

CRISIS BRIEF: HORN OF AFRICA

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY



United Nations Development Programme

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UNDP'S RESPONSE

After consecutive seasons of inadequate rainfall, countries in the Horn of Africa are facing the worst drought in 60 years – leading to the largest food crisis in 20 years, and the world's first famine of this century. UNDP is engaged with humanitarian actors in the region as an essential part of the response, addressing underlying factors of livelihoods and governance.

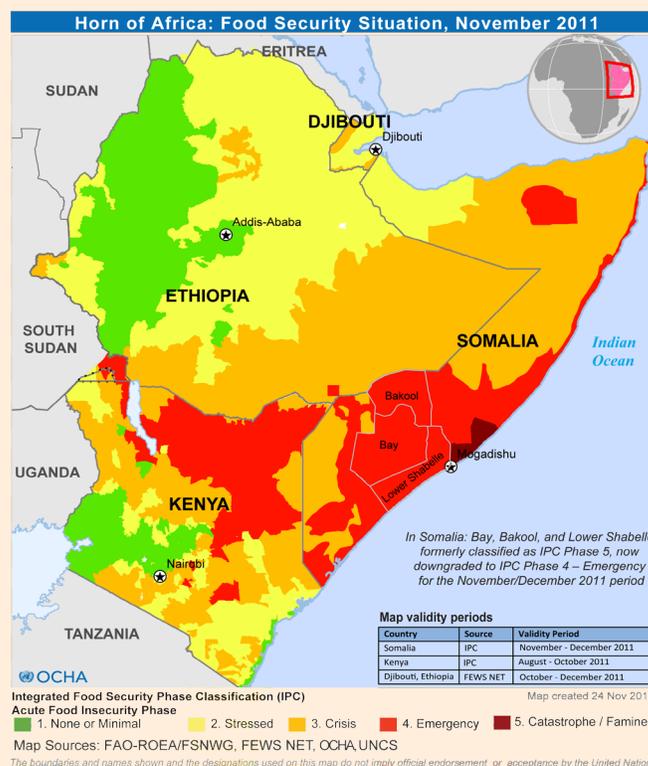
The magnitude of human suffering is alarming. Millions in the region are facing severe food shortages. Disproportionately affected are children – their mortality levels are truly shocking. The impact of the drought is exacerbated by high food prices and limited coping capacity of vulnerable populations. Access problems persist in Somalia and there has been a significant increase in refugees fleeing to neighboring countries, leading to overcrowding of existing refugee camps.

Facts and Figures

- More than **13 million people** in **Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya** and **Somalia** affected by the drought and food crisis.
- More than **250,000 Somalis** still at risk of starvation.
- Heavy rains and insecurity continue to impede humanitarian access to drought- and conflict-affected people in parts of **Kenya, Ethiopia** and **Somalia**.
- **800,000 refugees** and **1.46 million internally displaced persons**
- **Fragile livelihoods** and **poor security** and **governance** turned **drought into famine**.

WHAT IS NEEDED

The increasingly complex situation requires a scaled-up international response to address immediate humanitarian needs, quickly restore productive assets, and mitigate conflicts to prevent further destabilization in the region. It is also essential to address the longer-term food security issues in the region—the root causes of the famine. In order to break the cycle of drought, food and livelihood-insecurity, it is critical to invest in longer-term measures which help build the resilience of affected populations.



UNDP'S APPROACH

While droughts cannot be avoided, famines can. UNDP firmly believes that investing more effectively in reducing poverty and building resilience is essential to help those affected to break out of the cycle of disasters. Focusing on restoring livelihoods and productive assets as quickly as possible will ensure a faster recovery. UNDP brings expertise in the tasks of early recovery, building resilience, and adapting to the ravages of extreme climatic conditions. In all its work, UNDP focuses on providing support to the most vulnerable. UNDP also places importance on gender equality and women's empowerment and the crucial role women play in ensuring food security. The organization has well-established Country Offices and delivery mechanisms already in place that support disaster and conflict management, local governance, management of natural resources, and sustainable livelihoods for a viable economic recovery. UNDP is also strengthening national capacities for disaster risk reduction and livelihoods recovery throughout the region. These efforts are critical and need to be supported.

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UNDP'S APPROACH(cont.)

In the short term, UNDP is focusing on rapidly restoring people's livelihoods — providing opportunities for local economic recovery as early as possible; and increasing security and preventing conflict. In the medium and long-term, UNDP will keep working with partners to redouble efforts to ensure sustainable food security in the region – through multi-year and multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction programmes and economic and livelihood support initiatives; supporting local peacebuilding; and strengthening institutions for long-term economic recovery and development.

UNDP'S CURRENT FUNDING PRIORITIES

UNDP is actively involved in the crisis response and in supporting governments with emergency response capacity. UNDP has allocated US\$6 million for the immediate scaling up of critical programming in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. However, additional funding is urgently needed.

Country	Required funding (USD)	Funding shortfall (USD)	Approx. # of beneficiaries
Somalia	47,200,000	43,900,000	1,000,000
Kenya	14,200,000	13,200,000	1,500,000
Ethiopia	22,600,000	19,950,000	1,000,000
Djibouti	10,900,000	9,900,000	150,000
TOTAL	91,000,000	83,050,000	3,650,000

UNDP IN ACTION

At the regional level, UNDP, in partnership with other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, is implementing an Inter-Agency Plan of Action to respond to the Horn of Africa crisis building on the following national-level initiatives:

Somalia: in spite of the security and access challenges, UNDP has been working in Mogadishu and in some of the districts most seriously affected by the famine, rehabilitating essential agricultural infrastructure, including building shallow wells, boreholes and water pumps; restoring irrigation channels and water harvesting infrastructure; and creating short term jobs which allow households to improve access to food, regain dignity through employment and prepare for the next agricultural season.

Kenya: UNDP is working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support host communities facing additional stress from both the drought and the influx of refugees from Somalia. UNDP is also scaling-up existing poverty reduction programmes to address immediate needs while bridging longer term development. This involves emergency work schemes for rehabilitating community infrastructure, and support for income diversification. UNDP is also supporting the government in developing recovery and long-term resilience interventions based on an assessment of post-disaster needs.

Djibouti: UNDP is supporting immediate needs through the rehabilitation of local community infrastructure and improving local food production in rural areas. UNDP will work with the government on developing a longer-term response based on the recommendations of an assessment of post-disaster needs.

Ethiopia: the government has made good progress in improving food security in recent years. However, there are still a number of regions with significant vulnerable populations, especially small-scale farmers and pastoralist communities. UNDP's planned response includes providing commodity vouchers to these vulnerable groups for restocking agricultural inputs, as well as rehabilitating infrastructure to increase water availability and prevent further deterioration of food security. UNDP has also supported the Government in setting up a national Disaster Risk Management Authority.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

There are a number of ways to support UNDP's work in the region. A direct contribution can be made to any of the UNDP Country Offices through a cost sharing agreement. In addition, contributions can be made at global level through UNDP's Thematic Trust Fund for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. More information on UNDP's work in the region and how to contribute can be found at: www.undp.org.