

CRISIS BRIEF: HORN OF AFRICA

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

United Nations Development Programme



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CONTEXT

After consecutive seasons of inadequate rainfall, throughout 2011 countries in the Horn of Africa faced the worst drought in 60 years—leading to the largest food crisis in 20 years and the world's first famine of this century.

On 20 July, the United Nations officially declared famine in two regions in the southern part of Somalia. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was engaged with humanitarian actors in the region as part of the immediate response, addressing underlying factors of livelihoods and governance.

Although fighting disrupted aid delivery in some areas, the November/December rains, coupled with an intensive scale-up of humanitarian and early recovery operations, significantly reduced malnutrition and mortality rates in southern Somalia. Consequently, several thousand people had begun returning to their homes and farms, and three regions were downgraded from famine status to that of humanitarian emergency in December.

By February 2012, the UN declared that the famine in southern Somalia was over. This progress has brought some hope. But the hard-won gains are still extremely fragile.

The effect of the food crisis still threatens the livelihoods of **9.5 million people** across the region.

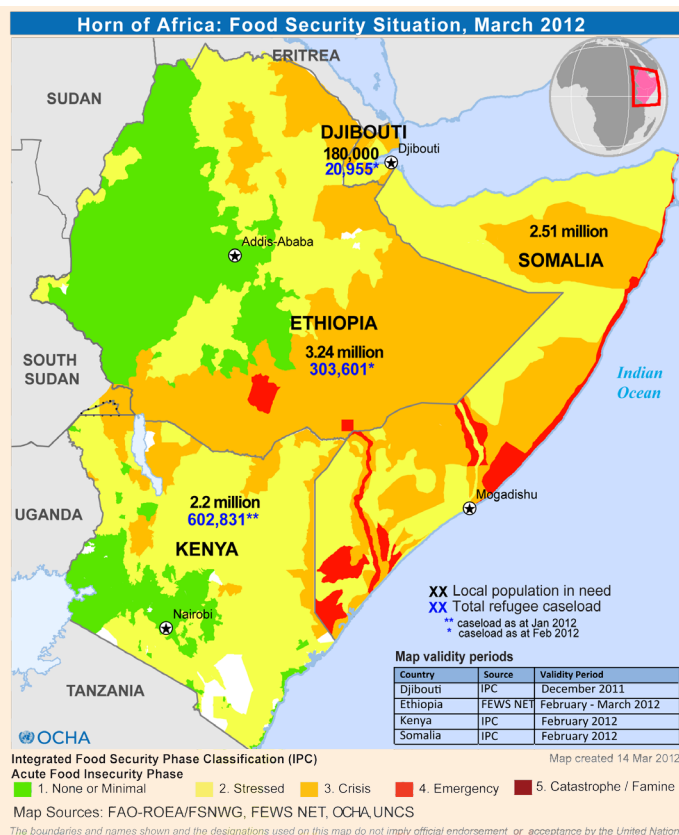
WHAT IS NEEDED

Given the prevalence of Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity in different parts of the Horn of Africa Region and the possibility of below-average March-to-May rainfall in Djibouti, southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya, and most of Somalia, contingency plans are needed to enable timely response before further deterioration of food insecurity.

International support must continue at the same — or even an increased — level throughout 2012. The sustained restoration of productive assets and the mitigation of conflicts to prevent further destabilization is essential. In addition, in order to break the cycle of drought food and livelihood insecurity, it is critical to invest in longer-term measures which help to 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.



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, climate change adaptation and livelihoods recovery throughout the region. These efforts are critical and need to be supported.

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 boost food security in the region through multi-year and multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction programmes, and economic and livelihood support initiatives. Programmes aimed to enhance local peacebuilding and strengthen institutions for long-term economic recovery and development will also continue.

UNDP'S FUNDING PRIORITIES

UNDP is actively involved in the crisis response and in supporting governments with emergency response capacity. UNDP has allocated over **US\$ 6 million for Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti and Somalia and mobilized additional donor funding of about US\$ 16 million** for the immediate scaling up and initiation of new critical programming in these countries. However, additional funding is urgently needed.

Country	Required funding (USD)	Funding shortfall (USD)	Approx. # of beneficiaries
Somalia	47,200,000	40,840,000	1,500,000
Kenya	14,200,000	5,000,000	1,500,000
Ethiopia	22,600,000	18,555,000	1,000,000
Djibouti	10,900,000	8,400,000	150,000
TOTAL	95,000,000	72,795,000	4,150,000

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:

In **Djibouti**, UNDP's Emergency Drought Response cash-for-work programme is providing immediate emergency employment to 5,500 households through rehabilitation of water harvesting infrastructure and has restocked livestock to 500 households.

The programme is expected to benefit a total of 36,000 people, including the most vulnerable rural/urban households through food vouchers. An expanded cash-for-work programme will restore essential community and water infrastructure and provide livelihoods to the drought affected population. In addition, throughout 2012 UNDP will provide Disaster Risk Management trainings to 1,080 representatives from government, civil defense, UN agencies and civil society organizations.

In **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 response to the crisis has been multi-pronged. Under the combined cash and voucher for work schemes, UNDP uses commodity vouchers for both livestock restocking and agricultural inputs that benefit more than 20,000 persons. The response programme is rehabilitating 47 water infrastructures like ponds and traditional wells and putting in place 108 water management committees to increase water availability and access and prevent a further deterioration of food security.

UNDP's response includes building community resilience through 52 risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives planned and implemented by the communities through cash and voucher for work schemes. In addition, 104 community animal health workers are being trained and equipped for improved delivery of vital veterinary services to pastoralist communities. UNDP is also providing support in enhancing the capacity of the Government of Ethiopia's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Authority.

The famine in Somalia in particular sparked an increased flow of refugees into neighboring **Kenya**, with camps near the border areas hosting more than 463,000 refugees, mostly from Somalia. An additional 3.75 million Kenyans were affected by the drought themselves.

With resources short, UNDP scaled up critical programming to improve the living conditions in the northern part of Kenya. By the end of 2011, some 18,000 people living around the camps have seen improved access to water, through new shallow wells and other water harvesting and storage means. This has relieved the competition between refugees and their neighbors.

Additionally, the programme has provided farm implements and 7.7 tonnes of seeds specifically suited to arid conditions to 15,000 people. According to the short rains assessment conducted at the beginning of 2012, the number of people in need of food relief has reduced from 3.75 million to 2.2 million.

In **Somalia**, in spite of the security and access challenges, UNDP has rehabilitated essential agricultural infrastructure, including 80 water catchments that can store almost 380,000 cubic metres of water and 25 kilometres of canals. The programme distributed 3,000 20-litres containers of water to 3,000 households and 2,880 shoats to 360 households.

UNDP has rehabilitated social infrastructure— building 94 kilometres of access roads, rehabilitating a Technical Institute; distributed 1,500 energy-saving stoves and 36 tonnes of charcoal, and planted 18,000 trees. The programme also relocated 108 internally displaced persons by restoring their livelihoods in Bay region. These initiatives created over 280,000 work days for 8,300 people.

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 or online at <http://donate.undp.org>. More information on UNDP's work in the region and how to contribute can be found at: www.undp.org.

For more information contact UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
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