

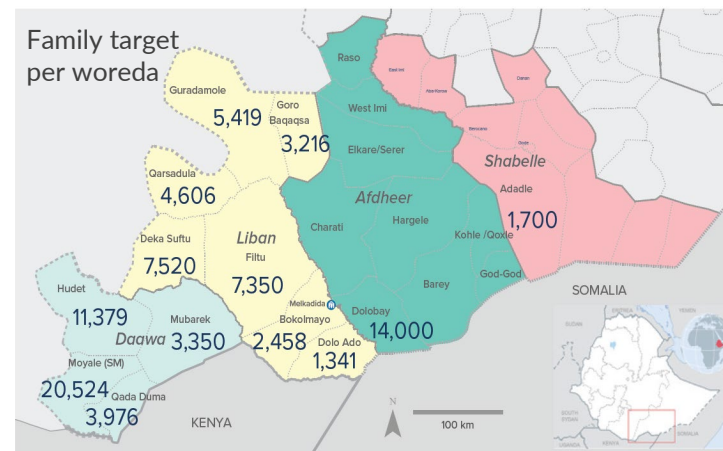
86,839

Most vulnerable families displaced by the drought and targeted by UNHCR

+66%

Increase of the average expenditure for the minimum food basket per household since the beginning of the year

Rainy season has failed for 5 consecutive seasons



Reliant on a meagre amount of rainfall every year, pastoralists living alongside the Ethiopian - Somali - Kenyan border are barely able to sustain their livelihoods and the ability to support themselves. After five rainy seasons with insignificant rain, water sources have dried up, resulting in failed crop harvests and death of livestock. With little left but hope, people are leaving their homes in search of water and food. Coping mechanisms and existing reserves are rapidly vanishing. As a consequence, the UNHCR Melkadida Operation is witnessing unprecedented levels of suffering and displacement across its three zones of intervention in the south-eastern Somali Region: Daawa, Liban and Afdher.

Drought-affected IDPs have a wide-range of needs. Settling closer to roads, towns and zonal capitals, many had to walk long distances, leaving behind everything. Some had to leave their homes because of intercommunal conflicts over critical resources such as pastures and water points, which have become scarcer. This is particularly relevant in the southern border areas of the Somali and Oromia regions, i.e., the western Daawa zone and northern Liban Zone. Families in the newly established, spontaneous sites lack food, access to water, medical supplies, protective shelter, soap, cooking equipment and much more.

Pendular and onwards movements of people are making the situation in the aforementioned zones volatile. In addition, the IDP population profiles vary greatly from one location to the other, and the road infrastructure in many of the remote areas most affected by internal displacements remains very poor. In light of these factors, a temporary digital emergency cash assistance, complementing existing

social safety nets for food insecure populations and the Productive Safety Nets Program (PSNP), has been established as the most adequate form of life-saving emergency assistance. Providing cash directly to IDP households (via digital means, or - where mobile network coverage is weak or the displaced populations lack access to the digital means- through a cash-in-hand model) ensures that the most vulnerable households receive direct support, minimizing the risk of interference or diversions. Consequently, cash transfers are considered the most protection-sensitive modality of assistance in that they uphold the dignity of the recipients by allowing them to prioritise their needs accordingly, including food, shelter and health.

Given its unique geographical position, UNHCR Sub-Office Melkadida is pursuing a digital payment multi-purpose cash (MPC) program which would also ensure support to the most hard-to-reach IDP populations in Somali region.

Priority activities for 2023



Strengthen the **protection coordination**, profiling and response capacity in 3 zones (Liban, Dawa and Afdher) and **critically affected woredas**



Joint monitoring to ensure accountability of coordinated response



Multi-purpose cash assistance to most vulnerable households

4,500 Ethiopian Birr (86 USD)

recommended multi-purpose cash (MPC) transfer value in the region, calculated to cover the monthly food needs of an average household of 5 persons.

TAKE ACTION!



With a one-time cash grant, UNHCR will help vulnerable families recover basic-items and attempt to soften the shock of the displacement and intense drought.

Of target population	100%	50%	25%
USD needed	7.5M	3.7M	1.9M



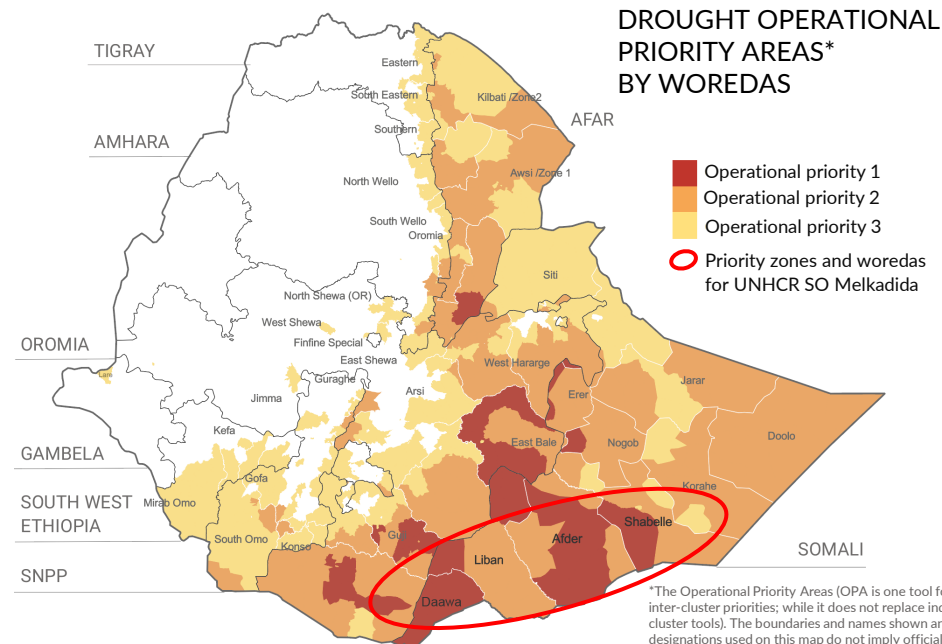
With three cash grants, disbursed over six months, UNHCR will help families obtain the resources needed to restore their livelihoods, such as livestock

Of target population	100%	50%	25%
USD needed	22.5M	11.2M	5.6M

For further information, please contact:

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In the middle of the largest water reservoir in Filtu town (Liban zone), a man reaches into the belly of the earth in search of water. Many water reservoirs in southeast Ethiopia have dried up. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire



*The Operational Priority Areas (OPA) is one tool for informing inter-cluster priorities; while it does not replace individual cluster tools. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.