



## IN NUMBERS



**50%, 70%**

An extended and severe drought reduced last year's main *Gu* cereal harvest to 50% below average; production in the secondary *Deyr* season was down 70%.



**6.7 million**

Over half the population facing acute food insecurity (IPC phases 2, 3 and 4)



**2.2 million**

2/3 of people experiencing stressed to emergency levels of food insecurity are rural – a threefold increase from mid-2016. 9 out of 10 people facing famine are rural.



**714 000**

People displaced due to drought since November 2016

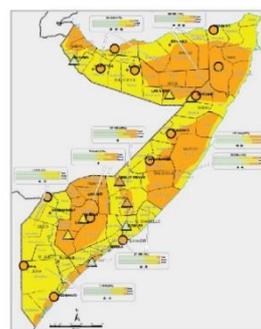
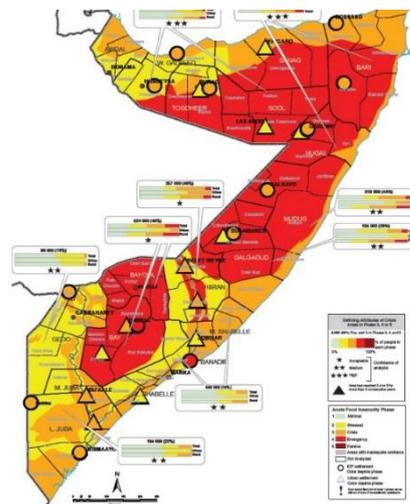
## KEY MESSAGES

- **Rural livelihoods are people's best defence against famine.** Interventions that reinforce rural livelihoods meet immediate food needs, mitigate displacement pressures, reduce the overall humanitarian burden and lay the groundwork for recovery.
- **FAO is delivering large-scale, strategic combinations of assistance to rural people at high risk of hunger,** providing them with cash transfers for food and water purchases, plus the means to continue farming and veterinary care to keep their animals alive.
- **Key FAO deliveries since the start of the crisis include** over USD 10 million in direct cash payments to rural families, lifesaving veterinary treatments for 14.7 million animals, 1 000 tonnes of seed to almost 40 000 farmers ahead of the *Gu* growing season, and 14+ million litres of water supplied to livestock.
- ***Gu* season rains started late and have so far been mixed, raising the risk of yet another reduced harvest in July.** Continued and scaled-up **support for rural communities through the rest of 2017 will be necessary** to prevent worsening food insecurity and keep livelihoods intact.

## MAP

### INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION

Mostly likely scenario from April through June 2017 (FSNAU and FEWS NET, 9 May 2017)



(Previous outlook for January 2017 [FSNAU and FEWS NET, 2 February 2017])

## BACKGROUND

**Extended drought and consecutive poor harvests have impacted rural livelihoods and food security in Somalia, pushing the country to the brink of famine.** Some 6.7 million people currently face acute food insecurity (IPC Phases 2, 3 & 4), with the majority – 68 percent – of severely food insecure people (IPC phases 3 & 4) in rural areas (2.2 million). Rural areas are home to nine in ten people at greatest risk. The worst has so far been averted via a combination of interventions, including cash transfers and livelihood support delivered by FAO at massive scale in rural areas. The April–June rains are critical to Somalia's main *Gu* growing season and help rejuvenate rangelands; this year they started late and have been below average in most areas. Precipitation did allow crops to germinate, though yields in rainfed areas will depend on the level and distribution of rain during the remainder of the season. Forecasting suggests precipitation is tapering off and will end up below-average. Still, rains have improved rangeland conditions and partially filled water catchments, providing some relief for pastoralists and their livestock. Animal body conditions are expected to improve. Disease continues to compound needs and impact food security, and displacement has somewhat slowed recently due to a variety of factors.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

In 2016, farmers suffered back-to-back reduced cereal harvests – 50 percent losses in the main *Gu* season followed by 70 losses in *Deyr* season at year-end. Low production left farmers without seeds to plant, cut wage labour income and increased food and water prices. In pastoral areas where families rely entirely on livestock to survive, multiple failed rains have taken a heavy toll on rangelands and water supplies. Pastoralists are struggling to keep their animals healthy and alive. Low-weight or sick livestock do not produce as much milk and their value as trade items used to buy food and other essentials is greatly reduced. Poor households in northern and central areas have reported herd losses of 40-60 percent in the first half of 2017; in the south, 20-40 percent.

Two critical needs for farming families ahead of this year's *Gu* season have been cash for purchasing food for immediate survival, plus accessing seeds in order to stay at home and plant rather than relocate. FAO has delivered 1 000 tonnes of cereal and vegetable seed, and over USD 10 million in cash to at-risk farming households so far. Cash support will continue through *Gu*. But with July/August harvests likely to be below average, similar assistance targeted to vulnerable families will be necessary in the lead-up to the next rainy season, *Deyr* (expected to begin in October). For pastoralists, veterinary care has been key to keeping their animals alive. They will need continued aid to keep surviving animals alive, as well as support aimed at restoring their livestock to full productivity.

## FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

### PRIORITY ACTIVITIES MOVING FORWARD

FAO continues to target support to meet the needs of rural people at highest risk (in IPC Phases 3&4) through:

- Cash-for-work and unconditional cash relief programmes to put much-needed survival money in people's pockets and rehabilitate community agricultural infrastructure;
- Seeds and other agricultural inputs to farmers plus cash payments so they can buy food until their harvest comes in; and
- Veterinary care for pastoralists' animals at massive scale (and, as needed, water) to keep livestock alive.

Going forward, given a deteriorating food security situation that is affecting more people in more locations, support for rural livelihoods must be continued – and scaled up. Options include:

- More cash-based interventions, including strategic combinations of *cash plus* agricultural inputs ahead of *Deyr*;
- Expanding aid to pastoralists to include nutritional support for livestock (e.g. mineral blocks, range cubes, etc.), as well as much-needed vaccinations; and
- Additional efforts to build the resilience of rural communities to current pressures future shocks.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AS OF 14 JUNE 2017



**USD 10+ million** injected into Somalia's economy via cash payments to 450 000 families.



**14.7 million animals** treated for parasites, illness and injury, benefiting 2.2 million people.



**1 000 tonnes** of sorghum, maize, cowpea and vegetable seed distributed for *Gu* planting.

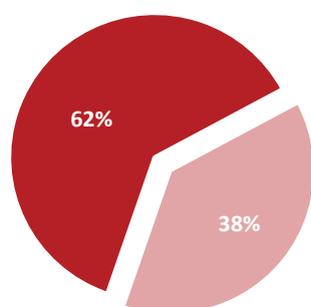


**14+ million litres** of water delivered to scores of sites across Somalia to sustain livestock.



**204** agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation projects (water catchments, irrigation canals, soil bunds), with 149 more ongoing.

### FUNDING



- Funding to-date: USD 99 million
- Funding gap: USD 61 million

**FAO requires**  
USD 160 million

**To assist**  
840 900 rural people in IPC 3 &4

### APPEAL AND RESPONSE TO-DATE

Under its Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan, FAO has appealed for USD 160 million to support livelihoods in Somalia; with USD 99 million raised to date, this plan is currently 62 percent funded.

Generous backing is being provided by the United States of America (USAID OFDA/FFP, USD 31.5 million), the World Bank (USD 28.4 million), the United Kingdom (DFID, USD 19.2 million), the European Union (ECHO, USD 7.5 million), Sweden (USD 5.4 million), CERF (USD 4 million), Australia (USD 1.9 million), and Canada (USD 0.6 million). An additional USD 400 000 was mobilized from FAO's own funds.

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