

DROUGHT SITUATION RESPONSE UPDATE

October 2022



Dekow Ali, a father of 4 sets a makeshift shelter for him and his family after arriving in Dagahaley camp, Dadaab, Kenya, after fleeing the war in Somalia.
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Situation Overview

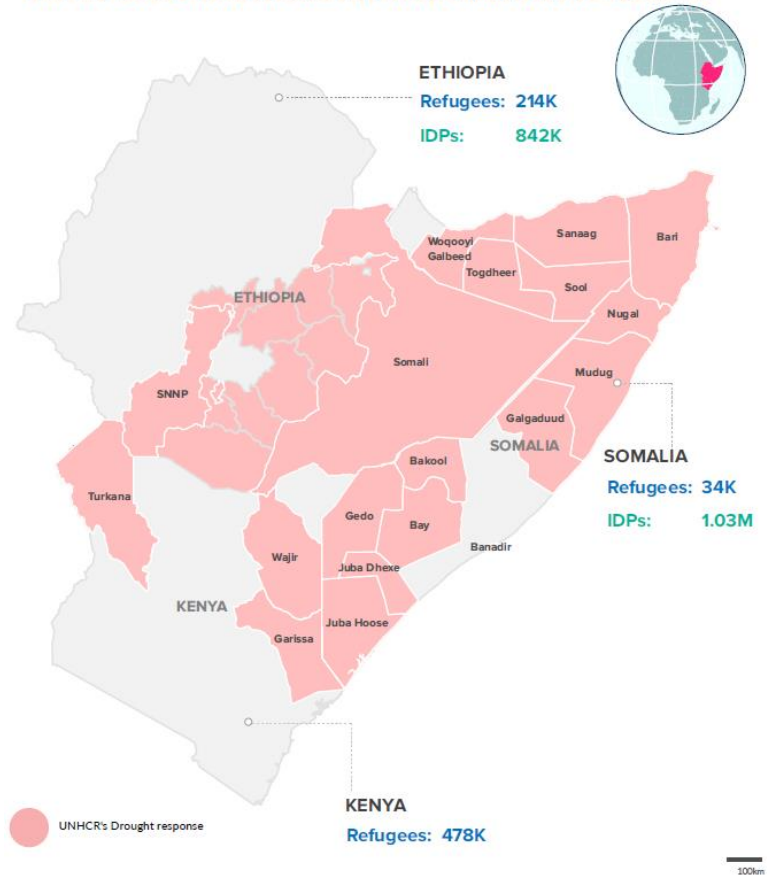
UNHCR's High Commissioner undertook [a mission to Kenya and Somalia](#) (19-25 October) where he emphasized critical requirements and funding gaps in the region. He called on global leaders to spare no efforts in assisting countries in the Horn of Africa to break the cycle of conflict and climate crises. In Galkacyo, Somalia, the High Commissioner met families who had trekked for days to reach displacement sites and heard stories of survival, such as leaving behind loved ones or selling their assets to feed their children, and the particular consequences for women and children. In Kenya, the High Commissioner visited refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma, meeting with local and county authorities, host community members and partners. In Dadaab, the High Commissioner saw first-hand how the drought is impacting refugees and host communities alike, and the particularly difficult situation for new arrivals. The High Commissioner met with the Presidents of both Kenya and Somalia and expressed UNHCR's commitment to supporting the countries to pursue solutions for those who have been displaced.

Somalia remains on the frontline of climate emergency, with the ongoing drought affecting some 7.8 million people. According to the [UNHCR-led Protection Returns Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), more than 1 million people have been displaced due to the drought in 2022 alone. In pockets of Baidoa and Buur Hakaba districts of Bay Region, famine is projected by the Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee by the end of the year, if urgent humanitarian aid is not scaled up and sustained. The effects of climate change, persistent insecurity, armed conflict, extreme poverty, and soaring food prices have eroded the resilience of millions of Somalis and increased vulnerabilities.

In **Kenya**, the needs in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) continue to rise as the region faces its fifth consecutive below-average rainy season from October to December 2022. The duration and severity of this drought—which is longer than any in recent history—is outpacing the response. In pastoral areas, herders have already lost 2.5 million livestock as a result of the drought. Early projections indicate the possibility of a sixth consecutive poor rainy season from March to May 2023.

The estimated number of drought-affected sub-zones (“woredas”) in **Ethiopia** has doubled in recent months. The most affected region is the lower Somali region (Daawa, Liban and Afder zones) where the drought-affected population is estimated to be 2.4 million people, including 204,500 Somali refugees and 648,000 internally displaced. Should the expected rainy season during October-December 2022 fail, as is predicted by international and national meteorological agencies, the risk of further internal displacement, refugee flows and increases in malnutrition, disease, livestock loss and mortality especially among children and elderly is high. The needs of the drought-affected and internal displaced far exceed available resources and response capacity.

UNHCR'S DROUGHT RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND SOMALIA



Due to the high risk of a regional emergency, natural disaster and displacement scenario, and as per UNHCR’s Emergency Policy (following an internal UNHCR declaration of a level 2 regional emergency for Somalia, Djibouti, Kenya and Ethiopia in July 2022), a Joint Senior Level Mission comprised of Headquarter and Regional Bureau staff visited Ethiopia and Kenya in October 2022. The objectives of the mission were to review contingency plans for a possible refugee influx, assess the impact on local communities and IDPs and further internal displacement scenarios, and consider the regional and country emergency response. In Ethiopia, the mission visited the lower Somali region which is the worst affected by the impact of the drought. Additionally, the mission offered an opportunity to learn lessons and further systemize UNHCR’s response to the growing rates of displacement and refugee flows due to climate change including across borders and within countries.

The continued drought and protracted displacement exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and risks amongst the communities. Cases of malaria, meningitis, measles, as well as dysentery are on the rise, with a high risk of cholera outbreak, which has already plagued the certain areas in the Somali region of Ethiopia and Dadaab, Kenya. 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 response

SOMALIA

In Somalia, UNHCR is part of the inter-agency drought response and leads Protection and Shelter/NFI clusters and co-leads Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and the Somalia Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Inter-Agency Network, which is working with partners to support integration of PSEA into sectoral responses.

SECTORAL RESPONSE

The Protection Cluster has been providing hands-on technical guidance and support on protection mainstreaming to partners. It has developed easy to use tip sheets/tools with recommended actions to mainstream Protection in Food Security, Nutrition, and CCCM responses. Similar tools are also being developed for WASH, Health, and Shelter clusters. The Protection Cluster has also developed and shared a protection mainstreaming mapping and tracking tool to help clusters track their protection mainstreaming initiatives.

As part of the ongoing Vulnerability Assessment (VA) and targeting exercise, which is being conducted in coordination with local authorities and partners, UNHCR has assessed approximately 40,000 IDP households. Based on the assessment, more than 16,000 vulnerable households have been provided with various assistance, such as provision of core relief items (CRIs) and shelter assistance, cash assistance, and specialized protection services, in some of the worst drought hit parts of Somalia, including Baidoa, Banadir, and Dollow. More vulnerable IDPs will be reached through similar interventions in coming weeks. Additional gaps and unmet needs identified during the VA exercise will be addressed through existing inter-agency referral mechanisms and coordination structures.

UNHCR continued to scale up its **protection response**, including implementation of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, mitigation, and response interventions and training of partners on code of conduct, PSEA, and protection/GBV mainstreaming in Baidoa, Galkayo, and Dollow. A total of 19 mobile and static Protection Desks have been established in Baidoa, Banadir, Beletweyne, Dhobley, Dollow, Galkayo, and Kismayo. The Protection Desks will help identify vulnerable individuals who are in need of assistance, enhance outreach and communication, and identify trends by studying the information collected at the settlement level to complement ongoing protection monitoring analysis. Moreover, reception/counselling desks set up across IDP sites improved UNHCR's field presence and coordination, community engagement, and information sharing. UNHCR has reached more than 188,787 individuals through its protection response this year.



UNHCR and partner conducting Vulnerability Assessment with a female headed household in Baidoa. © UNHCR/ Abdikarim Mohamed Noor.

Lifesaving assistance through the provision of shelter and CRIs, either in-kind or monetized, continued through the month of October. Approximately 146,000 IDPs and host communities have received CRI kits this year which are comprised of basic household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, and jerry cans. Likewise, to date, more than 33,000 IDPs have benefited from shelter support.

The overall number of drought affected people who received **cash assistance** from UNHCR has nearly doubled since September 2021. This year, UNHCR has supported some 35,518 vulnerable refugees, asylum seekers and returnees with cash assistance to help them mitigate against the drought and meet their basic needs. Likewise, 69,665 IDPs and host community members have received multipurpose and emergency cash grants, allowing the drought affected families to prioritize and address their immediate and short-term needs with dignity. In the coming weeks, additional vulnerable displaced families will be targeted with cash assistance.

Other multi-sectoral drought response activities supported by UNHCR include IDP site improvement works such as rehabilitation of drains and installation of street solar lights. CCCM partners also worked with Nutrition actors to screen new arrival children at risk of malnutrition and make referrals to feeding programme. In South-Central Somalia and Puntland, sustainable livelihood activities were underway to build resilience of drought affected displaced families.

Overall, UNHCR has so far supported more than 250,000 drought-affected individuals with protection, shelter and cash assistance in 2022.

ETHIOPIA

SOMALI REGION

Melkadida: In Filtu and Dekasuftu, UNHCR and its partners distributed core relief items to 1,036 vulnerable households, consisting of 6,890 individuals. The items distributed included blankets, sleeping mats, solar lanterns and jerrycan. A post-distribution monitoring survey has been undertaken to understand the impact of the assistance and additional needs. Additionally, UNHCR constructed 72 transitional shelters (45 in Dekasuftu and 27 in Filtu). Going forward, UNHCR proposes to distribute plastic sheets as well as cash to help IDPs build

their own shelters. In response to a cholera outbreak in Karsadula and Guardamole woredas of Liban Zone, UNHCR provided financial support to the authorities to help mitigate the spread and impact of the disease. With this support, the authorities trained health workers on cholera outbreak management, hired private vehicles, facilitated monitoring missions by technical teams from the regional office in Jijiga and printed 1,000 educational posters on cholera for the zonal health office.

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 continues to truck water in Aw-barre and Kebribeyah refugee camps for both refugees and the communities hosting them. 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

UNHCR distributed core relief items to 500 vulnerable drought affected IDP families in Farbuo 1 and 2 IDP settlements in Shabelle Zone. As a result, the targeted 5,000 households across the five zones of Jarar, Nogob, Erer, Doolo and Shabelle have been reached with life-saving relief items.

UNHCR in collaboration with RRS and protection partners is verifying a list of 3,000 extremely vulnerable refugees to whom one-time cash assistance will be provided.

OROMIA REGION

In the month of October, core relief items were distributed to 1,500 drought-affected families in Guba Qoricha, Daro Labu, Hawi Gudina and Burka Dimtu localities as well as Gemechis, Habro, and Odda-bultum districts in West Hararghe, bringing the total number of households reached so far to 5,000. Each family received clothes, two blankets, a kitchen set and three sleeping mats. In addition, 60 households have been identified to receive cash assistance to support their livelihoods.

UNHCR and Action for the Needy Ethiopia (ANE) similarly distributed relief items to over 30,000 drought-affected people in East Guji and Borena zones in the Oromia region. They include 13,273 individuals in the Dubluk woreda of the Borena zone and 19,500 others in five woredas in East Guji zone. In Hadha Dedecha, Dilalesa, Meda Denun and Adadi Bokola kebeles of the East Guji zone, UNHCR and ANE distributed blankets, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and other core relief items to 200 families, composed of 1,976 members. Almost 10,000 others in Dubluk woreda of Borena zone have been identified for a similar support, pending the relaxation of the movement restriction that was imposed due to the deteriorating security situation in the area.

A recent multi-agency drought assessment visit to East and West Hararge zones of the Oromia region, concluded that over 2.3 million people in the area needed urgent food assistance; 800,000 of them are children and pregnant and lactating women, who require special nutrition support as well. The situation is exposing women and children to serious protection risks: women and girls walk long distances in search of water and food sources, heightening the risk of violence and other abuses, and children are also dropping out of school to support their families.



An internally displaced woman in Ethiopia has seen her livestock & livelihoods disappear due to the worst drought in decades and is now facing extreme food insecurity.

KENYA

Dadaab: Due to ongoing drought, insecurity and lack of access to basic services in neighbouring Somalia, the Dadaab refugee complex continues to experience an emergency influx of new arrivals. Based on a profiling exercise concluded in July 2022, the profiled undocumented population stood at 45,856 individuals (13,261 households). Profiling resumed in mid-September and 8,600 new arrivals were subsequently profiled.¹ Projections for new arrivals for the remainder of 2022 and for 2023 are currently under review.

In our **protection response**, UNHCR and partners have conducted vulnerability screenings to assess various specific needs of the undocumented population. This will enable timely assistance to populations with critical specific needs during the drought response. Currently, 3,422 persons with specific needs (older persons, children, persons with disabilities and persons with serious and/or chronic medical conditions among others) have been assessed for support. They require assistive devices and other material assistance. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is in the process of providing this support.

There is an ongoing extension of **water pipelines** to the outskirts of the camps for the new arrivals in the three camps. These include four (4) tap stands with sixteen (16) nozzles. Ten (10) communal latrines have been constructed in each of the three camps. There will be water trucking sites in the three camps and 10,000 litres plastic tanks in the Hagadera camp. A new extension to augment the previous WASH interventions is ongoing. This includes a 4.5km pipeline, 15 new tap stands, and 60 more communal latrines to the outskirts.

There are currently no transitional shelters for the new arrivals affected by the drought, with emergency shelter support provided to the most vulnerable only. Low shelter coverage in Dadaab camps has further been exacerbated by limited funding and the Government of Kenya's suspension on the construction of permanent shelters for refugees since 2014. Procurement of 1,000 family tents for the undocumented profiled population

¹ An estimated 24,000 new arrivals to Dadaab since late September are currently undergoing screening and profiling for assistance.

with specific needs has been completed (2,000 tarpaulin sheets are also earmarked for distribution to the new arrivals).

For the host community, as part of the current drought intervention area-based livelihood initiative under a consortium of three partners: Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and International Trade Centre (ITC), the disbursement of emergency multi-purpose cash transfers was carried out for 210 households from the neighboring host communities of Labasigale, Bulla Nyanya, Bula Kher, Dadaab town, and 100 households in the Fafi constituency. The programme supports households with specific needs, which are affected by severe drought. The support will run for three months, and each household will receive KES 8,120 (equivalent to USD 66) to boost and increase household food security and reduce the effects of malnutrition during the current drought in the targeted host community areas.

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 mangers 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.

To support relocation of refugees from reception centers to Kalobeyei settlement, construction of an additional 150 communal shared latrines has been approved and construction is currently ongoing (in addition to 1,470 previously completed).

UNHCR also continued to provide water to about 20,000 persons within host communities living in 7 villages within Kalobeyei through trucking 100,000 litres of water per week. 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 have planned 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 the host community population.

A cumulative 3,318 normal transitional shelters have been constructed for new arrivals including 50 improved shelters for Persons with Special Needs. A cumulative 12,365 individuals (3,616 households) have since been relocated to occupy these shelters.

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).