

## Alert notes

*Somalia, Drought 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025*

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**Date completed:** 4<sup>th</sup>, December 2025

**Forum:** ACT Somalia Forum.

**Type of emergency:** Drought

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):**

### Funding Survey

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request that funding members please fill out this [survey form](#) to help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

#### 1. The nature of the emergency

Somalia is facing a rapidly worsening drought caused by La Niña, negative Indian Ocean Dipole, and Climate Change ([Relief Web](#)), making fragile communities vulnerable and food insecure.

The drought is characterized by below-average rainfall, severe water shortages, depleted pasture, declining livestock conditions, and weakened coping mechanisms resulting in four consecutive failed rainfall seasons (2024 and 2025), according to [OCHA](#).

Conflict and insecurity, particularly in Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, Gedo, Bari, and Lower Shabelle, have further compounded the crisis by disrupting traditional migration routes, limiting access to water and markets, and restricting humanitarian operations, according to [Relief Web](#), in addition to funding shortfalls.

#### 2. The impact and scale of the emergency

Based on the forum's initial assessment, the drought crisis would be a large-scale national emergency, as declared on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025, by the [Somali government](#), which is calling all stakeholders to mobilize resources to scale up lifesaving support. This came as worsening rainfall deficits, atypically dry conditions, and deteriorating livestock productivity signalled a sharp rise in humanitarian needs.

The effect of the drought is countrywide, with Central and Southern Areas severely affected. According to [ACAPS](#), 16 districts are severely impacted. Other areas affected include Southern Somalia, Juba land, and Northern Somalia.

The most affected groups include women, girls, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), minority clans, pastoral and agro-pastoral households who have lost livestock and income sources. Women and girls have heightened exposure to Gender Based Violence (GBV), increased unpaid care burdens, and greater protection risks as they travel long distances to access water. Children are experiencing spikes in acute malnutrition, interrupted education, early marriage, and child labor, as households struggle to cope.

The affected population is facing widespread hunger due to rising food prices, dwindling water and pasture, resulting in lack of access to clean and safe water, disrupted livelihoods, and significant displacement, as well as health concerns like outbreaks of acute watery diarrhea/cholera ([UN](#)) and declining livestock productivity are deepening food access challenges for vulnerable households.

The short-term consequences include severely depleted water sources, resulting in water shortage, eroded pasture, undermining both pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods due to limited forage, resulting in livestock stress and reduced milk production.

Livelihoods have been affected by failed harvests and continued pastoral deterioration. The [IPC](#) estimates that 1.85 million children aged 6–59 months are expected to suffer acute malnutrition and need urgent treatment between July 2025 and June 2026, representing nearly half of all children in this age group in Somalia. Economic effects due to a sharp decline in agricultural yields and increased food prices, exacerbating an already fragile situation, are often marked by conflict.

### 3. Local and national capacity

Families are resorting to negative coping strategies such as skipping meals, withdrawing children from school, distress-selling productive livelihoods, or splitting family members to seek labor opportunities. Coping mechanisms include Migration and displacement, reducing food consumption, the sale of livestock, dependence on emergency aid from neighbours, local sources/remittances, borrowing, early marriage, and child labor.

At the community level, traditional and community structures like village committees, IDP camp committees, water management committees, women’s groups, youth groups, religious leaders, and elders exist. Local and national NGOs, including ACT Alliance members and partners, are present in key districts severely affected, providing an important delivery channel for any scale-up of assistance.

At the Federal level, the Somali government is represented by the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), which is an agency mandated to lead and coordinate national disaster response. At the state level, each government has a humanitarian affairs ministry that coordinates with UN Cluster systems to implement the national humanitarian response plan. At state and district levels, ministries responsible for humanitarian affairs, water, livestock, and health, along with governors and mayors, are coordinating local response committees, prioritising emergency water trucking, limited food distributions, and advocacy to national and international partners for additional support.

Somalia also has a large humanitarian footprint and under the Humanitarian Needs Response Plan [2025 HNRP](#), 374 operational partners (UN agencies, international and national NGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent, and others) are planning to assist 4.57 million people with lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance across all regions.

The country also has a fully established humanitarian coordination mechanism led by the Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SODMA) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), supported by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), an Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), and eleven formal clusters (Food Security, WASH, Health, Nutrition, Shelter/NFI, CCCM, Protection, and sub-clusters for GBV, Child Protection, and HLP, plus Logistics and Multi-Purpose Cash). Accordingly, the 2025 HNRP also confirms that coordination is being decentralised through Area-Based Coordination (ABC) and Operational Cells (OCs) to strengthen sub-national coordination and promote more integrated response at district and regional levels, while clusters retain their role in standard-setting and technical guidance.

UN agencies have warned of rapidly escalating hunger, displacement, and service disruptions, while OCHA’s release of US\$10 million from CERF funding for 603,000 people underscores the scale and urgency of the situation, and partners are expanding WASH services, nutrition screening and treatment, and cash or in-kind support to drought-affected households.

### 4. Key needs and gaps

According to several rapid needs assessments, including flash reports of Area-based Coordination (ABC) committees, the gaps include access to safe water, food, emergency health and education services, nutrition, livelihood support services, and psychosocial support. In addition to emergency agriculture and livestock assistance and protection.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an <b>X</b> 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.*

#### 5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond:

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
Finn Church Aid (FCA)	Baidoa & hard-to-reach SWS districts-SWS of Somalia; Togdheer region of Somaliland	MPCA, WASH, EiE, Protection
Diakonia Sweden-(DS)	Godobjiran and Isku-shuban districts-Puntland State of Somalia	WASH and Food Security
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	Qardho district-Puntland state Luuq and Belet Hawa districts-Jubaland state of Somalia	WASH, MPCA, Protection, Food security, and Education
Lutheran World Federation-(LWF)	Kismayo, Dhoobley, Dollow-Jubaland state of Somalia Baidoa South-West State	Education in Emergency. WASH, Shelter, Protection, Food Security, and Livelihoods.
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)	Hoby, Ceelbuur, Galkacyo, and Dhusamareeb Districts, Galmudug State of Somalia	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Emergency Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and Emergency Food Security Assistance.

#### 6. Potential responses

ACT Somalia Forum members maintain well-established field offices and will leverage their longstanding operational presence to respond according to the needs from situation analysis, based on reports from OCHA, FEWSNET and international NGOS and recommendations from exist humanitarian structures, Area-Based Coordination (ABC) primary clusters and government appeals, ACT Somalia forum will focus on WASH, Food Security, Education in emergency and protection as follows: