

SitRep #: 007

Country:	<i>SOMALIA</i>
Crisis:	Long standing conflict /drought
Covering period:	25th April to 2nd May 2017
Crisis Location:	Countrywide
Date issued:	1 st May 2017
Beneficiaries reached:	About 500,000 in different locations – estimates
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1. Situation overview including Security Issues

The drought situation continues to worsen and famine still remains a possibility. An estimated 6.2 million people, over half of the population, remain in need of food assistance, out of which 2.9 million are in need of urgent support (IPC Phase 3 ‘Crisis’ and 4, ‘Emergency’), while 5.5 million are in need of health services and 4.5 million people are lacking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services.

The cumulative rainfall forecast for the week ending 2nd May 2017 shows moderate to heavy rains in most parts of the country, according to the Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM), a system managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) managed. There is currently a 20 percent possibility of El Nino occurring towards the end of the year but this is projected to increase in the coming months.

Displacements: Drought-related displacement continues across Somalia with most of the displaced people moving from rural to urban areas or other rural areas where they anticipate to receive aid. Up to **599,000 persons** have been internally displaced due to drought as of 25th April this year, since November 2016. Baidoa, which is one of the hardest-hit by the drought, has 85 new displacement settlements set up in 2017 alone. During a recently conducted assessment of Baidoa by the cluster coordinators, the interviewed displaced persons indicated that food, water and shelter are of priority concern and that the main reason for leaving their homes for Baidoa was access to aid.

Measles cases: Cases of measles continue to rise across the country with a total of 5,689 cases having been reported as of 25th April 2017. Almost 44 percent of the cases reported are from the two regions of Togdheer at 1,075 and Benadir at 1,419.

AWD/Cholera: Due to worsening drought conditions, AWD/Cholera cases continue to spread to various parts of Somalia, particularly in South Central, Puntland and now Somaliland. However, compared to the previous week, the number of AWD/Cholera cases has decreased from 3,128 to 2,984 and the case fatality rate down from 2.1 per cent to 2 percent. The total number of cases recorded since the beginning of the year has reached 28,408 with 558 deaths reported.

Reproductive Health: The devastating drought continues to threaten the lives of 607,000 pregnant women around the country. More than 130,000 of them may require critical and urgent assistance. Somalia already has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the world; one out of every 22 women is likely to die due to pregnancy or childbirth-related causes during her life course.

Protection: Gender-based violence (GBV) remains rampant in Somalia, mostly affecting women and girls and increasing their vulnerability as follows:

- **Nomadic movement:** For example, the rape cases reported in Bossaso and surrounding villages were said to have been among nomadic women and girls, who migrated to the East region where they are not familiar with the area and clan. About 13 of them suffered gang rape in April alone. This has been a common trend across all the regions.
- **Lower economic status of women:** Livelihoods diminishes due to the loss of livestock by nomadic populations in the drought. Limited employment for young people and men and women both in the host communities and IDPs is exposing them to risk of violence. The male youths are becoming aggressive, out of frustration and equally violating girls, with an emerging trend of gang rapes.
- **Workload on women and girls:** considering that food security is also dependent on clean water and firewood, this is placing extra burden of women and girls who are primarily tasked with the collection of water and firewood, exposing them to more risks.

Security: The United Nations has expressed concern about increased insecurity for civilians and humanitarian workers along major access roads in southern and central Somalia. The United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said the majority of districts have moderate to high movement restrictions linked to road blockades, active hostilities and extortion at checkpoints.

2. Humanitarian needs

Reproductive health needs:

- Scale up of existing services, including strengthening referral of complicated cases to provide emergency obstetric and neonatal care to drought affected populations
- Integrated reproductive health outreach campaigns targeting the drought affected populations that do not have access to basic health services
- Hygiene/dignity kits in light of the acute watery diarrhea and cholera cases confirmed
- Clean delivery kits
- Emergency reproductive health kits
- Coordination of reproductive health partners
- Capacity building of health workers
- Awareness on reproductive health, hygiene gender based violence, birth spacing
- Most facilities need refurbishing /revamping, as they do not have the capacity of managing the increased number of internally displace people.

Protection

- Dignity kits
- Gender-based violence (GBV) integration in site management and increased GBV awareness
- Strengthen coordination of gender-based violence response
- Safe referral pathways

Nutrition

- Nutrition Screening and provision of iron and folic acid

3. Government and UN and other stakeholders' response:

- A 16-member team of humanitarian cluster coordinators conducted a mission to Baidoa Drought Operations Coordination Center (DOCC) on 25th April with the goal to develop strategies on strengthening the Baidoa DOCC and scale up response for the increased numbers of the drought-displaced population
- The Somali authorities, together with donors, UN Agencies and both international and local NGOs continue to contribute aid towards food, education, shelter, water-sanitation, protection and health

4. Key activities implemented by UNFPA and Progress

- UNFPA is supporting 17 One Stop Centres and three family centres throughout the country
- UNFPA has supported the development of common guidelines, including Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) protocols, referral pathway, the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) included in the drought response guide, service mapping and common national response plans
- In Somaliland UNFPA is planning to conduct a reproductive health integrated outreach campaign during the coming weeks in Gar-adag and Taleex districts targeting 6,000 people. The overall objective of the campaign is to provide emergency sexual, reproductive and maternal health services to the population severely affected by the drought
- UNFPA has started receiving reproductive health kits ordered through the Emergency Fund Request. These kits include kit 6A and 6B for BEmNOC and kit 11A and 11B for CEmONC facilities.
- UNFPA Humanitarian Response Officer from Mogadishu joined the cluster coordinators mission to Baidoa to attend the OCHA-led inter-cluster meetings and discuss scaling up of response with some implementing partners

5. Resource Mobilization and Finance:

- So far, donors have made US\$600 million available to scale up famine prevention activities in Somalia. An estimated US\$ 278 million or 46 percent of the funding has already been disbursed to humanitarian partners, while an additional US\$ 289 million is committed and US\$ 31 million pledged
- The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan is currently under revision and will be finalized by May. The 2017 HRP has so far received US\$417 million of the total humanitarian funding or 48 percent of the US\$ 863 million requested under the original appeal
- UNFPA has a Humanitarian Response Plan for both protection and health costed at US\$ 24,578,324 and so far received US\$ 847,195, which leaves a funding gap of US\$ 23,731,124
- UNFPA CERF rapid response proposal for US\$ 400,000 to OCHA has been approved. This funding will be used for drought response for a duration of six month. The funds will go towards the following;
 - Provision of emergency obstetric and neonatal care in Somaliland and South Central particularly Baidoa, through support to scale up and maintaining maternity homes and conducting two integrated reproductive health outreach campaigns
 - Training on safe delivery for midwives, CEmONC for doctors and Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health Coordinators
 - Procurement of more emergency reproductive health kits and supplies for facilities
 - Communication and documentation
 - Monitoring

6. Communication and Advocacy

- The country office is part of the Humanitarian Communications Working Group and continues to include reproductive health and GBV in the key messages on famine prevention in Somalia

- The country office also contributes to the weekly OCHA SitRep
- Success stories on the country office drought response are continuously shared on the Somalia Country Office website including social media through Twitter and Facebook

7. Other Issues:

- UNFPA needs support in responding to drought in the following areas:
 - Operations: Support is needed in operations particularly in the area of logistics
 - Gender Based Violence: Three GBV specialists are needed to strengthen coordination of GBV Response
 - Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH): An SRH in emergencies specialist
 - Data in emergencies: Programme Specialist