



# ACTED Somalia



## Newsletter

### **DROUGHT WATCH: Further scale up still required**

*The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased to 6.7 million people, up from 5 million in August 2016.*

#### Highlights

- **One in two people are in need of humanitarian assistance.** ([Revised HRP-2017](#))
- One in four people face the risk of hunger and famine in 2017. ([Revised HRP-2017](#))
- **Despite the massive scale-up of assistance by different humanitarian agencies, the risk of famine in 2017 and beyond still remains.**
- 1.4 million Children with acute malnutrition still require treatment, including 275,000 cases of life threatening severe acute malnutrition. ([Revised HRP-2017](#))
- **Humanitarian assistance has greatly mitigated food consumption gaps among beneficiaries, but several areas remain in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as a result of significant asset losses.**
- 786,000 people have reportedly been displaced due to drought or drought-related factors with most people migrating from rural to urban areas. ([UNHCR-June 2017](#))
- **Major disease outbreaks such as AWD/Cholera and measles are spreading rapidly.** ([Revised HRP-2017](#))
- Continued large-scale humanitarian assistance, including both food assistance and efforts to prevent and treat AWD/cholera, are needed throughout 2017.

#### Rains Update

The April to June rains started later than normal and have so far been below average in all areas, except in the northeast where total rainfall has been near average, according to [FAO-SWALIM](#).

Somalia is still at an elevated risk of reaching IPC 5 (famine) due to failed crop production and loss of livelihoods. Major disease outbreaks and drought driven displacements continue in addition to the northern rains being heavy and short, hindering pasture regrowth.

Humanitarian actors have scaled up assistance to mitigate against another famine in Somalia. Millions of people have been provided with life-saving assistance. However, a huge number of the rural population and internally displaced people still require assistance.

ACTED, through unconditional cash transfers, has worked to improve access of those most vulnerable households to basic food and non-food items including host communities and IDPs in Baidoa, Kismayo, Ceel waq and Sanaag.



*Nima, an Internally Displaced Person (IDP) supported by ACTED sets up a makeshift made from sticks and old clothes to provide shelter for her children at Buulabarde IDP camp, Baidoa*

#### Drought Resource Links

- [FSNAU Food Security Quarterly Brief, April 2017](#)
- [Somalia Drought Response Situation Report](#)
- [Risk of Famine \(IPC Phase 5\) persists in Somalia](#)
- [Quarterly Brief June 2017- Focus on Post Gu Season Early Warning](#)
- [UNHCR PRMN - Somalia internal displacements dashboard 30 June 2017](#)

# ACTED: Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

## Remaining determined in the face of adversity

While the majority of households in Somalia have been facing great challenges, their adaptive capacity shows that many are very determined to keep hope alive.

Despite improvements in rainfall performance in some areas, current food security outcomes are expected to persist through the end of the year. Families are moving from their ancestral homes because of the drought increasing the number of internally displaced persons in Somalia. This is as a result of lingering impacts of below-average harvest, livestock losses, unfavourable terms of trade and increased food prices.

Many women and children bear the brunt of the food crisis disproportionately, being forced to live in flimsy shelters with little protection, in need of assistance.

ACTED has so far conducted multi-purpose cash transfers to 17,605 households in 2017 to help families recover from effects of the drought. Emergency water trucking interventions conducted brought immediate relief and ACTED is now transitioning into more sustainable solutions such as the rehabilitation of water points.

Read: <http://bit.ly/2pXXRt6>



*New arrivals settling in at an IDP camp in Baidoa*

## Water is vital for survival

According to the **2017 Post Gu Preliminary Assessment** Results issued by **FSNAU**, severe drought is expected until the start of the next rainy season in October. An improvement in the food security and nutritional status of the population is not likely before December/January 2018. While the recent rains have provided some relief, the damage has been extensive and populations are in need of additional support throughout the upcoming dry season to ensure survival and recovery. Due to the depletion of water sources and dysfunctional wells, communities are relying on buying water at prices which are on the increase, beyond the reach of many. Those who resort to use water from unsafe sources are at increased risk of contracting water-borne diseases such as AWD/cholera.

In addition to supplying emergency water to affected communities, ACTED has initiated projects that aim at rehabilitating existing wells which no longer functioned. ACTED is rehabilitating 10 shallow wells, 6 water tanks ("berkads") and 3 boreholes identified in cooperation with local water management committees. This will provide ample water storage for the community with an estimated 550 households or 3,300 people targeted per water point.

ACTED has provided over 3,000 households with 45 litres of water per day through water trucking to improve access to clean water for domestic use. Beneficiaries have also received hygiene kits along with hygiene promotion sessions to prevent the occurrence of diseases increased by poor hygiene practices. Read: <http://bit.ly/2tx9r1a>



*ACTED staff meeting beneficiaries in rural Baidoa after a water trucking intervention*

## Road to recovery: Diversification of livelihoods is critical

The sustained access to food and clean water is critical in the looming drought. The provision of livelihood support is also necessary in order to ensure a quick recovery from emergency situations and build resilience to future shocks. ACTED projects focus on supporting drought affected communities in a smooth transition from emergency support to longer term recovery.

ACTED within the STREAM consortium is working with vulnerable households through its social safety nets project funded by [EuropeAid](#) to strengthen and diversify their Livelihoods in Lower Juba. ACTED is supporting alternative livelihood opportunities through the provision of skills training in particular for women and youth groups in both urban and rural settings. Business grants will also be allocated for viable and market oriented enterprises.

The project aims to provide sustainable opportunities to build resilience for communities chronically affected by food insecurity and humanitarian crises in Lower Juba. Targeted households from vulnerable communities are receiving predictable and regular cash transfers alongside small grants to diversify livelihood bases. Resilience will be strengthened not only at the household level directly, but through implementing improvements to systems and policies in terms of early warning and disaster preparedness.



*ACTED project officer interviews a self-motivated mother running a business, supported by the resilience building project in Kismayo*

# Programme Achievements-January to August 2017



## WASH

4 boreholes, 10 water tanks "Berkhads" and 10 shallow wells rehabilitated

4,050,000 litres of water trucked and chlorinated

3,000 hygiene kits distributed



## Food Security

46 livelihood opportunities created

2500 food vouchers disbursed



## Cash transfers

17,605 households received cash transfers

12,160 beneficiaries received UCT

5,445 beneficiaries participated in CFW activities



## Displacements

25 Internally displaced persons camps targeted

3,000 Internally displaced households directly benefiting from both UCT and CFW

For more information contact:

ACTED Kenya and Somalia

P.O Box 21217-00505

Nairobi, Kenya

P: (+254) 707 380 000

For general inquiries: [nairobi@acted.org](mailto:nairobi@acted.org)

Website: [www.acted.org](http://www.acted.org)



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