

## **DROUGHT SITUATION RESPONSE UPDATE**

November 2022



*In the middle of the largest rainwater harvesting site in Filtu town, a man reaches into the belly of the earth in search of water. Of all drought affected areas in Ethiopia, the three zones UNHCR serves from Melkadida, in the Somali Region, are the most severely hit. © UNHCR/Mary-Sanyu Osire.*

### **Situation Overview**

Across the Horn of Africa, at least 36 million people are now affected by the drought. According to our [latest dashboard of displacement](#) affected populations circulated last week, an estimated 1.70 million have been internally displaced in Somalia and Ethiopia, while over 80,000 refugees have crossed borders from Somali and South Sudan into drought affected areas of Kenya and Ethiopia this year.

While the multi-sectoral response to the drought understandably prioritizes supporting critical nutrition, health, and WASH interventions, the ensuing serious protection crisis cannot be overlooked. Increased displacement, breakdowns in family and community support systems, child separation, and escalations in negative coping strategies contribute to growing protection, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) risks.

Protection delivery is challenged in terms of availability and accessibility to quality services owing to insecurity and limited humanitarian access in some areas. This is further complicated for populations whose pastoral livelihoods require movement for the survival of their livestock.

In **Somalia**, since the beginning of 2022, the number of people affected by the drought has more than doubled and drought induced displacement has increased more than fivefold. While the earlier projected famine among agro-pastoralists in Baidoa and Buur Hakaba districts and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Baidoa town

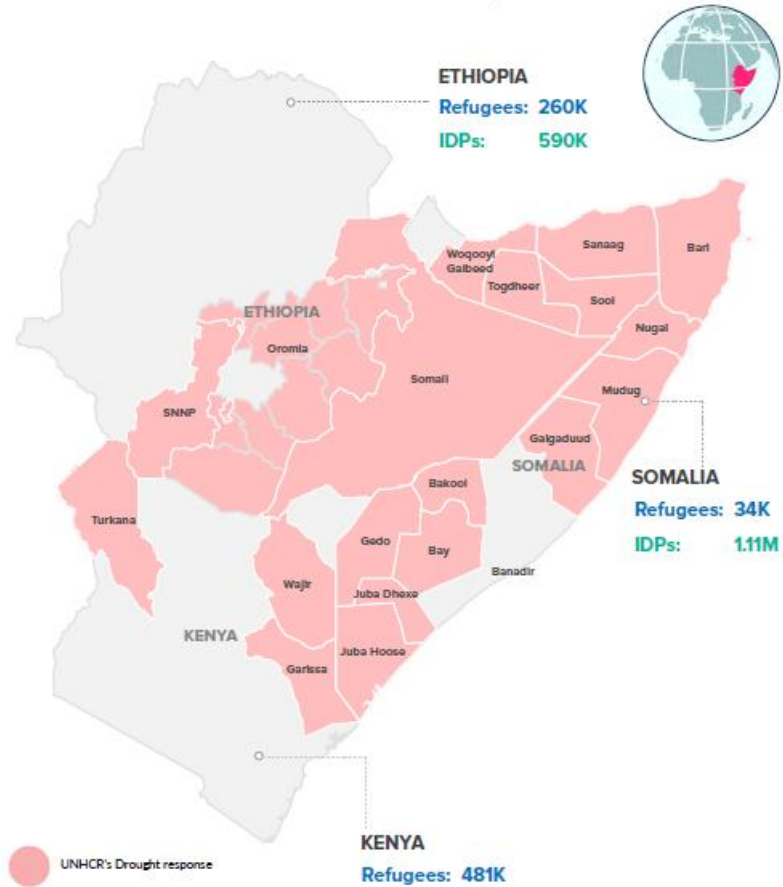
have not materialized, the climate crisis is far from over, and the worst outcomes have only been temporarily prevented. Somalia is in its fifth straight poor rainy season and below average rainfall is projected for the upcoming April-June 2023 rainy season. Shortfalls in humanitarian assistance will likely push 8.3 million people to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity between April and June 2023, including more than 700,000 people facing famine conditions or Catastrophe level (IPC Phase 5). The prolonged and extreme conditions have resulted in higher-than-normal deaths, and excess mortality will continue to accumulate unless assistance is further scaled up and sustained.<sup>1</sup>

The unprecedented multi-season drought continues to ravage **Ethiopia**. The chronic lack of clean water and rapidly deteriorating food insecurity is leading to an increase in malnutrition. The drought situation has severely impacted eight million people in the southern regions of the country, according to UNHCR data. There are 589,976 drought induced IDPs in Afar (5,598), Oromia (275,962) and Somali (308,416) regions (source: OCHA/DTM). There is an urgent need to shift from “crisis” to “risk” management, adopting a proactive approach based on the principles of risk reduction and prevention. As a first line of defense, monitoring and early warning systems along with assessments of the hot spots of vulnerable populations and regions, as well as investments in risk-mitigating measures have to become an integral part of national drought policies. Drought risk management must be incorporated into both long-term development measures and humanitarian responses.

The humanitarian situation in the southern and western parts of Oromia region has significantly deteriorated in 2022, due to conflict and severe drought. Partners have not been able to scale up the response due to insecurity, access restrictions and limited capacity because of funding shortages. Overall, in 2022, the humanitarian response capacity in western and southern Oromia has been reduced by 50 per cent (source: OCHA). In southern Oromia, violence has affected the response in drought-affected areas, against a significant increase in needs. Damage to public infrastructures continues to hamper the delivery of essential services in areas affected by conflict in Oromia.

From 8 to 13 November, the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) of WFP, UNHCR and OCHA visited Melkadida, Somali region. The purpose of the mission was to review what additional internal measures can be undertaken in support of the Government of Ethiopia, to rapidly and more substantially scale-up the international humanitarian response across northern Ethiopia and in the drought-affected areas of the country. In their mission report, the team members recommended an urgent scale-up of action on the drought, as coping mechanisms are completely exhausted and a status quo in response would result in deaths; immediate humanitarian aid and resilience programming for the drought response, in coordination with regional authorities

**UNHCR'S DROUGHT RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA**



<sup>1</sup> OCHA - [The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains extremely serious: assistance must be sustained and improved to continue to prevent famine.](#)

across affected parts of Ethiopia, and mobilizing unearmarked, flexible and multiyear humanitarian funding, plus additional climate-related financing streams to be unlocked in order to allow for joined resilience programming.

In **Kenya**, new arrivals in Dadaab stand at over 80,000. Just over half (estimated 44,000) arrived in the course of 2022. Local communities and refugees already living in the refugee camps in Dadaab have been generously welcoming the new arrivals and sharing limited resources. Adequate space in the camps, where the newly arrived are sheltered is running out, forcing many to reside in makeshift shelters along the outskirts where clean water and sanitation facilities are either grossly insufficient or non-existent.

The Government, both at the County and National level have agreed to the re-opening of Ifo 2 site to host the new arrivals. The government has also agreed on remodeling of the camp into a settlement similar to Kalobeyei to provide humanitarian assistance in a sustainable manner to both the refugees and the host communities.

On 21 November, UNHCR joined the Kenya in launching the [drought flash appeal](#) alongside the county and national government and other state and non-state actors in Garissa County. The event included the Kenyan Deputy President, the UN Resident Coordinator, and local Area MPs, aimed at raising funds to support the drought affected ASAL (Arid and Semi-arid Lands) counties. On 22 November, UNHCR, together with UNICEF and WFP took part in advocacy meetings with the regional County Commissioner and the Garissa Governor on matters of security and drought interventions, including on the new influx and the subsequent re-opening of the former Ifo 2 refugee camp. The leaders agreed to continue the good cooperation and partnership in the interest of the people of concern and the host communities.

## UNHCR response

### SOMALIA

UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter/NFI clusters and co-leads the CCCM cluster in Somalia. Working together with partners and authorities, UNHCR continued delivering lifesaving protection assistance to the vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities affected by the drought. Finding durable solutions for refugees and asylum seekers, refugee returnees, and IDPs, who are living in a protracted displacement situation, remained one of the key priorities.

According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), some 1.73 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022. In November alone, 131,000 new displacements were recorded, of which 76,000 individuals were displaced by the drought; 53,000 due to conflict/insecurity; and 2,000 for other reasons. The displaced families faced multiple protection risks and identified food, livelihood, health, shelter, and water as their priority needs. A new online portal for the UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) went live on 29 November under the domain <http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>. The PRMN portal now provides daily displacement updates to inform the displacement and protection situation, hence enabling coordination for a real-time response by the humanitarian community.

### SECTORAL RESPONSE

UNHCR's **protection response** continued to establish and scale up Protection Desks in response to the drought emergency. Following a successful initial pilot in Galkayo of two (2) Protection Desks covering six (6) sites, UNHCR has established 23 Protection Desks across Somalia. A Protection Desk Guidance Note has been finalized to support the process. Protection Desk training was rolled out for staff and enumerators for effective implementation. Each Protection Desk comprises of two enumerators with one member being female. The hope is that Protection Desks will continue into the new year if sufficient resources are available.

On 30 November, Protection Cluster joined the UN Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator on mission to Baidoa, one of the districts at risk of IPC-5 to highlight the relevance of protection response in the Horn of Africa drought crisis, convey protection advocacy messaging to the local authorities, and explain planned step up of the protection response.

Under the GBV response for the drought, UNHCR through its partner in Burao, Somaliland, distributed dignity kits to 240 women and girls IDPs. Case management services which include case identification, medical-legal referrals, safe house support, and counselling were also provided. Moreover, GBV survivors and at-risk women

and girls were selected to form business groups to build resilience through livelihood support and grants were related to support the groups.

UNHCR through its partner distributed **core relief item kits** to more than 8,300 households (approximately 50,000 individuals) to support the drought affected IDPs with household supplies to meet their basic needs.

In Baidoa, UNHCR through its partner completed the construction of 143 transitional shelters and 35 communal latrines for the drought affected IDPs. Furthermore, construction of 94 out of the planned 136 hybrid transitional shelters were completed in three IDP sites in Burao, Togdheer region in Somaliland.



*The catastrophic drought ravaging Somalia is putting communities on the brink of famine. Thousands of people have been forced to flee their homes in search of humanitarian assistance including food, shelter and safe drinking water. © UNHCR/Nabil Narch*

In Baidoa and Galkayo, UNHCR supported 591 households (3,546 individuals) through the provision of **multi-purpose cash assistance** aimed at meeting the basic needs of drought affected. In Bossaso, Gardo, Garowe, and Galkayo, UNHCR distributed USD 65 per beneficiary as monetized dignity kits to 525 refugee and asylum seeker women and girls. In Mogadishu, UNHCR distributed cash in lieu of emergency shelter to 974 HHs. Likewise, 280 emergency shelter kits to 280 IDP HHs (1,680 individuals) in Sool and Sanaag regions in Somaliland were distributed through partner. In Dollow, UNHCR through its partner conducted business skills training skills dispersed small business grants to 25 drought affected IDPs to increase their resilience through livelihood support.

## ETHIOPIA

### SOMALI REGION

IDP and host communities in the Somali region have lost most their livestock due to conflict and drought. The impact of the drought continued to deepen with no rain reported in Afder, Dawa and Liban zones of Somali region, hosting over 184,000 households of displaced people. Counties in northern Kenya, bordering these zones, have also not received rain, rendering futile the option of the pastoralist communities to cross over for grazing and water usage. As such, the communities lack necessities for survival, with water, food and access to health care often remaining out of reach. UNHCR is stepping up its IDP response in Liban, Dawa and Afder zones of the Somali region. UNHCR and partners are working to provide the much-needed service for people in need. Water trucking and other emergency support are ongoing in parts of the three affected zones.

**Melkadida:** The IDP influx and situation continues to worsen due to drought and conflict in other parts of the country. There are 12,700 newly displaced households in Liban Zone, as a result of the Oromia-Somali conflict. Between 26 October and 3 November, UNHCR took part in a joint humanitarian assessment of the situation in the area. UNHCR continues to respond to the needs of IDPs displaced by conflict and drought, reaching 1,468 households (12,778 individuals) in Liban Zone of Somali region with emergency life-saving core relief items (CRIs) consisting of blankets, sleeping mats, solar lanterns and jerricans. UNHCR and partners also continue to provide individual counseling and referral of GBV survivors for adequate services to support the recovery process of GBV survivors and those at risk.

As part of the efforts to address gender-based violence in drought affected communities, UNHCR and partners provided targeted awareness-raising sessions on GBV for 180 IDPs through home-to-home visits, information posters and dialogues with the community. UNHCR and its partners supported the establishment of community-based structures, such as women advocacy and steering committees to help women and girls realize their potential, free from violence.

To continue to address the cholera outbreak, UNHCR and partners in refugee camps are accelerating preparedness activities. The cholera situation in Kersadula in south-western part of Somali region is improving, with no cases reported over the last three weeks. However, in Guradamole, active cases were still being identified during the reporting period. The coordination team identified a shortage of the following items as immediate gaps: water treatment chemicals, F-75 therapeutic milk and blankets for Cholera Treatment Centers and Cholera Treatment Units. Since the outbreak of the disease in Guradamole, 137 cases have been identified, including 10 deaths (as of 30 November). UNHCR in Melkadida is enhancing response and presence through protection monitoring and building partnerships with zonal authorities to enhance their coordination capacity. However, the displacement situation in southeast Somali region is deteriorating, with access to aid and protection remaining critical. Overall, the area remains underserved with limited resources, humanitarian action and presence.

**Jijiga:** To date, UNHCR in Jijiga has reached an estimated 32,600 (5,000 households) drought-affected IDPs through protection monitoring and targeted assistance in six zones in the Somali region, as well as in West Hararghe in Oromia region. In November, UNHCR in collaboration with the regional government distributed emergency CRIs to 1,000 vulnerable families consisting of 6,212 individuals (3,075F, 3,137M) in Gabicas and Farbuo IDP sites in Shabelle Zone. Prior to the distribution, UNHCR with support from the Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO) and local authorities conducted consultations with communities to sensitize them on the items to be distributed, and established community-based protection committees that led the recipient selection process. Additionally, UNHCR and partners distributed emergency non-food items, reaching 500 vulnerable drought-affected IDPs in Shabelle Zone. In total, all 5,000 households that had been targeted for assistance have been reached across five zones, as part of the UNHCR Jijiga drought response plan.

UNHCR continues with protection monitoring activities of IDP communities in drought-affected locations. Since July 2022, a total of 330 households have been interviewed. Critical challenges include inadequate water supply (forcing women and girls to travel long distances to collect water), high risk of waterborne disease transmission and possible outbreaks owing to poor sanitary conditions (open defecation observed), lack of protective shelters, and a high number of separated children (families separated during search of pasture and livelihoods).

Urgent interventions within the inter-cluster response include enhancing water supply, storage and sanitation facilities, provision of emergency shelter materials, mitigating and addressing protection gaps through GBV awareness-raising activities, establishment of child-friendly spaces and education for out-of-school children.

Further, in collaboration with the district Disaster Risk Management Office (DRMO), UNHCR conducted household-level vulnerability verification of 1,000 IDP families (500 families per location), primarily identified and registered by IDP committees at two of the worst drought-affected locations in Farbuo and Gabi. The verification was done to inform targeted distribution of life-saving emergency shelter, non-food items and warm clothing to vulnerable families. Core relief items have been provided to 1,500 IDP and host community households affected by drought in three woredas (Chinaksen, Jarso and Dedar) of the East Hararghe zone.

On 22 November, the Somali region Inter-Cluster-Coordination Group (ICCG) visited the Dhurwale IDP relocation site to monitor the overall reintegration process of the relocated IDP families from Qoloji camp, and to identify cluster responses required to bridge gaps in the provision of essential services. The team conducted the assessment through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, site visits and observations, in addition to the use of secondary information. Overall, the assessment found that an enhanced and coordinated plan is required to bridge major gaps by ensuring that relocated IDPs have access to basic services such as health care, shelter, education, water and sanitation. The ICCG recommended that conditions of upcoming relocation sites are thoroughly assessed and evaluated prior to any movement, in order to ensure the availability of basic services and dignified conditions.

## OROMIA REGION

In Oromia region, the drought has affected 10 zones with over 5 million people in acute need of food assistance resulting in high malnutrition cases. Following rainfall deficits during the main rainy season, the Melka Soda, Suro Barguda and Dugda Dawa woredas have been severely hit by the drought. This resulted in the deaths of significant number of livestock and an increased food insecurity. Despite the dire situation, the presence of nutrition partners is decreasing, due to funding shortage. Many nutrition projects are phasing out or are about to wind down by the end of the year. UNHCR's main response includes protection monitoring, establishing, and supporting community leadership/structures, targeted multipurpose cash support for vulnerable groups, and dignity kits distribution for women and girls of reproductive age.

UNHCR and partners organized 80 protection monitoring missions to targeted areas of Borena and East Guji zones, where with 350 level key informant interviews were conducted with drought-affected IDP and host community to collect protection-focused information. The preliminary findings revealed critical gaps: access to basic services, food, shelter/core relief items, water, prevalence of GBV cases, tendency towards negative coping mechanisms etc., compounding the vulnerability of the affected population to multiple protection risks.

## KENYA



*New arrivals line up to fetch water tank at Dagahaley in Dadaab. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo*

**Dadaab:** UNHCR's legal partner, Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK), continued to record and analyze cross-border movements at the Liboi, Abdisugow, Damajale, Degelema, Diif, Amuma, Dajabula, El Wak, and Kulan border points, as well as four border corridors in Mwingi, Kitui, Wajir and Mandera. The regular and consistent presence of border monitors helps in ensuring the timely and systematic collection of data and analysis of protection issues. UNHCR also provides protection services for the new arrivals including continuous profiling and related activities, support to persons with specific needs, prevention/response to GBV, child protection interventions, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Following the agreement to reopen Ifo 2, UNHCR undertook an inventory of the infrastructure currently in place. Site clearance, road definition, plot demarcation and allocation, rehabilitation of UNHCR offices are ongoing, as well as waiting sheds. WFP is putting up food distribution sites. UNHCR is also finalizing its assessment to ensure necessary emergency staff will be deployed to Ifo 2 as soon as it is operational.

In the meantime, UNHCR continues to assist new arrivals in their current locations on the outskirts of the camps. UNHCR, alongside various partners continues to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services to new arrivals.

This includes the rehabilitation and expansion of existing water infrastructure, installation of water storage tanks and construction of communal and potentially at a later stage individual household latrines. UNHCR is providing plastic sheeting for emergency shelter, as well as distribution of tents for households with critical specific needs. This will be followed by construction of transitional shelters. The provision of kitchen sets, blankets, jerry cans, soap, female hygiene kits and sleeping mats has also been carried out.

**Kakuma:** To improve access to water and sanitation facilities at Kalobeyei and Kakuma reception centers, the construction of six blocks of permanent latrines is ongoing. Construction of four cattle troughs is scheduled to begin in four targeted host community locations. There will also be an increased coverage of hygiene promotion and awareness through the recruitment of 6 hygiene promoters for the reception centers.

UNHCR continued to provide potable water to about 243,155 refugees in Kakuma and Kalobeyei including new arrivals at the reception centers.

The construction of a temporary health facility at Kalobeyei reception center is now complete. This is being used in health and nutrition screening of all new arrivals passing through the reception facility. It is also used in triaging of emergency cases to be referred to health facilities, a base for treatment of children with severe and moderate malnutrition. The facility is connected to water and electricity. The health partners have also been provided with additional resources to hire both qualified medical staff and incentive/refugee staff. These personnel will assist in improving quality of care with an increased number enrolled in the health and nutrition programs. These additional staff will be available until the end of the year.

UNHCR is still providing water to about 20,000 persons within host communities living in 7 villages within Kalobeyei through trucking 100,000 litres of water per week. In addition, Kabokorit primary school and the Naurenregae village are being supported temporarily with water trucking. Through UNHCR's donation of a submersible pump and motor to Kakuma West Sub-County, the borehole providing water to Kakuma town has been returned to normalcy. For a longer-term solution, UNHCR and other humanitarian partners plan to extend pipelines and construct water storage tanks to villages currently served by water trucking. UNHCR started the procurement process of drilling and equipping one borehole and installation of elevated water storage tanks to support host community population.

## Funding

In June 2022, UNHCR released a regional [Drought Response Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa](#), **requesting US\$42.6 million** to address critical humanitarian needs for some 1.5 million refugees, internally displaced people and local host communities affected by the drought in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. The appeal covers the period May-December 2022 to align with the inter-agency drought response plans coordinated by OCHA at country level and derived from the relevant Humanitarian Response Plans. So far, the overall funding levels of the three country operations indicate that approximately **48% of the funds** required for UNHCR's drought response are available based on unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions received this year (55% Kenya, 53% Ethiopia, 31% Somalia).

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