

## **DROUGHT SITUATION RESPONSE UPDATE**

June 2023



*A woman receives food at the Melkadida food distribution site, Ethiopia. Thousands of IDPs and refugees are in desperate need of food, water and shelter in the Eastern part of Ethiopia which has been hit with the worst drought in decades. © UNHCR/Tiksa Negeri*

### **Situation Overview**

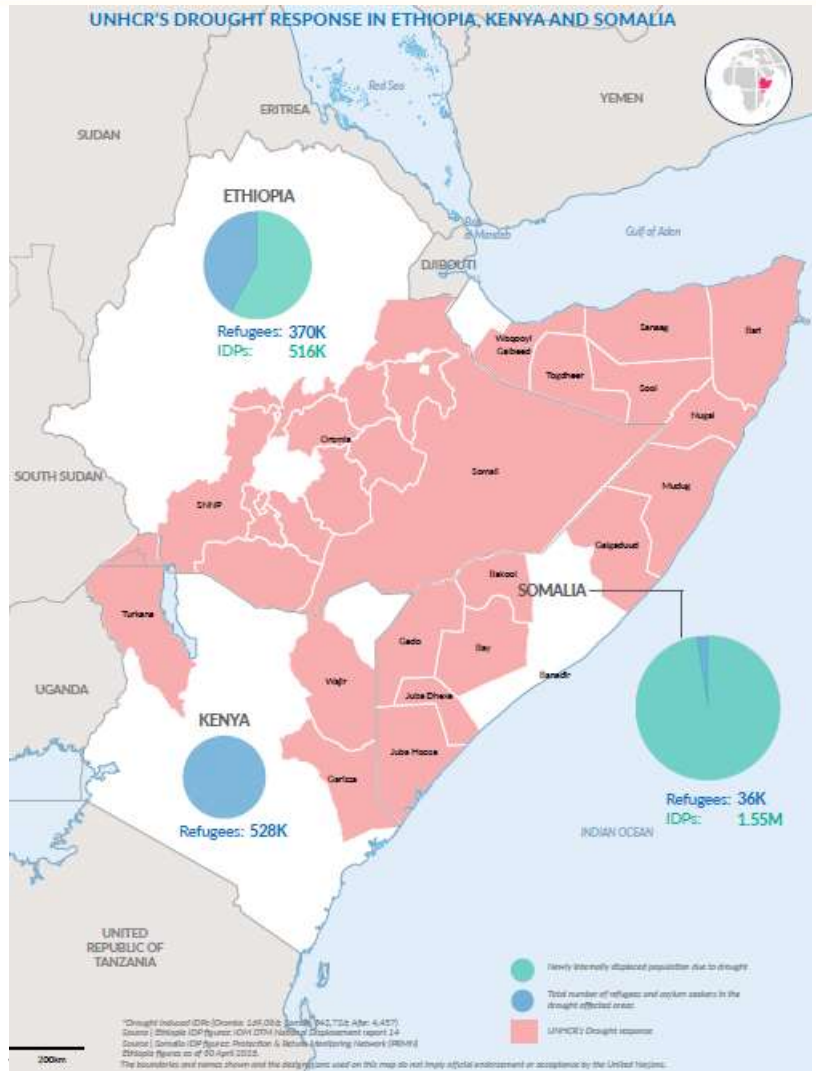
The Horn of Africa continues to face a severe humanitarian crisis, with millions of people in need of assistance due to a combination of factors including drought, flooding, conflict, economic crisis and inability to access basic needs. The region has been hit by a series of droughts in recent years, leading to crop failure and a lack of water and food. The region has also been hit by heavy rains in recent months leading to flooding which has caused widespread destruction and displacement exacerbating humanitarian needs. The floods have also led to further health risks, including concerns regarding water borne diseases.

In recent months, according to [UNHCR's drought dashboard](#) of displacement affected populations, by the end of June 2023, over 2 million had been internally displaced in Somalia and Ethiopia, while over 254,000 new refugee and asylum-seekers have crossed into drought affected areas of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia since January 2022.

In **Ethiopia**, thousands of people displaced by floods brought on by the rains from March to May are still waiting for assistance in the Somali region. Due to lack of sufficient funds and resources very limited response has reached communities out of the more than 37,000 flood affected families in the region. Furthermore, the floods damaged roads and bridges impacting the possibility to access services for IDPs. The pause in food aid, and inflated food prices especially in cereals (by an estimated 35 per cent) due to growing imbalance between supply and demand among affected populations, are negatively affecting those struggling to recover from consecutive droughts. Acute malnutrition in the Somali region remains at emergency level with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) over 15 per cent, Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) over 2 per cent, with Afder Zone showing one of the highest levels at 21.9 per cent, according to the Nutrition Cluster. The nutrition situation outlook in the short-term to medium term (six months) is less likely to improve as it will take some time for drought-affected population to recover ([OCHA Situation Report July 2023](#)).

According to OCHA's report, the ongoing cholera outbreak has spread across 74 woredas in Oromia, Sidama, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People (SNNP) regions affecting a total of 11,960 cases, with 165 deaths by the end of June, and since its onset in August 2022. With the support from UNICEF and WHO, federal and regional Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) teams established 81 cholera treatment centres and provided oral vaccinations across affected regions. However, challenges remain around the administration of single dose vaccinations due to shortage in global supply. Current clean water supply coverage in cholera affected woredas in Oromia and Somali regions is also low, further exasperating the spread.

In **Kenya**, the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) region continued to face immense humanitarian needs following five consecutive below-average rainy seasons. Additionally, the long rains in most arid counties led to flash floods which had negative impacts on the local livelihoods and critical facilities like roads. Despite the impact of the March-April-May (MAM) rainfall season 17 counties, including Garissa, reported normal drought phase situation. Additionally, the long rains in most arid counties led to flash floods which had negative impacts on the local livelihoods and critical facilities like roads.



In **Somalia**, UNHCR continued to operate in an extremely challenging context due to insecurity and climate change. Better than expected rainfall and responses from the local population, authorities, and the humanitarian community have averted the worst outcomes of the drought; yet the situation is still worrisome. In June, according to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), 92,000 internal displacements within Somalia were recorded, primarily due to conflict/insecurity (57,000), drought (28,000) and floods (3,000) bringing the overall number of internal displacements in 2023 to over 1.8 million. Food, livelihood support, and shelter continued to be among the top needs of the newly displaced family. The top three regions that received the greatest number of new displacements in June were Nugal, followed by Bari and Middle Juba.

## UNHCR response

### ETHIOPIA

### SOMALI REGION

### Refugees

In Melkadida, as of the end of June, 14 new cases of cholera were reported in the refugee camps. Patients among asylum-seekers who were sheltered in Dollo Ado were treated at the cholera treatment units in Dollo town. To prevent the spread of cholera in the refugee camps, coordination meetings on the impact of cholera on refugees continued; infection prevention and control materials were distributed, and soap consignments were received from Addis waiting for distribution to affected families.

## **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

From February to June 2023, UNHCR and partners conducted IDP profiling across Afder, Liban, and Dawa zones of the south-eastern Somali region to identify protection risks and prioritize needs of the displaced communities. The exercise reached 115 IDP sites that host 377,903 individuals. Core Relief Items (CRIs) and Cash-Based Intervention feasibility assessments will be conducted to identify and plan for the applicable type of intervention.

UNHCR organized a mission to Dawa zone between 7 to 15 June 2023, to monitor partners' performance in implementing protection programming, strengthen coordination and conduct a CBI feasibility assessment ahead of the planned Multipurpose Cash support to IDPs.

UNHCR established an Accountability to Affected People (AAP) group in Jeedhane relocation site in the Somali region. Discussions were held with the IDP representatives, who agreed to establish community-based complaints mechanisms (CBCM) and 10 members were selected for the committee. UNHCR will provide training and necessary resources to ensure effectiveness of the CBCM.

UNHCR sub-office in Jijiga, in collaboration with the Somali Region Disaster and Risk Management Bureau (DRMB) provided support to IDP communities in Shabelle and Korahe zones, aimed at assisting early recovery from the effects of drought and the recent floods. Through the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), 4,118 persons were provided with multi-purpose cash with each family receiving ETB 7,700 (equivalent to USD 143). In addition, 16,881 individuals received emergency shelter, NFI kits and clothes.

## **OROMIA REGION**

### **Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

UNHCR disbursed ETB 10,304,000 (equivalent to USD 190,815) to 1,340 drought affected families in four woredas of East and West Hararghe zones through CBE to cover their basic needs. The disbursed cash has two types (multipurpose and drought-early recovery) with each family receiving ETB 6,900 (equivalent to USD 128).

Following significant rains in the drought-affected areas, two woredas from West and East Hararghe were selected by the food and agricultural cluster for their potential in early recovery and accessibility of agricultural input. 1,200 individuals of 200 families received ETB 12,190 (equivalent to USD 226) to procure fertilizers and early maturing variety of crops that are suitable for the area.

UNHCR coordinated the protection clusters for the East and West Hararghe. Major protection concerns include the exclusion of IDPs residing in collective sites from food distributions, measles outbreak, disruption of schools in Chinaksen, and increasing number of Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence cases. There are also great concerns about increasing number of malnutrition cases worsening of the health and security situation of already vulnerable people.

IOM, OHCHR, and UNHCR conducted a protection assessment in Meta woreda (Oromia region) on the situation of IDP returnees from Hurso woreda (Somali region). UNHCR participated in Oromia Regional Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meeting and shared updates on critical protection concerns including advocacy for protracted IDPs excluded from food assistance and risks relating to some returns of IDPs.

## **KENYA**

### **DADAAB**

At the end of June 2023, the Dadaab refugee population stood at 363,661 individuals (74,844 households). Of this number, 261,486 individuals (51,951 households) are registered while 102,175 individuals (22,893 households) have been profiled. Dadaab continues to receive new arrivals mainly from Somalia due to drought, insecurity, climate change, as well as lack of basic services in some parts of Somalia.

### **Protection**

The registration of new arrivals continued in Ifo camp during the month of June 2023. The process included nationality screening against the government's National Registration Bureaus (NRB) register for individuals

aged 18 years and above, as well as vulnerability screening at the registration centre by protection partners. During June 2023, a total of 7,410 individuals were registered. This brings the cumulative total to 26,082 individuals. 95% of those registered are from Somalia, 3% from Ethiopia and 2% from South Sudan.

Food assistance was provided by WFP, and a Joint Emergency Drought Response Plan for new arrivals was developed, with UNHCR, DRS, and partners, as well as county and sub-county officials.

### **Health and Nutrition**

To enhance access to health and nutrition services, UNHCR and partners continue to create awareness on available services among new arrivals. For populations settling in the outskirts, outposts, and outreach services continue to be provided to improve coverage and reduce morbidity and mortality. Medical outreach services provide malnutrition screening, immunization, treatment of common ailments, antenatal care, deworming and referrals for those requiring admission or specialized care. Surveillance activities were intensified, as the new arrivals continue to come into the camps, especially for polio, measles, chikungunya, and dengue fever. Coordination engagements of all stakeholders remain in place for effective responses in terms of prevention and control of disease outbreaks. Monthly blood drives continue to be conducted to boost stocks of safe blood and blood products in partnership with the Ministry of Health for screening. A total of 102,175 new arrivals were reached during the month of June.

Further reduction and successful control of the cholera outbreak were achieved. There were 27 cholera admissions recorded. The total cases listed as of 30 June 2023 were 2,474 with a case fatality rate of 0.3%.

A decrease in acute malnutrition admissions was noted corresponding to a reduction in acute watery diarrhoeas and the cholera outbreak control. The number of severe acute malnutrition admissions registered was 812 compared to 1,126 in the previous month while the moderate acute malnutrition admissions recorded were 1,430 compared to 1,538 in the previous month. The program performance was maintained within the sphere standards. A total of 55 pregnant and lactating women were admitted into the supplementary feeding program.

UNHCR's health partners continued to intensify the search for active cases through community screening and outreach services for those settled in the outskirts of the camps, for malnutrition screening, immunization, and vitamin A supplementation, as well as for referrals to service points in the health system. A total of 2,242 children under 5 were screened of whom 812 and 1,430 were referred for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) management respectively. A total of 2,200 mothers and caregivers who were trained and issued with MUAC (Mid upper arm circumference) tapes in the previous month supported active case identification for timely referrals and prevention of complications, in screening for acute malnutrition. UNICEF and the health partners continued to streamline the supply of therapeutic feeding.

### **Water and Sanitation**

Water for refugees in the Dadaab refugee camps was pumped from 25 borehole water supply schemes, stored in 42 elevated steel tanks, and distributed through a 243 km pipeline network to 842 tap stands. The daily per capita water available for June was 18.7 litres. Latrine coverage was 55 percent. Overall, a total of 363,661 refugees were reached.

Due to the cholera outbreak, chlorination levels at the boreholes and regular monitoring of Free Residue Chlorine (FRC) maintained at – 1.5mg/ltr, 1.0-1.2 mg/ltr at tap stands, and 0.5mg/l – 0.9mg/ltr at the household level. Over 90.0% of the total samples (3,108) analyzed ranged between 0.5mg/l to 1.5mg/l.

### **Livelihood**

The county received an average of 12.2 mm of rainfall during the month of June 2023 which was below the long-term average amount. No livestock death due to drought was reported in the county during the month.

The Ministry of Livestock reported an outbreak of camel disease in the neighboring border region of Jubaland in Somalia. The GOK issued the public health alert in effort to warn the local refugee herders on the same, as it seeks mitigation measures to prevent the spread of the disease. If not countered the disease risks hampering the livelihood prospects of the camps as most people trade in camel meat. UNHCR Dadaab shared the alert with the Livelihood partners to disseminate the same to the communities to take caution.

## SOMALIA

### Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

#### Protection

The UNHCR Somalia Helpline/Complaint Feedback Mechanisms (CFM) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) was established, to improve and streamline UNHCR's mechanisms of receiving, managing, and responding to feedback provided by the affected communities. The CFM SOP will support UNHCR's response by better enabling affected communities to report urgent issues related to assistance and services, follow up on case related queries, report incidents of fraud and corruption, as well as attempted, actual, or potential aid diversion, or obtain general information and advice.

The UNHCR-supported protection desks at 32 IDP sites in Bossaso, Garowe, Gardo, and North Galkayo in Puntland, as well as Abudwak, Adado, Dhusamareeb Guriel, and South Galkayo in Galmudug, continued to serve as communication hubs, information centers, and referral points for the affected communities. More than 1,190 individuals visited the help desks to seek assistance or information, as well as raise protection concerns or complaints. Likewise, roving psychosocial counseling teams visited nine IDP sites in the aforementioned four areas and conducted individual and group psychosocial first aid sessions, reaching 56 individuals (46 female and 10 male), including GBV survivors and people with mental disabilities.

In Erigabo and Burao, Somaliland, through the UNHCR supported GBV and protection help desks, more than 230 IDPs received protection and information services, as well as referrals.

In Sool and Togdheer regions in Somaliland, UNHCR, through its partners, reached 1,759 drought-affected IDPs, of whom 20 persons with specific needs (PSN) were provided mobility devices, 43 received psychosocial counseling, and 1,045 benefited from information and awareness sessions on the inclusion of PSN in different humanitarian services.

In Somaliland, through different outreach activities, more than 338 individuals received information on available services and training on community-led messaging to tackle child protection and harmful social practices. A further 115 individuals received counseling and referral support via the hotline.

In Beletweyne, UNHCR, through its partners, distributed dignity kits to 350 women and girls of reproductive age. Each dignity kit contained essential items such as sanitary pads, towels, bar and powder soaps, a shawl, a headscarf, undergarments, and a Somali dress. Additionally, solar lamps were distributed to 100 vulnerable women, the elderly, persons with specific needs, and GBV survivors.

In Beletweyne, UNHCR, through its partner, trained 50 humanitarian partners and government counterparts (30 female and 20 male), covering topics on protection mainstreaming, protection needs assessment, and the development of area-based action plans to improve coordination of protection response.

#### Cash Assistance

As a part of its drought response, UNHCR in Beletweyne, through its partner, distributed multipurpose cash assistance to 345 IDP HHs (2,070 individuals). Each family received a one-time payment of USD 100 to meet their basic needs.

In Guriel district, Galmudug State, UNHCR, through its partner, distributed individualized protection cash assistance to 955 individuals (845 female and 101 male), including GBV survivors, the elderly, people with chronic diseases, people living with disabilities, and child mothers, among others. Each beneficiary received a one-time payment of USD 150. The recipients were referred by protection desks, after which assessment and verification were conducted by UNHCR's partner.

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