an early harvest which produces fodder for livestock and income, is better than the alternative: no food, no fodder, no income.

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 Somaliland and Puntland.

Value for money	 <p>Cash-for-work</p>	 <p>Livestock vaccination</p>	 <p>Farming inputs</p>
	<p>Cash-for-work provides immediate cash relief, while rebuilding infrastructure needed to restore livelihoods.</p>	<p>Small animals are a poor family’s most valuable assets, being a source of food, income and trade.</p>	<p>With USD 1.76 million in farming inputs and related support, farmers can produce around 6 350 tonnes of food.</p>
	<p>Each rehabilitated water catchment can store enough water for more than 2 000 animals for three months.</p>	<p>The cost of vaccinating one goat is around 1% of its replacement value.</p>	<p>That is enough to feed more than 160 000 people for three months.</p>
			

RAPID RESULTS DROUGHT RESPONSE PLAN

FAO's Rapid Results Drought Response Plan aims to mobilize USD 17 million to help more than 1 million people in Somaliland and Puntland. It is a results-driven resilience-based plan, focused on helping families achieve quick economic gains, improved access to water, livestock preservation and a harvest in 2016. These are short-term results that can and need to be achieved for families to cope with and emerge from the crisis.



USD 17 million



171 450 households
(1 028 700 people)



Plant by April
Protect livestock &
inject cash immediately

The activities are time-sensitive – bound to Somalia's agricultural calendar, the *Gu* rainy season and families' pressing need for cash to afford critical supplies of food and other essential needs. For example, if farmers in Somaliland do not plant by April, they will not have a cereal harvest until the second half of 2017 and may resort to harmful coping strategies.

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 El Niño Response Plan and wider Resilience Programme, which works with communities to prevent, prepare for and withstand shocks and crises, while keeping development gains on track. The Plan also links to the "Call for Aid: El Niño and Drought in Somalia", launched by OCHA on 31 March 2016.

IMPACT

Pastoral and agropastoral households in Somaliland and Puntland withstand and recover from drought conditions quickly, food security levels are maintained and levels of internally displaced people do not increase.

PRIORITIES

1

Provide cash relief



Put cash in people's pockets, while increasing water availability and access. Cash-for-work activities will provide much needed cash to severely affected households, immediately helping them to meet critical needs such as for water and food. At the same time, the work performed will rehabilitate productive infrastructure that communities need in order to emerge and recover from the drought conditions, by improving water availability and access. For example, the timely rehabilitation of water catchments will be crucial to capture *Gu* rains. Contour bunds will be constructed, which help to channel harvested water to the catchments and regenerate pasture. Importantly, the bunds control soil erosion and increase water retention, which is crucial following very arid conditions. Shallow wells (3 to 5 m deep and 2 m in diameter) will also be developed around the catchments, where families can draw water for minor irrigation and domestic use. Irrigation canals will be rehabilitated to water larger production areas.



USD 9.9 million



14 500 households



16 districts: Borama, Lughaye, Zeylac, Baki, Hargeisa, Berbera, Gebiley, Caynabo, Taalex, Ceerigabo, Ceelafweyn, Laasqoray, Caluula, Iskushuban, Qandala and Qardho.

Result

Rapid income generated to meet immediate food security needs, while rehabilitating productive rural infrastructure for improved water access and use.

2 Protect livestock assets



Save 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. So far, the response to confirmed outbreaks of *Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia* (CCPP) has been limited. Immediate funding is needed to carry out CCPP vaccinations for 6 million goats. A further 1.5 million animals will receive emergency supportive treatment against infectious diseases, endo- and ecto-parasites as well as blood parasites. FAO also aims to provide collapsible water tanks in strategic locations, such as livestock vaccination sites, water points and along migratory routes. Pasture and animal feed stocks are increasingly scarce, and depleted in some regions. It is critical to preposition improved fodder seeds to be sown with the first rains to regenerate pasture as quickly as possible (i.e. within 3-6 weeks of sowing).



USD 3.2 million



150 000 households



Target districts: All districts in Somaliland and Puntland.

Result

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

3 Restore crop production



Ensure planting by April, and a harvest by July 2016. It is critical that farmers plant in time during the *Gu* – the main planting season in Somalia. Farmers need quality inputs to maximize their yields, following near-total crop failure from the last planting season. The poor harvest not only means less food produced, but also fewer seeds saved for planting this year. Using voucher-based approaches, farmers will receive high-performing seeds to cultivate 1 hectare with sorghum, cowpea or sesame, alongside three tractor hours to prepare their land as well as bags to safely store their crop. Households in peri-urban areas with access to irrigation will receive seeds to cultivate a wide variety of vegetables. These will offer quick income and nutrition benefits to vulnerable families.



USD 2.4 million



6 950 households



7 districts: Hargeisa, Gabiley, Baki, Burao, Boroma (Somaliland); Bossaso, Iskushuban (Puntland).

Result

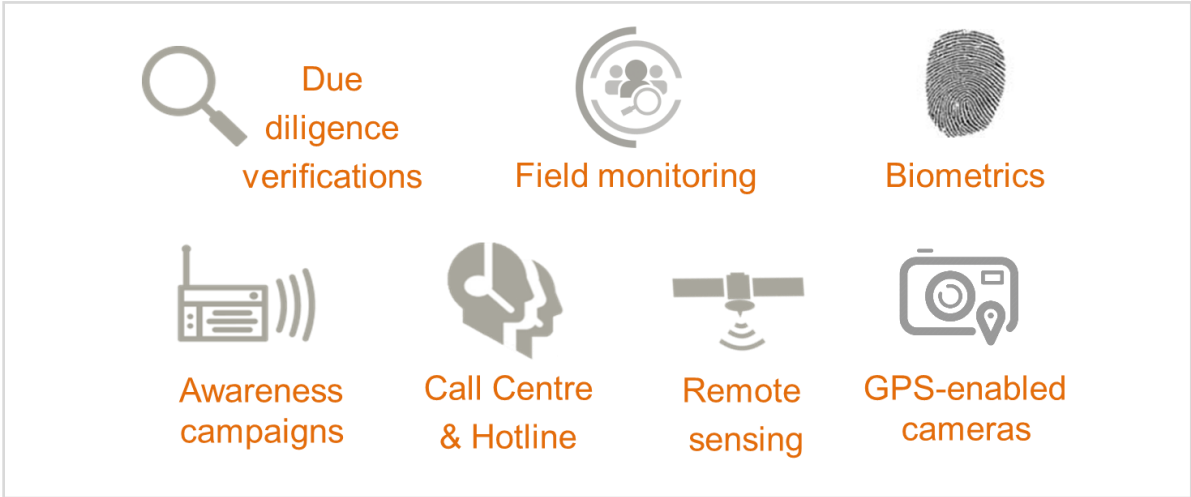
A harvest, and related food and income, secured by farmers in 2016.

BUDGET

Priorities	Results	Target beneficiaries	Requested (USD)
1. Provide cash relief through cash for work	Rapid income generated to meet immediate food security needs, while rehabilitating productive infrastructure for improved water access and use.	14 500 households	9 889 669
2. Protect livestock assets through vaccination, emergency supportive treatment, pasture regeneration and water storage	Livestock assets, and related food and income sources, preserved.	150 000 households (8 million livestock)	3 200 000
3. Restore crop production through agricultural input support	A harvest, and related food and income, secured by farmers in 2016.	6 950 households	2 440 000
Sub-total		169 450 households	15 529 669
Indirect costs (10% of sub-total)			1 552 967
TOTAL REQUEST			17 082 636

SPENDING MONEY WELL

FAO benefits from a robust monitoring and evaluation function within its FAO Somalia team and a comprehensive compliance system that reduces risks and maximizes results. Together, these systems enable FAO to work in areas where many others are unable to operate, and to ensure that money is being spent well, benefits are being received by intended beneficiaries, and that the best possible results and impacts are being achieved. These systems employ multiple tools, including:



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