



IN NUMBERS



37%

2017 *gu* season cereal production was 37% below average – following 50% and 70% falls in production due to drought during the 2016 *gu* and *deyr* seasons, respectively.



3.3 million

People face severe acute food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and 4)



3 million

Almost 50% of people experiencing stressed to emergency levels of food insecurity are rural. 3 out of 4 people facing famine are rural.



860 000

People displaced due to drought since January 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

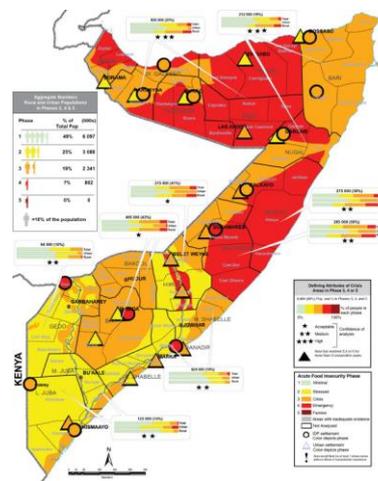
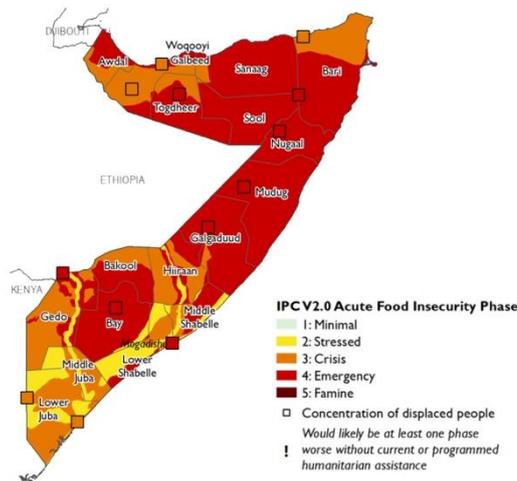
- **Rural livelihoods are people’s best defence against famine.** Interventions that reinforce rural livelihoods meet immediate food needs, mitigate displacement pressures, reduce the overall humanitarian burden and lay the groundwork for recovery.
- **FAO is delivering large-scale, strategic combinations 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.
- **Massive livestock losses – which are severely impacting household food security and nutrition in pastoral communities – will require many seasons to recover.** Similarly, farmers will need sustained support to recover from consecutive poor harvests.
- **Livelihoods will require sustained support for the remainder of 2017 and through 2018 to avert famine and begin recovery.** Livelihoods must be restored in order to make lasting improvements to food security (which will remain fragile for some time).
- Humanitarian efforts must help farming communities to remain in rural areas and encourage early IDP returns.

MAP

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION

Mostly likely scenario from February–May 2018 (FSNAU and FEWS NET, 10 November 2017)

(Most likely situation for Aug-Dec 2017 [FSNAU and FEWS NET, 31 August 2017])



BACKGROUND

Severe, protracted drought and consecutive poor harvests have impacted rural livelihoods and led to deteriorating food insecurity in Somalia, pushing the country to the brink of famine. About 3.3 million people currently face severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phases 3 and 4). 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. However, the October 2017 to May 2018 Somalia Food Security Outlook (issued by the FSNAU and FEWS NET) indicates that even if humanitarian assistance stays at current levels, famine (IPC Phase 5) remains possible in the worst-hit areas. The poor performance of the 2017 main *gu* growing season was followed by below-average and erratic rains at the start (and peak) of the *deyr* season. While above-average rainfall in late October/early November is mitigating moisture deficits, the significantly delayed and below-average start to the season is likely to reduce the window for rainfed crop growth and development during the *deyr* season. A below-average 2018 *gu* season is also forecast, meaning millions of rural Somalis face the very real prospect of a fifth consecutive below-average season.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Poor gu (April–June) rains resulted in reduced crop production – 37 percent less than the long-term average. Severe rainfall deficits were recorded in central Galgaduud, Mudug and Middle Shabelle Regions. As a result, poor households in crop-dependent livelihood zones of the northwest and southern Somalia have little or no food stocks. Farm labour opportunities were also limited. In pastoral areas affected by protracted and persistent drought, livestock production and reproduction have declined sharply. Depletion of livestock assets due to distress sales and mortality has contributed to increased indebtedness and destitution among pastoralists. As a result, most rural livelihood zones of Somalia are classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Livestock herd sizes are well below baseline levels in many areas of the country due to distress sales and livestock deaths. Livestock body conditions are average to below average in most parts of the country. In the absence of assistance, it is expected many pastoral households in worst-hit areas would be forced to sell their remaining livestock to purchase cereal, resulting in higher levels of pastoral destitution, and farmers would have minimal stocks or income and face very high staple food prices. Somalia's large internal displacement population doubled during the drought to 2.1 million people. Most newly displaced people have remained close to home. There is therefore a critical window of opportunity between now and February 2018 to help people return home and resume a sustainable livelihood, thus preventing further, protracted displacement.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

ACHIEVEMENTS AS OF 23 November 2017*



Cash-based assistance in 2017:



879 708 people assisted through cash-for-work, cash+ or unconditional cash.



USD 28 million injected into local economies to-date.



354 agricultural infrastructure activities through cash-for-work (water catchments, irrigation canals, soil bunds, river breakages).



Crop production support in 2017 (including cash+):

Gu season:



235 980 people received cash plus emergency livelihood inputs (229 980 received cash plus agricultural inputs, 6 000 received cash plus fishing inputs)



Deyr season

273 900 people received agricultural inputs so far, while the cash transfers are underway.

4 600 returning IDPs received agricultural inputs to facilitate their return.

10 870 host communities have also received agricultural inputs to sustain and improve their livelihoods.



Livestock assistance in 2017:



38.3 million animals reached through animal health services – including treatment for parasites, illness and injury; and vaccinations in the second half of the year.



53+ million litres of water delivered to scores of sites across Somalia to sustain livestock. (Note this support has been suspended following onset of rains.)



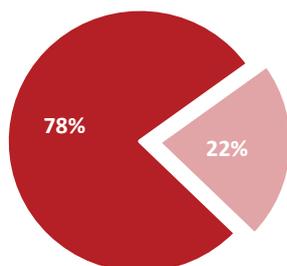
172 local livestock teams trained by FAO throughout Somalia, comprising **860** people.



904 400 animals benefiting from supplementary feeding (rangeland cubes and mineral blocks)

**Note that there may be overlap in the people or livestock reached owing to the seasonal nature of the support provided.*

FUNDING



■ **Funding to-date:**
USD 144 million

■ **Funding gap:**
USD 41 million

FAO requires

USD 185 million
To assist

866 000 rural people
in IPC 3 &4

APPEAL AND RESPONSE TO-DATE

Under its Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan, FAO has appealed for USD 185 million to support livelihoods in Somalia; with USD 144 million raised to date, this plan is currently 78 percent funded.

Generous backing is being provided by Australia, Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund, the European Union (ECHO), Germany, Sweden, the World Bank, the United Kingdom (DFID), United States of America (USAID OFDA/FFP). Funds were also mobilized from FAO's own funds.

CONTACT

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