

Alert note**Drought in East Horn of Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia) May 2022.****Completed by:** Susan Ndakalu ACT Kenya Forum Coordinator.**Date completed:** 16th May 2022**Forum:** Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia.**Type of emergency:** Severe drought**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** Slow onset emergency. Drought alarm raised from October 2020**1. The nature of the emergency**

The Horn and East Africa region has been hit by a severe drought. The rains in October -December 2020 were below average, March – May and October to December rains for 2021 were also below average while March – May 2022 rains are scanty and below average. The situation is now moving to a critical stage

With drought being cyclic in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, there have been close to three and in some areas four failed rainy seasons. In Ethiopia, 5.5-6.5million people are affected, Kenya 2.8million are affected and in Somalia 6 million people affected¹. The food security situation of these populations falls between integrated phased classification (IPC) of 3-4 bordering on catastrophic phase. The populations in phase 3 are rapidly moving into an emergency and crisis phase of IPC 4 due to the livestock losses and stretched coping mechanisms.

The number of people in Somalia affected by drought has risen from 4.9 million in March 2022 to about 6.1 million in April 2022. Nearly 760,000 are displaced and in urgent need of shelter, food, water, and access to services such as health.

In Ethiopia, over 286,000 people have also been forced to migrate in search of food, water, and employment due to the worsening drought. UNOCHA estimates close to 1.5 million² animals have died. In Kenya pastoralists are migrating with animals in search of pasture and water; while women, children, the elderly, and disabled are being left behind to fend for themselves³. Further to this, the scarce resources, animal migration and ethnic tensions are escalating conflicts in these zones, leading to loss of lives, animals, displacement and increasing the already compromised reality of the affected communities.

Considering the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic downtime, food and fuel prices have shot up significantly. This makes the most basic food and needs almost unreachable for these populations.

Despite extensive advocacy across the region on the dire situation the need to respond early, there has been little funding coming through for humanitarian action.

¹ 2022, April, FEWNET report

² 2022, April, UNOCHA Report

³ 2022, April, UNOCHA Flash Appeal document

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

This is a medium to large scale emergency. With close to 15million people affected by drought, with varying levels of conflict and the escalating food prices, this can soon become a more severe situation.

Communities in the Horn of Africa are experiencing one of the most severe droughts in their memory as they brace for the prospect of a fourth consecutive poor season, which could lead to an unprecedented climate emergency in the region. Between 15 and 16 million people are waking each day to elevated levels of acute food insecurity and rising malnutrition across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and some areas in Somalia are now at risk of famine⁴.

Kenya:

Marsabit County– This area falls under the arid lands. The entire county is affected, however Laisamis and North Horr are two counties that have been hit the hardest in the county. Over 200,000 people are adversely affected by the drought. The malnutrition, Mid arm upper circumference measures (MUAC) shows 16% of the under-five are between moderately and severely malnourished. On the food consumption score (FCS), 8.10% have a poor score and 54.6% have borderline score. Over half the population is having insufficient food access. Distances to be covered to access water for human and livestock has increased from the 19kms to 35kms. This has adversely affected livestock health as the travel in search of water and pasture in severe weather conditions is leading to large livestock deaths. The area is seen littered with animal carcasses.

Ethiopia:

South Omo, Southern and Eastern Oromia and Afar: These regions have been adversely affected by the drought. There are other regions like the Somali region, is one of the most affected along with Oromia (particularly Southern and South-eastern Oromia) and Benshungul Gumez. There has been more response in the Somali and other parts of the South of Ethiopia. In Oromia and South Omo, there has been extremely limited interventions. In Afar, the area has not had rainfall for 4 years consecutively, with the Northern conflict, displacement, loss of assets, malnutrition continues to rise. Like in Kenya, over a million livestock have died due to the drought. Communities continue to migrate in search of casual labour, selling off their assets, children dropping out of school to support the parents in either childcare or jobs. Health care services are compromised. Currently with the macro-economic situation, the high conflict in various locations, the food prices have escalated. This is further compromising the access to food security for these populations. Deteriorating prices of livestock and livestock products disavouring the drought-stricken pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities who rely on livestock rearing. Currently, this is affecting the communities in the lowland Oromia and Somali Regions in Ethiopia and the Afar region.

Somalia:

According to the FSNU report in April 2022 on Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) and Famine Risk analyses stated that worsening drought is putting some areas across Somalia at risk of Famine (IPC Phase 5) if the current April to June Gu season rains fail, food prices continue to rise sharply. Humanitarian assistance is not scaled up to reach the country's most vulnerable populations. These areas include Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiran, Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central, Bay Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral, and IDP settlements in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Dhusamareb. However, scattered light rains have been reported in the southern parts of Somalia while the northern parts remain dry. River levels along the Juba and Shabelle within the historical minimum have started to increase. This has come when at least 90% of the water sources across the country have dried up. In Banadir, only 30% of the 572 IDP sites have access to water compared to 48% of IDP sites nationally. The drought has increased gender-based violence incidents led by the water scarcity causing women to trek long distances in search of water and food for their families. Lower earnings and food insecurity has exposed women to the risk of exploitation.

Characteristics of targeted affected populations	M	F	TOTAL
Kenya-Marsabit: Pastoralists, North Horr and Laisamis	100,000	150,000	250000
Ethiopia- South Omo/Oromia- Hararghe and Afar	200,000	300,000	500000
Ethiopia Oromia (East Bale and Bale Zones) and Somali Region (Awbarre and Kebribeyah Woredas bordering Somalia)	250,000	315,000	565000
Somalia-Puntland, Southwest, Hirshabele, Galmudug states, and Banadir region.	450,000	600,000	1,050,000

Kenya: Marsabit county is one of the most affected locations with the drought. There are pockets of populations in IPC 4 – particularly in Laisamis and North Horr. This is a pastoralists community. So far, a million animals have died due to the drought. Close to 386,000 people⁵ are reported to be in IPC 4 (nationally but a majority in the Northern Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) region). Adverse food coping strategies, with people eating once a day, others on alternate days. Women, children, and the elderly are left to fend for themselves, as men migrate with livestock.

Ethiopia: In the mentioned regions close to 2.5million people are in need, so far only 769,946⁶ have been reached. The drought has exacerbated existing fragilities by deepening food insecurity and malnutrition as well as straining communities’ resources heavily reliant on the outputs from livestock⁷. People are migrating to urban centres and bigger towns in search of jobs, this includes men, women, and children. UNOHCA estimates the migrating populations number to be close to 286,000⁸. School dropouts are high. Crops have failed and animals have died in large numbers. With the ongoing tensions and conflict in the different regions of the country, food security continues to deteriorate. The health status of the people remains fragile as food insecurity prevails

Somalia: The worsening drought situation in the country has been escalating to acute food insecurity since the beginning of 2022, with an estimated 4.8 million people (or 31% of the total population) already experiencing Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or higher) outcomes, according to FSCNU Famine Risk Analysis. The population consists of six areas of Hawd Pastoral of Central and Hiran, Addun Pastoral of Northeast and Central, Bay Bakool Low Potential Agropastoral, and IDP settlements in Mogadishu, Baidoa, and Dhusamareb. The other areas of humanitarian concern include Southern Agropastoral, Southern Rain-fed Agro-pastoral of Middle and Lower Juba, and Togdheer Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The IDP settlements in Burao, Garowe, Belet Weyne, Doolow, and Kismaayo face an Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between April and June 2022. The affected people have risen from 4.9 million in March to about 6.1 million in April 2022, in which 760,000 people were displaced and in urgent need of shelter, food, water, and access to health services. According to the UNHCR update report on Somalia's Drought response in April, 500,000 people were displaced because of drought in the first three months of 2022, in addition to the 874,000 people already reported as displaced in Somalia in 2021, among which 245,000 were primarily associated with drought (PRMN data-March). Alarming projections suggest that up to 1.4 million people could be displaced within six months.

⁵ 2022, UNOCHA

⁶ 2022, April 14th, UNOCHA brief

⁷ [Humanitarian Bulletin, May 2022](#)

⁸ As above

3. Consequences of the Drought (short and long-term) Including livelihoods, protection.

Kenya: the populations continue being at risk, as they are losing livestock at a high rate. Crops in this area did not yield a harvest as cropping failed. As the drought continues and inter-ethnic conflict continues to increase. With this, the loss of lives and animals increases. Already animals have died. With diminishing resources, asset decline, the human lives will be lost, children continue to be malnourished. This increases poverty and adverse consequences are seen like early marriages and migration. Regenerating livelihoods will be a challenge if key livestock are not maintained.

Ethiopia: Like Kenya, there has been large scale loss of crops and livestock. This has forced people to move. According, to FEWSNET⁹, the lower parts for Borana and Afar are now moving into IPC 4 which is an emergency. With the loss of animals, food security in the areas is highly compromised. Child malnutrition is escalating rapidly. This will continue to have adverse effects on human health and lives, pushing them into poverty in a fragile context with real difficulty in regeneration of livelihoods.

With the present levels of loss, it will take a long time for the affected populations to recover. This disaster is going to affect the gains achieved over the last couple of years and will lead to a significant decline in levels of food security, livelihoods, human health and nutrition and loss of assets.

Somalia: The worsening drought has consequences of crop failures and livestock deaths, impacting livelihoods and food supply. Increase in illnesses and mortality related to poor hygiene, malnutrition, and lack of water, particularly clean water for drinking. Elevated prices of food commodities, child labour due to school dropouts, and growth of recruitments to terrorist groups, child early and forced marriage, deaths, and instability can be long-term consequences of droughts.

4. Local and national capacity

The circumstances are dire. People are migrating, children and adults are engaging in casual labour, livestock assets are either dying or being sold at a low price. Malnutrition rates are high, and reports suggest they are over the 15% GAM rate mark¹⁰. AT LEAST 35% of the screened children fell under the critical stage – suggesting that acute malnutrition is high. The coping mechanisms of these communities are totally stretched, and the adverse coping mechanisms are being applied, including eating one meal in 2 days for adults. In Borana an increase in child marriage, used as a desperate coping mechanism by drought-affected families to generate income through dowry, has been recorded¹¹.

In Kenya, the National Drought Management Authority coordinate the responses. They already report that the response is under-funded, and the needs are high. There is a low-level response by NGOs, the area remains underserved.

In Ethiopia, due to the conflict, there are large pockets of underserved responses. The Somali region is having a level of response; however, the other areas are lacking. Access to food, wash, animal feed are areas that have gaps.

The Somalia government has developed a drought response plan that outlines the priority needs, gaps, and strategies for humanitarian partners to address the drought and work towards averting a famine response in 2022. All interventions outlined in the plan have been incorporated into the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan. The coordination between the Federal Government and state-level authorities has increased, allowing humanitarian partners to progressively agree on the nature and scale of the drought response and to improve overall accountability.

Ethiopia has experienced large-scale conflict in the Northern region. This has severely affected the resources for other sectors and emergencies. The Government has made attempts to respond to the affected populations, however the ability is limited. In Kenya, the contingency plans have been activated, and remain underfunded.

⁹ 2022, March, FEWSNET – March- May forecast

¹⁰ As above

¹¹ [The Guardian, May 2022](#)

Somalia has updated the humanitarian Response plan for 2022, which requires US\$1.46 billion to reach 5.5 million people across all seventy-four districts. The coordination mechanism at the government and humanitarian partners levels is activated to collaborate on droughts response efforts.

The international agencies and the UN have issued several messages and advocated on the crisis within the region. A flash appeal has been launched and \$1.4 million has been pledged, however little has been yielded.

Donors have pledged US\$1.39 billion for humanitarian and development response to the drought ravaging the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia during a high-level round table in Geneva on 26 April. The event was co-hosted by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and with the participation of senior representatives from the Governments of Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia¹².

In Somalia, the NGO consortium issued Joint NGO Appeal Letters to UNSG and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation for urgent action regarding the possibility of famine in Somalia in 2022.

The cluster systems are active however there is limited funding allocated to this emergency and fund raising remains a challenge. UNOCHA is beginning to allocate small allocations to respond to this. As mentioned in the earlier sections the response is small.

A Drought Response Task force has been activated in Ethiopia by the Agriculture Cluster, led by FAO. Monthly coordination meetings are held, and monthly dashboards are published to coordinate response efforts.

5.Key needs and gaps

There is a need to support the intervention in locations and sectors that are underfunded. The main gap in the locations is that the response is underfunded. There is a huge gap in human and animal access to water, ability to purchase food or basic items, to support livelihoods and in food security – in terms of animal health, there is a need treatment of basic diseases, October -December 2020 -Below average rains

March – May and October to December 2021 – below average rainfalls in most locations

March – May 2022 rains, so far are scanty and below average. The situation is now moving to a critical support communities with short maturing vegetables and drought resistant crop seeds should the rains increase in the coming months. Survivors of gender-based violence have limited access to specialized life-saving services, including medical and psychosocial support. There is a lack of basic hygiene and sanitary materials, and food insecurity has exposed women and girls to the risk of sexual exploitation, harassment, and abuse.

Priority interventions by Agriculture Task Force members in Ethiopia are:

- Livestock feed distributions for core breeding animals
- Support the forage production
- Livestock water points rehabilitation
- Veterinary support vaccination, treatment, and extension services
- Commercial and emergency destocking
- Cash assistance to meet the immediate needs

-The numbers of people who are continuing to have a decline in assets and food security.

-Future funding

-food assistance and livelihood assets.

-water for human and livestock

-GBV survivors lack information on available services that can be accessed. However, partners have been disseminating information on referral pathways to enable more beneficiaries to access life-saving information.

¹² [UNOCHA, April 26th, 2022.](#)

-Lack of information related to the adoption of appropriate hygiene and sanitation behaviours and their role in preventing disease outbreaks.
 -Lack of information on safe alternatives for survival instead of the negative coping strategies that put more pressure on families

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
Christian Aid – Kenya	Marsabit	Cash, animal health, WASH, accountability, and safeguarding		\$800,000
Church World Service-Kenya				\$ 300,000
Christian Aid-Ethiopia	Afar, Hararghe-Oromia South Omo	WASH, cash and food security/livelihoods, accountability, and safeguarding		\$1,000,000
Swiss Church Aid / HEKS Ethiopia	Oromia (Borana), SNNPR (South Omo), Somali (Liben & Dawa)	WASH; access to seeds, forage, and animal feed; multipurpose cash; protection		\$1,000,000
LWF Ethiopia	Oromia (East Bale and Bale Zones) and Somali Region (Awbarre and Kebribeyah Woredas bordering Somalia)	WASH, Multi-Purpose Cash, livelihoods (crop seeds, animal feed and animal health), Shelter NFIs, and protection including CBPS		\$1,200,000
Somalia Forum	Puntland, Southwest, Hirshabele,	WASH, PEACE, CASH PROGRAMMING, FOOD SECURITY,		\$1,500,000

	Galmudug states, and Banadir region.	EDUCATION and GBV, MEAL		
Hungarian Interchurch Aid-Ethiopia	Afar, Borena, East Harege	WASH, food security, Livelihood recovery, Cash, and livestock treatment		\$1,300,000

1. Potential responses

Member	Geographical locations	Potential responses
<u>ACT Kenya Forum</u> -Christian Aid, Church World Service).	Marsabit	Cash, water rehabilitation and support, animal feeds/health
<u>ACT Ethiopia Forum</u> -Christian Aid	South Omo, Hararghe Oromia, afar	Cash, water systems, animal feeds/health, short maturing vegetables and crops
<u>ACT Ethiopia Forum</u> -Swiss Church Aid / HEKS.	South Omo, Borana, Liben and Dawa	WASH; access to seeds, forage, and animal feed; multipurpose cash; protection
<u>ACT Ethiopia Forum</u> -LWF Ethiopia	-Oromia Region (East Bale and Bale Zones) -Somali Region (Awbarre and Kebribeyah Woredas bordering Somalia)	WASH, Multi-Purpose Cash, livelihoods (crop seeds, animal feed and animal health), Shelter NFIs, and protection including CBPS
<u>ACT Somalia Forum</u> (Consolidated responses - Diakonia Sweden, FCA, LWF, NCA, DKH)	Gedo region Balet Hawa, Dollow, Garbaharey, Luuq and Bardera districts	WASH: Improve access to water GBV: Provide survivor-centred case management and PSS to survivors, Unconditional cash, and voucher assistance to extremely vulnerable women. EDUCATION; to restore the loss of learning opportunities. Alternative livelihoods for agropastoral farmers including DRR and DRM interventions.