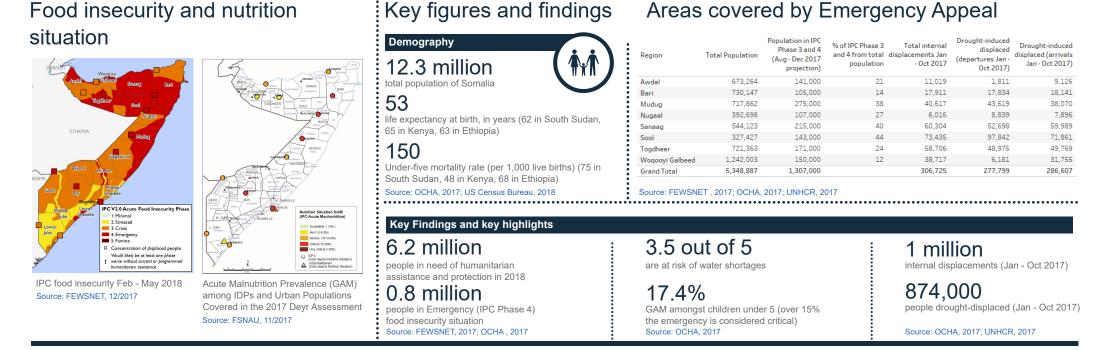


International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Crisis overview

Background: The Horn of Africa is facing a complex and longstanding crisis. The risk of famine continues in several areas and has been prevented in 2017 due to large-scale humanitarian assistance. Drought, exacerbated by ongoing conflict and displacement, severely impacted large segments of the population. 1 million people have been newly displaced (of which 874,000 because of drought) between January and October 2017, adding up to a total of 2.1 million IDPs. Source: FAO, 2017; OCHA, 2017; UNHCR, 2017

Current food security situation: Key drivers of the crisis are governance challenges, conflict and climate shocks. Four consecutive poor seasons led to well below average production and large-scale livestock losses, which have reduced household access to food and income. La Niña-like conditions caused erratic and – about 50% – below average rains in the deyr season (October–December), despite additional November rains modestly improving crop, pasture and water conditions. In northern pastoral areas, pasture and water resources were below average. Source: FAO, 2017; OCHA, 2017

Main sectors of concern: In 2017, the health sector was severely impacted by drought and worsening humanitarian crisis, leading to increased levels of malnutrition. GAM is at 17.4 % amongst children under five years, with 3.2 % being severely malnourished. According to the 2017 Deyr season nutrition assessment by FSNAU, despite the persistence of high prevalence of acute malnutrition, the nutrition situation of IDPs has improved in Baidoa, Dhusmareeb, Hargeisa and Berbera since June 2017 (Gu season). In Somaliland and Puntland, the highest levels of malnutrition amongst displaced people can be found in Galkayo, while alert levels of GAM are found in Berbera and Bosasso. Across the country, threats to health and resilience are exacerbated by inadequate WASH facilities. Open defaecation rates are high, and there are limited household assets for maintaining facilities, including de-silting of berkads, which collect water during the wet season for use in the dry season. In 2017 a major AWD/cholera outbreak with over 78,000 cases was reported, including a measles epidemic affecting all regions with a total of nearly 19,000 cases. An IOM assessment in Awdal, Woqooyi Galbeed, Sanaag, Sool and Togdheer regions show that from the 1,004,400 IDPs, the majority (77%) stay with host communities, others in planned or spontaneous sites (total 595 sites). More than half of the sites have been there over one year. Food was stated as a priority need (30%), followed by medical services (24%), NFIs/shelter (21%), drinking water (18%) and WASH (7%). Source: FSNAU, 11/2017; IOM, 11/2017; OCHA, 2017

Projected outlook for 2018: In Somalia, 6.2 million people face continued high or increasing levels of acute food insecurity. 3.1 million are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) – a nearly threefold increase in one year. A further 3.1 million are under Stress (IPC Phase 2). Crop production is expected to be 70-80% below the average, and drought conditions are likely to persist in the Horn of Africa from April - June, potentially leading to below-average 2018 gu season (April–June). Millions of rural Somalis face the prospect of a fifth consecutive below-average season. Famine (IPC Phase 5) remains a possible outcome in the worst-affected areas in 2018, including areas where humanitarian access is limited or impeded. Large-scale assistance is needed throughout 2018 to protect lives and livelihoods. Source: FAO, 2018; FEWSNET, 12/2017; OCHA, 2017