

FAST FACTS

**4.5M**

people in need of
humanitarian
Assistance

**AMONG
WHOM:****1.1 M**

are women of
reproductive age

**135,000**

pregnant
women
targeted by
UNFPA

**22,500**

women and
girls at risk of
gender-
based violence



Drought: Somalia is on the verge of a major humanitarian emergency. The country is facing severe climatic conditions, combined with other persistent drivers of humanitarian crisis such as armed conflict, protracted and continued displacement and a spike in evictions of internally displaced persons (Drought Response Plan 2019). This comes barely two years after the prolonged 2016/2017 drought destroyed livelihoods and displaced almost one million Somalis but also triggered a massive and successful scale up in humanitarian response to avert famine.

The poor performance of 2018 Deyr, coupled with harsh weather conditions during the dry Jilaal (January–March 2019) season and the poor performance of the Gu' (April–June 2019) rains in April, has left many parts of Somalia facing worsening drought conditions, leading to concerning water scarcity and earlier than normal start of water trucking across the country, particularly in Somaliland and Puntland. South West State (SWS) remains one of the areas in Somalia highly vulnerable to climatic shocks related to rainfall failure every often. For instance, the number of IDP settlements stands at 391 hosting over 323,000 displaced persons many of them due to the previous drought, according to assessment results conducted by humanitarian partners and authorities in Baidoa in February/March 2019.

Reproductive health: the devastating drought continues to threaten the lives of 135,00 pregnant women around the country. Somalia already has one of the highest maternal mortality rates 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: There continues to be a need for the protection of vulnerable groups. Women and children who are affected by displacement are at particular risk of exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), including rape. Recurrent drought, protracted conflict and armed attacks have resulted in insecurity, major protection challenges, food insecurity and extremely weakened basic socio-economic services.

Humanitarian Needs

1. Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs

- 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 for gender based violence survivors and pregnant women
- Enhance the capacity of health professionals and humanitarian staff on the implementation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) during emergencies
- Prepositioning of emergency reproductive health

2. Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- Availability and accessibility of quality and confidential services including clinical management of rape (CMR) and psycho-social support and safe referral pathways for GBV survivors in the most drought and conflict affected regions
- Making available hygiene/dignity kits for gender based violence survivors and pregnant women
- Mobilizing and training health professionals on CMR and psycho-social services for GBV survivors.

3. UNFPA Drought Response

- UNFPA and its implementing partners are working to ensure access to integrated sexual and reproductive health/maternal services to support nutrition recovery in affected areas of Somaliland and Puntland through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)
- UNFPA and its partners conducted integrated reproductive health campaigns involving ante/post-natal care, reproductive health information and counselling, including birth spacing, counselling and support, distribution of dignity kits and referrals in Sool and Sanaag regions of Puntland/Somaliland
- UNFPA is also working with partners in other affected regions of the country to support SRH and GBV services and advocacy

4. Government, UN and other stakeholders' response

- The Somali authorities, together with donors, UN agencies and both international and local NGOs continue to contribute aid in form of food, education, shelter, water-sanitation, protection and health services
- The 2019 Drought Response Plan (DRP) was launched by the Somalia humanitarian community under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNOCHA. The plan is seeking USD 710 Million to respond to the worsening drought conditions in the country

5. Resource Mobilization

UNFPA has received the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2019 for its rapid drought response efforts in Somaliland and Puntland. UNFPA is also working with bilateral donors in securing more funds for other regions in the country affected by the drought and conflict

6. Coordination

UNFPA is leading the national and sub-national GBV sub-cluster under the protection cluster and the reproductive health working group which is under the health cluster. UNFPA is actively participating in the Disaster Operation Center (DOC), Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and other coordination forums led by the government.