

DROUGHT SITUATION RESPONSE UPDATE

September 2022



Khadiya Omar Shire and her family members, who were internally displaced due to the drought, are currently living in Melkadida, Ethiopia. ©UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil

Situation Overview

The failure of four consecutive rainy seasons, increase in conflict, and high food prices are pushing people in **Somalia and neighboring countries** to the brink of famine. A multi-partner [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) analysis released in September 2022 projected that famine will occur between October and December in the Bay region, specifically among rural residents in the Baidoa and Burhakaba districts as well as displaced people in Baidoa, if humanitarian assistance is not urgently scaled up and sustained. The drought has affected about 7.8 million people, nearly half of Somalia's estimated population. The latest [UNHCR-led Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\) report](#) indicates that some 1.4 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022, including 926,000 due to the ongoing drought between January and September 2022, and 68,000 new displacements in the month of September alone.

The drought has disproportionately affected vulnerable displaced and non-displaced populations across Somalia, with the worst affected regions being Hirshabelle, Galmudug, South-West, and Jubaland states. The current situation is exacerbated by insecurity, access constraints, and weak capacity of service providers, including local NGOs and authorities. Moreover, women, children, persons with disabilities, and those from minority social groups/clans are the worst affected. According to Gender Based Violence (GBV) assessments, 82 per cent of IDPs are women and children, many of whom are facing hunger and in danger of sexual violence, exploitation, abuse, and psychological harm due to breakdown of existing social support networks.

In **Ethiopia**, UNHCR has been responding to both refugees and IDPs affected by the drought. In the Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions, the rains have already failed for five consecutive rainy seasons. Some 842,000 IDPs are drought induced according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Mechanism (DTM) figures and inter-agency assessments.

The protracted conflict in Somalia worsened by the ongoing drought in the cross-border region has resulted in internal and external displacements in Ethiopia. The Somali Regional State government has reported a total of 1.03 million conflict and drought induced IDPs residing in the Somali region as of September 2022.

Between 7-14 September, a Joint UN Rapid IDP Assessment was undertaken to Afdheer, Liban and Daawa zones of South-East Somali Region. The joint-UN team identified the main protection and assistance needs, including emergency food, NFIs, WASH, health supplies, livestock emergency support, access to education and protection as key areas where the support is urgent. The assessment also recommended to increase the presence and logistic capacities of humanitarian partners, and to enhance engagement with local authorities.

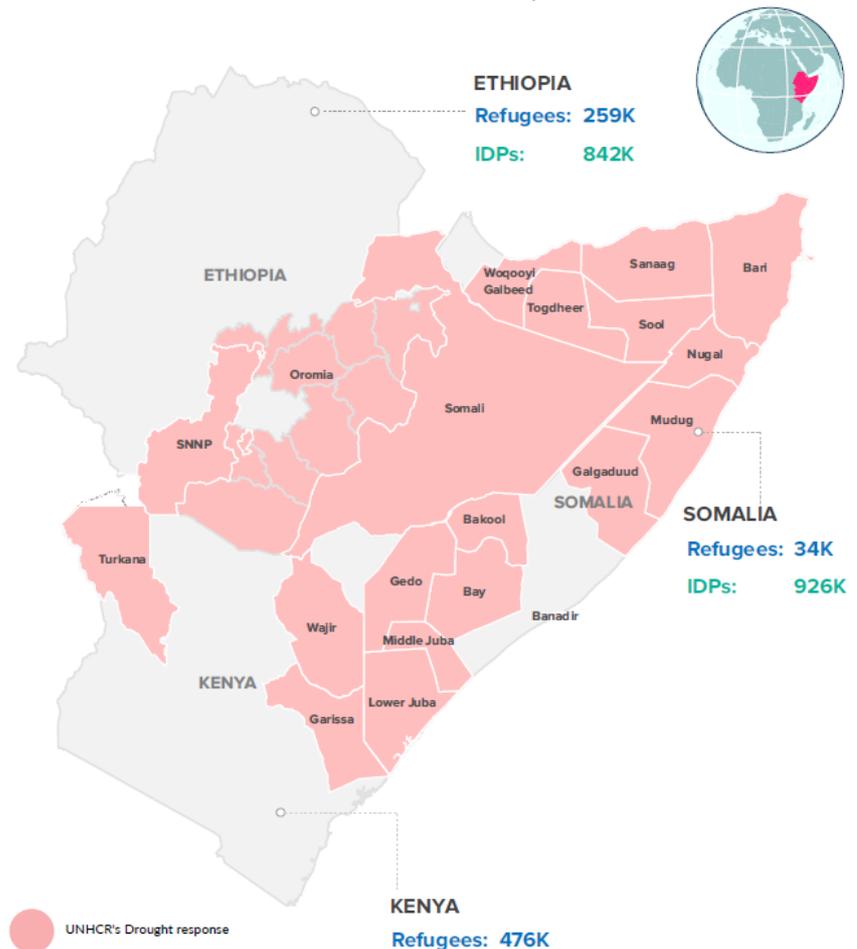
The drought has been affecting both the host and the IDP populations in the East and West Hararge zones of Oromia and a recent multi-agency drought assessment identified that over 2.3 million individuals require food assistance, with 800,000 children and pregnant and lactating women requiring nutrition interventions.

Food insecurity has sharply risen across both regions and water scarcity is not only affecting human and livestock consumption but also the capacity to irrigate land to grow food crops.

There is evidence that the growing food insecurity has a critical impact on the protection situation. Households are increasingly engaging in harmful practices to meet their basic needs, exposing families and individuals, particularly women and children, to heightened protection risks. On 28 September 2022, during the protection cluster meeting in Dire Dawa, partners reported an increase of GBV cases, particularly in drought-affected areas. Child abuse, family separations, exploitation and begging were all on the rise. Early marriage has been considered as a negative coping mechanism in response to food shortages.

The continued drought and protracted displacement exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and risks amongst the communities. Although host communities have shown great solidarity supporting displaced communities and are willing to continue with the support, their traditional coping mechanisms and capacity has been weakened as result of the prolonged drought and inflation.

UNHCR'S DROUGHT RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA



In **Kenya**, the Dadaab refugee camps have received some 20,000 new arrivals since January 2022, mainly from Somalia. The office has reviewed its contingency plan in the event of greater scale arrivals as the drought situation continues to deteriorate there. Pending the resumption of registration of new arrivals, which has been suspended in Dadaab since 2016, UNHCR has undertaken a process of profiling and vulnerability screening jointly with the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) of some 46,000 unregistered asylum-seekers who have arrived in the last several years. This exercise took place between May and July 2022. It resumed on 19 September 2022, during which an additional 1,543 families consisting of 9,434 individuals, were verified and family tokens issued for profiling. The exercise was paused on 22 September 2022 but resumed on 25 October 2022. While the first group of profiled asylum-seekers are now receiving food aid, they and additional new arrivals in the last several months remain in dire need of more assistance and integration in the Dadaab camps, where resources are already overstretched.

UNHCR response

SOMALIA

Within the inter-agency drought response in Somalia, UNHCR leads the Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), and Shelter clusters. Through the three clusters and in close coordination with authorities and other stakeholders, UNHCR has been strengthening sub-national coordination, with better information sharing and communication and enhanced synergies between clusters. For example, in IDP sites CCCM and Nutrition partners are working together to identify malnutrition cases among new arrivals. CCCM interventions include IDP site maintenance through cash for work schemes, installation of street solar lights, distribution of portable solar lights to female headed households, and capacity building of community leaders to improve self-management of IDP sites.

In order to increase field presence and support the overall response, UNHCR has mobilized **increased staffing capacity** in the most drought-affected areas in southern and central parts of Somalia. More than 25 staff, who specialize in protection, shelter, information management, inter-agency coordination, and logistics/supply among others, have undertaken emergency missions and deployments across drought affected areas such as Baidoa, Dollow, Galkayo, and Kismayo.

SECTORAL RESPONSE

UNHCR has so far supported more than 200,000 drought-affected individuals with protection, shelter and cash assistance in 2022.

UNHCR has been scaling up its **protection response** programming in drought affected areas including protection monitoring and identification and provision of specialized assistance. To strengthen community-based protection (CBP) mechanism for the affected population, UNHCR in close coordination with the government and key partners has strengthened community-based outreach and monitoring, complaint and feedback mechanisms, and identification of vulnerable groups and minority clans.

Stationary and mobile Protection Desks are being established to strengthen accountability towards the persons UNHCR serves, improve service provision through case referrals to specialized service providers, and address marginalization of minority clans by identifying them and increasing their participation in camp management activities. Distribution of assistive devices to persons with specific needs is ongoing.

In September, UNHCR continued the delivery of **integrated GBV prevention**, risk mitigation, and response interventions in affected regions. Key GBV activities implemented include awareness raising, information campaigns, legal assistance, psychosocial services (PSS), case management, and referrals to specialized agencies. In addition, UNHCR is supporting capacity building of national partners and mainstreaming of GBV prevention and risk mitigation measures across the four priority clusters, i.e., Food Security, Nutrition, Health, and WASH as well as distribution of sanitary materials and dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age, in collaboration with UNFPA. Capacity building on protection mainstreaming, Code of Conduct, and basic concepts of GBV and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) targeting local authorities, partners,

and community support structures in drought affected hard to reach areas is being expanded, particularly in Gedo region in Jubaland and Bay region in South-West State.

UNHCR has already reached more than 149,000 individuals through the above-mentioned protection activities.

UNHCR has been responding to the drought with lifesaving **shelter and CRI assistance**. Some 141,290 IDPs and host communities have received Core Relief Items (CRIs), which are comprised of basic household items, such as kitchen sets, blankets, and jerry cans, either in cash or in-kind. More than 33,000 IDPs have benefited from in-kind or monetized emergency shelter support.



Thousands of people in Somalia have been forced to flee their homes in search of humanitarian assistance including food, shelter and safe drinking water. ©UNHCR/Nabil Narch

Additionally, UNHCR has also distributed emergency protection and multipurpose **cash grants** to some 30,131 IDPs and host community members in south-central Somalia, allowing drought affected families to prioritize and address their needs with dignity.

Somalia's **refugee, asylum-seeker and returnee populations** face unique challenges in local integration and in rebuilding their lives, for example, building social capital and earning a livelihood, further compounded by the effects of the prolonged drought. UNHCR has supported some 25,971 vulnerable

refugees, asylum seekers and returnees with cash assistance to help them meet their basic needs.

ETHIOPIA

SOMALI REGION

Melkadida: Currently, the three Zones of Liban, Daawa and Afder in Southeast Somali region of Ethiopia host approximately 648,000 internally displaced persons (108,000 households) in over 300 spontaneous sites. At present, UNHCR is focusing support in the Liban zone where an estimated 240,000 people are displaced.

Regarding the IDP response in September, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring assessments including focus group discussions and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). UNHCR has recently signed new agreements with UN agencies and implementing partners to expand the IDP response, including an agreement with UNICEF on the reinforcement of WASH facilities and water pumping in Filtu Woreda and with Action for the Needy (ANE) for emergency shelter planning and construction.

In September, a total 6,426 IDPs (1,071 households) received CRIs, including mats, blankets, buckets or jerry cans as lifesaving material assistance in Filtu, Dekasuftu and Bokolmanyo woreda in Liban zone.

In terms of the refugee response, UNHCR, through its partners, continues with remote protection and border monitoring activities through strengthened engagement with community leaders, partnerships with local NGOs, and cross border collaboration with UNHCR teams in Somalia. UNHCR is also continuing advocacy to resume registration services for new arrivals in Dollo Ado, suspended since May 2022. In the meantime, facilities in the

reception center are being improved including renovating the accommodation areas and WASH facilities to be prepared for new arrivals. UNHCR is also planning the enhancement of facilities in the reception center that will include health and nutrition facilities, child friendly spaces and the solarization of the center, which will be implemented in the coming months.

Jijiga: UNHCR is an active member in the coordination set up in Jijiga and participates in meetings organized by the government and partners in its effort to provide support to the people affected by the drought. In its refugee response, UNHCR has continued to provide regular protection and assistance to refugees and is working on the enhancement of water supply capacity in the three refugee camps Kebribeyah (17,161), Sheder (14,463) and Aw-barre (13,040).

In its IDP response in September, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring assessments in eight IDP sites in Jarar (2), Doolo (2), Erer (2) and Nogob (2). In addition, UNHCR distributed CRI kits to 24,000 individuals in these four zones.

OROMIA REGION

Core relief items have been distributed to 2,500 IDP households in West Hararge out of the 5,000 households targeted for East and West Hararghe Zones. Preparations are underway for the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance targeting 2,042 vulnerable IDP and host community households in East and West Hararghe zones. The beneficiary list has been prepared in collaboration with the district authorities.

UNHCR's partner ANE, distributed CRIs to a total of 12,852 individuals in Borena zone and 18,000 individuals affected by drought in East Guji zone.

Based on the rapid community-based protection response for 5 woredas of Guji and Borena zones, UNHCR and its partners have drafted an action plan to conduct protection assistance to the most vulnerable identified households. The action will be implemented by UNHCR's partner, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY/DASSC) a national NGO with expertise in protection issues and capacity to implement area-based interventions.

KENYA

Dadaab: In the month of September, the Refugee Consortium of Kenya, UNHCR's legal partner, conducted border monitoring activities along the Liboi, Abdisugow, Damajale, Degelema, Diif, Amuma, Dajabula, El Wak,

Mandera and Kulan border points and three border court corridors in Mwingi, Wajir and Kitui. The new arrivals recorded continue to attribute their displacement to either the ongoing drought situation or insecurity.

UNHCR and partners have conducted vulnerability screenings to assess various

specific needs of the asylum-seeker population yet to be profiled. This will enable timely assistance to the right population during the drought response. Currently, 2,645 persons with specific needs (PSNs) have been assessed for support.



New arrivals from Somalia line up to fetch water tank at Dagahaley in Dadaab, Kenya.
© UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

GBV screening has been ongoing for new arrivals since 15 September 2022 through community leaders and partners, who identify cases and who are then referred to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) for support. So far, 35 cases have been identified and supported.

Currently, 21 boreholes supply water to 279,540 refugees, including the 45,856 individuals profiled to date. The pumping hours in 19 boreholes were increased by 3 hours since the onset of the current drought. The per capita water available to PoCs stands at 23 litres per person per day. There is an ongoing extension of water pipeline to the outskirts of the camps for the new arrivals. UNHCR has also procured twenty (20) units of 10,000 litre plastic water tanks for the drought affected new arrivals and host community villages surrounding the refugee camps. UNHCR through, Relief, Rehabilitation and Development Organization (RRDO) provided water trucking twice (each 10,000 litres) to Bulla Kheir village and Hagadrbul police station, and Bula Banaan (1,000 people) in Dadaab town (approximately 3 km from the Dadaab airstrip).

WFP and UNHCR conducted a Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) to assess food security, coping mechanisms and factors contributing to food and nutrient security, amongst refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab. WFP also supported the Government of Kenya to conduct food security analyses in drought impacted counties, including the refugee-hosting Garissa and Turkana Counties. These two assessments are complementary to each other to provide a better understanding of the overall food security situation.

The Northern Refugee Council (NRC) and partners disbursed emergency multi-purpose cash transfers to 310 households in the host community in Garissa. The support will continue for a period of three months and targets vulnerable Kenyan families affected by the drought by increasing household income and food security and reducing the effects of malnutrition.

Kakuma: To improve access to water and sanitation facilities at Kalobeyei and Kakuma reception centers (RC), construction of 10 temporary latrines was completed while construction of three blocks of permanent latrines and installation of 30,000 litre capacity water tank are ongoing. Mobilization has started to construct an additional 5 blocks of permanent latrines in the two reception centers.

Increased coverage of hygiene promotion and awareness has been undertaken through recruitment of 6 hygiene promoters for Kakuma RC/Kalobeyei RC and Ex Daadab transit Centre. To support relocation of refugees from reception centers to Kalobeyei settlement, a total of 1470 communal shared latrines were completed in village 1 and village 3, and additional 53 latrines are planned to be constructed in Kalobeyei. In Kalobeyei village 2 and 3, additional fourteen (14) water tap stands were constructed and 800 meters pipeline extended.

Funding

In June, 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, UNHCR has **received US\$2.3 million** specifically for the drought response since May; the overall funding levels of the three country operations indicate that approximately **45% of the funds** required for UNHCR's drought response are available based on unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions received this year (53% Kenya, 47% Ethiopia, 30% Somalia).

Contacts:

Joyce Wayua Munyao-Mbithi, Senior Donor Relations Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - munyao@unhcr.org;

Kabami Kalumiya, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for the East, Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Nairobi - kalumiya@unhcr.org