

## Hunger and displacement: Views and solutions from the field

### Somalia



## OVERVIEW HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

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### **Conflict**

- According to the Fragile State Index (FSI) from Fund for Peace, Somalia ranks 2nd out of 178 countries assessed worldwide;
- For decades Somalia has endured conflict, political instability and vacuums, and climate related disasters. Conflict has been a central feature of Somalia's internal power struggle and inherent clan dynamics are the primary source of conflict at all levels of Somali culture and politics. The rise of Islamic Extremism in the form of Al-Shabaab has created another layer of insecurity in the form of clashes with clan and government level forces as well as the external influence of foreign military powers. All of this is producing a widespread, dangerous food crisis;
- Today, 6.2 million people need humanitarian aid, of which 3.2 million are severely food insecure. Outbreaks of cholera, acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and measles have compounded the impact of food insecurity and poor nutrition;
- Approximately 69% of the Somali population lives below the poverty line. Poverty in the IDP camps in Somalia is estimated at 88%, followed by rural areas at 75% and urban areas at 67%;
- Access to basic services such as water and sanitation, healthcare, education and shelter are extremely restricted in Somalia.

## Hunger

- In 2011, when famine was officially declared under similar conditions, the world was too slow to respond, and an estimated 250.000 people died;
- Somalia is in a state of pre-famine. The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia (FSNAU) predict that up to 3.2 million people may be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) through December 2017;
- Amongst the 6.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid, 3 million people - one quarter of Somalia's population - are experiencing acute food shortages at crisis or emergency levels and 363.000 children are malnourished, 23% of children under 5 are classed as underweight;
- Food insecurity, poor nutrition and competition for resources and income generation options among displaced and host communities have impacted an already limited livelihood market;
- The economy is largely based on agro pastoralism with little opportunity for improved income. Agriculture production is largely rain-fed. Production is impacted by recurrent cycles of drought, poor infrastructure, underdeveloped private and agricultural sectors, partly due to conflict and displacement.

## Displacement

- Since November 2016, a staggering 905.000 people have been displaced in Somalia due to drought, a peak was reached in the first half of 2017 when over 701.500 people were displaced due to drought;
- Urban hubs experience significant population growth as a result of drought, conflict displaced IDPs and returning Somali nationals primarily from Kenya;
- According to UNHCR's figures of September 2017, there are in total 287.397 Somali refugees in Kenya, 35.373 in Uganda, 252.385 in Ethiopia, 13.043 in Djibouti and 256.282 in Yemen.
- At the end of 2016 there were also 1.56 million Somali internally displaced across the country.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## Stability in the region & a coordinated humanitarian response

- Reassure peace building and conflict resolution initiatives, as these are essential to support social protection and economic and political stability;
- Build on the successes achieved in coordination, led-by the local authorities, through continued support from Humanitarian agencies, OIC, and the EU;
- Encourage coordination between Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia to enable a coordinated response to growing cross-border displacement;
- Displacement being both a cause and a result of poverty outcomes requires an in-depth understanding of the root causes of poverty and displacement, which can only be addressed by the planning and application of durable solutions, in line with the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and reintegration of returnees in Somalia.

## Humanitarian access

- Guarantee safe, unimpeded and regular humanitarian access to ensure that aid is delivered to affected populations, especially those in rural and remote areas where people are displaced to or with cross-border movements.
- Ensure that households in targeted communities, such as pastoral, agro pastoral and rural communities, have their livelihoods and assets protected during shocks and stressors through the establishment and strengthening of social safety nets for IDPs and Host Communities;
- Better equip communities, civil society and local institutions with resilience strategies and response capacities to cope with recurrent shocks and stressors;
- Provide services as close as possible to the remote and rural areas, and urge state actors to prepare for an influx of people arriving in urban centres, to prevent conflict over resources, outbreaks of diseases and protection problems, including for minority groups.

## Funding

- Urgent need for donors to release pledged and new funding now to avoid further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and to facilitate the urgent scale up of humanitarian assistance.
- Avoid the polarization of aid; ensure that humanitarian aid is based on needs and reaches all areas in need;
- Support innovative, multi-year humanitarian projects to help communities respond to, and be resilient to, food insecurity and malnutrition crises.

## TESTIMONIES



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**Action Against Hunger:** A large part of Action Against Hunger's work in Somalia involves Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programme. The programme, implemented for instance in the camp for internally displaced people outside Mogadishu, teaches and reinforces global public health recommendations for breastfeeding, which recommend that infants be exclusively breastfed for the first six months to achieve optimal growth, development, and health. After that, to meet a child's evolving nutritional needs, infants should receive safe and nutritionally adequate complementary foods while breastfeeding

continues until their second birthday. Action Against Hunger's health and nutrition teams created mother-to-mother support groups in communities around Somalia's El Barde District. These peer support groups offer mothers breastfeeding support and serve as safe spaces for women to share and discuss their challenges, feelings, and experiences. Each mother in the support group is informed about the importance of breastfeeding, with a special emphasis on encouraging them to breastfeed their infants exclusively for the first six months, which benefits the health of mothers and significantly reduces the risk of death among infants from the two leading causes: diarrhea and pneumonia. The mother-to-mother groups also engage in discussion and learning sessions about health and nutrition, facilitated by Action Against Hunger's staff.

**Danish Refugee Council:** Years of conflicts and a disastrous drought have led many to seek refuge to Dollow looking for relief for themselves and their families. Among them is 38-year-old Asnina Hussein Aden who has chosen to leave her home hoping to find help in the city. "We walked for seven days to get here. I borrowed a donkey cart from a neighbour for my kids to sit on and then started walking," she says. Asnina is waiting to be registered by the Danish Refugee Council, to be eligible to receive a card holding around USD 70 in credit. She can use the card in a number of small grocery shops in the city. Asnina has nine children. She brought all of them with her, while her husband stayed behind in order to take care of their home and belongings.



© Sara Schlüter for the Danish Refugee Council Somalia

The reason, she decided to venture out on the long and dangerous journey, is simple: "We were hungry", she says with no further elaboration. That's the reason why everyone is here. "There has been a drought for the past three years. When we lost all our livestock, I decided to look for a place where I could find help getting food for myself and my children", she says adding: "Now I am happy that we have found help so my children can get something to eat". The journey to Dollow was long and tough. The family got by on what they could find. "We ate a root that we found on the side of the road. We dug it up and cooked it," she says. Now she hopes that the family can make it safely through the drought. "We need shelter and food. I really hope that we can get the help we need here". With the money card, Asnina will receive a grant once a month for three months.

## OPERATIONS AT A GLANCE

<b>Action Against Hunger</b>	<b>Danish Refugee Council</b>
Operating in Somalia since 1992.	Operating in Somalia since 1998.
In 2016, Action Against Hunger reached over 283.729 with lifesaving, food and nutrition, livelihoods and water and sanitation interventions	In 2016, Danish Refugee Council reached 477,186 refugees, IDPs and host communities in the following sectors FSL, Protection, Livelihood, Community infrastructure, WASH, AVR, Shelter and NFI, Education.
<p>Action Against Hunger has been assisting people in need with the detection and treatment of acute <b>malnutrition</b>, providing access to medical care and primary <b>health services</b> for children, pregnant and nursing mothers, support for MAM and screening for easy handling;</p> <p>Action Against Hunger also implements activities related to <b>Food Security and Livelihood/Resilience programmes</b>: money transfer to cover basic needs, cash for work (when conditions permit), animal husbandry activities (immunization campaign (in conjunction with the Ministry of Livestock), destocking (with redistribution of meat), feed distribution for livestock, support for animal health through pharmacies and veterinary agents);</p> <p>Action Against Hunger further provides training on <b>mental health and care practices</b> including infant and young child feeding;</p> <p>Action Against Hunger also implements <b>WASH</b> activities: water trucking, coupon for access to water, hygiene promotion sessions, distribution of kits; rehabilitation of wells and / or drilling;</p> <p>Finally, Action Against Hunger has activities on <b>disaster risk management</b> and adaptation to climate change: integration of DRR committees trained for the distribution of emergency aid.</p>	<p>Danish Refugee Council assisted 49.400 households with cash distributions for different <b>cash interventions</b>. The Danish Refugee Council is not undertaking food distribution in Somalia. Danish Refugee Council further supports refugees, migrants, internally displaced populations and other persons affected by crises in both urban and rural settings. DRC implements activities in Somalia in the following sectors: WASH, Shelter and Non-Food Items; Protection; Food Security and Livelihoods.</p> <p>In <b>Protection</b>, the key programme components include Gender Based Violence (GBV) protection and response, child protection, mixed migration programming and provision of assistance to IDPs and refugee voluntary returns.</p> <p>In <b>WASH</b>, key areas include provision of water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene awareness and promotion. Shelter assistance focuses on construction of emergency, semi-permanent and permanent shelters and sanitation facilities.</p> <p><b>FSL</b> focuses on the building and rehabilitation of communal assets through cash for assets, vocational skills training and small micro business targeting women headed households. In addition, DRC supports farmers with agricultural inputs and training in the use of drought tolerance crops.</p>