

Sitrep #: 002

Country:	<i>SOMALIA</i>
Crisis:	Long standing conflict /drought
Covering period:	22nd February to 20th March 2017
Crisis Location:	Countrywide
Date issued:	20 th March 2017
Beneficiaries reached:	About 500,000 in different locations - estimates
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1. Situation overview including Security Issues

The humanitarian situation in Somalia is rapidly deteriorating and famine is a very likely possibility in 2017. The number of people in need of assistance has increased from five million in September 2015 to 6.2 million in February 2017. This includes a drastic increase in the number of people in ‘crisis’ and ‘emergency’ from 1.1 million six months ago to a projected three million between February and June this year. The ongoing drought and other climatic shocks, continued insecurity and armed conflict, recurrent human rights violations, and lack of basic services continue to drive humanitarian needs and create high levels of vulnerability among millions of Somalis.

In the southern central regions of Somalia, January and February has seen significantly below normal water levels of the Shabelle River. The most affected regions in the southern states are Bay, Bakool, Hiran, lower Shabelle, middle Shabelle and Lower Jubba with 257,000 people displaced. There are also 9,192 confirmed Acute Watery Diarrhea cases in South Central Somalia.

In Puntland the drought conditions continue to be severe in Bari, Sanaag, Nugaal and Sool directly affecting approximately 500,000 people and displacing about 17,000 people. More and more water sources are set to dry up in the coming months, leaving those that remain congested and over-stressed.

According to information shared by UNOCHA in March, there at least 39,000 displaced households or about 234,000 displaced people in Somaliland.

The security situation remains the same with over 20 violent incidents targeted at humanitarian organizations with one death, six injured, three abductions and two arrests of humanitarian workers reported in South Central Somalia.

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. Out of the 3 million women affected by the humanitarian crisis, 120,000 are expected to be pregnant.
- Integrated reproductive health outreach campaigns targeting the drought affected populations that do not have access to basic health services. The integrated outreach campaign will include provision of reproductive health services, PMTCT, birth spacing needs and food distribution by WFP.
- 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

Protection

- Dignity kits
- Gender based violence awareness
- Coordination of gender-based violence
- Safe referral pathways

Nutrition

- Nutrition Screening and provision of iron and folic acid

3. Government and UN and other stakeholders' response:

- The Somali governments which include Federal Government of Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland, together with donors, UN Agencies and both international and local NGOs continue to contribute towards food, education, shelter, water-sanitation and health aid. UNFPA and other partners are addressing reproductive Health (RH). UNFPA is recognized by the IASC to have experience and expertise in RH.
- Humanitarian response is being coordinated by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) through the clusters system. A Humanitarian Operation Centre has been established in Mogadishu with the cluster leads located in the centres. There are sub-national cluster structures established to coordinate the drought response in all the recognised emerging states including Jubbaland, Galmudud, ISWA, Somaliland and Puntland.
- Drought response committees have been established by the governments of Puntland, Somaliland and the Somali Federal Government.
- The HCT has established additional drought operations centres in Hargeisa, and Baidoa.

4. Key activities implemented by UNFPA and Progress

- UNFPA is part of the UN Humanitarian Country team and heads the GBV sub-cluster and also sits on the Cluster Review Committee of both Health and Nutrition clusters
- The humanitarian coordinator in the country office is the focal point for UNFPA in the newly established Drought Operations Centre in Mogadishu. In Puntland, UNFPA is the co-lead agency in the second drought operations centre.
- UNFPA Somalia is part of the Health and Protection Cluster and has recently revised both humanitarian response plans to include the drought response.
- UNFPA humanitarian response team is in continuous communication and consultation with sub-offices for updates and ASRO region office for advice and support.
- UNFPA continues responding to the drought through the kits and supplies procured through the Emergency Fund Request and has recently procured 50 kit3 to assist 2,500 GBV survivors.
- UNFPA is working with partners to support SRH and GBV services.

5. Resource Mobilization and Finance:

- UNFPA has not received new funding for humanitarian response
- The country office recently updated the humanitarian response plans for Health and Protection to include pre-famine activities
- An Emergency Fund Request of US\$ 125,000 has been submitted to HFCB to continue response to the drought particularly in Puntland by conducting four integrated reproductive health outreach campaigns in the areas most affected by drought
- There is US\$ 300,000 expected for the CERF rapid response
- The country office is planning five integrated reproductive health outreach campaigns in Sool in Somaliland, Bay and Hiran in southern regions with funding from Japan. There are also discussions ongoing with UNICEF Global Fund HIV program and the World Food Programme to support the outreach campaigns and increasing access to PMTCT for pregnant women and PLWHIV among communities affected by drought.

6. Communication and Advocacy

- The country office is part of the Humanitarian Communications working group and has included reproductive health and GBV in the key messages on famine prevention in Somalia
- The country office issued a press release on distribution of kits in Puntland
- The country office in conjunction with the regional office released a attributable to UNFPA Director for the Arab States Regional Office, Dr. Luay Shabaneh, on the humanitarian crisis in Somalia
- Success stories on the country office drought response are continuously shared on the Somalia Country Office website including social media through Twitter and Facebook.
- UNFPA Somali Quarterly Newsletter