



ACTED Somalia



Newsletter

DROUGHT WATCH

Famine has been averted so far, but the risk still remains

Drought and Humanitarian situation

As of January 2018, 6.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia. More than 3.1 million people are classified as being food insecure, with 87,250 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

The ongoing protracted conflict continues to have a detrimental impact on the lives of people across the country, leading to mass displacement and severe disruption to basic services. Moreover, the prevailing insecurity across many parts of Somalia has restricted humanitarian access, making it harder for aid agencies to reach those most in need. Over two million people in Somalia are now displaced, with over 1 million having fled their homes in 2017 alone. In Mogadishu, there has been forceful eviction of Internally Displaced Person (IDP) from over 21 IDP settlements, housing over 5,807 households.

Disease outbreaks such as Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), cholera, and measles continue to be the cause of many preventable deaths across the country, with poor hygiene and sanitation conditions in displacement sites exacerbating the risks for displaced families in particular.

Malnutrition rates are surging and have reached emergency levels in some locations, especially among those who have been displaced. An estimated 388,000 children are acutely malnourished and in need of critical nutrition support. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels stand at 17.4 percent (median prevalence) across the country; well above emergency thresholds (10-14%).

Nearly two million people are estimated to be living in hard-to-reach, conflict-affected, rural areas in southern and central Somalia, and in the contested Sool and Sanaag regions in the north. The presence of non-state armed actors coupled with active fighting severely constrains safe humanitarian access in these areas. With limited access to life-saving assistance, crisis affected communities are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, malnutrition, disease outbreaks and inadequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services.

Rains Update

The 2017 Deyr rains (October-December) started late in several areas and have performed below average in many parts of the country. This constitutes the fourth consecutive season of poor rainfall in Somalia, limiting pasture generation and water availability, reducing rain-fed crop harvests and exacerbating already high levels of acute food insecurity. As a result, more regions of those that received below-average rainfall are likely to deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4).

Forecasts indicate that the 2018 Gu season (April-June) could potentially become the fifth consecutive poor rainy season in Somalia.



ACTED beneficiary with her WFP scope card to access food stuff from a designated shop in Baidoa,

ACTED Interventions areas

In ACTED intervention areas of Lower Juba, Bay, Sanaag and Gedo regions, the ongoing drought conditions have resulted in successive poor crop harvests, substantial livestock losses and large-scale displacement from rural to urban areas.

Gedo region happens to be one of the areas which received the least rains thereby causing displacement of pastoralists to areas with better pasture and water sources.

In December 2017, the Government of Puntland launched an emergency humanitarian appeal due to the persistent drought caused by poor rainy seasons. 34,794 households living in the region are facing severe food shortages and lack access to water which has adversely affected the livelihoods of the vulnerable communities. The Puntland Government is appealing to international Agencies and donors to scale-up food security activities and respond quickly to save-guard the lives of the affected communities.

Drought Resource Links

- <http://www.fews.net/east-africa/seasonal-monitor/december-15-2017>
- <http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/1070993/>
- <http://fsccluster.org/somalia/document/food-security-and-nutrition-update-2017>

ACTED: Responding to the needs of the most vulnerable

Livelihoods in displacement: Sustainable businesses offer support to families

Drought conditions spanning over four consecutive poor rainy seasons have severely intensified the humanitarian crisis. In Kismayo, more families continue to be displaced, lack food, clean water and other basic needs. The minimal rains and less food production in the region has forced families to seek alternative ways of coping with the devastation.

ACTED, through its partner SADO is working in Kismayo to provide drought-affected families living in Dalxiiska camp with food, water and other basic needs. Daud, married with 7 children, is a beneficiary receiving financial support from ACTED through a [USAID-OFDA](#) funded project. The project has increased his access to basic needs and services making him less vulnerable to the ongoing drought. Cash-based interventions have helped millions of people in rural, urban and IDP settings to meet basic needs, while stabilizing local markets.

ACTED recently commenced camp coordination and camp management activities in Baidoa, Kismayo and Garowe. Through the Mobile Response Teams (MRTs), ACTED will enhance coordination, information management, site monitoring community participation, and protection for vulnerable individuals living in camp-like settings. This will improve the dignity and quality of life of IDP settlement residents during displacement while seeking and advocating for durable solutions.

Read Daud's story [here](#)



Clean Water: Renewed hope for the community

When the drought hit most parts of Somalia, many families lost their livelihoods and access to food and clean water became limited. ACTED has been focusing on life saving activities, supporting affected households to meet basic needs through short-term financial support, water trucking to improve immediate access to water and hygiene promotion to reduce the outbreak of water related diseases.

To deal with the water shortage in the region, ACTED through funding from [EU Humanitarian Aid](#) provided clean and safe water to families in six villages in Sanaag region complemented with appropriate hygiene sensitization and hygiene kits distribution. In addition, 2,520 vulnerable families are still receiving financial support to help them cope with the devastating effects of drought. This is due to the severe water shortages and lack of pasture that has increased food insecurity, and adversely affected the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the region.

In Mid-2017, the region received some long awaited seasonal rains which increased water levels in the region. ACTED sought to enhance sustainability by rehabilitating 6 shallow wells and boreholes with funding from [EU Humanitarian Aid](#), the [Somalia Humanitarian Fund](#) and the [Foundation SUEZ](#). This has increased the supply of clean, safe water to 1,500 households by providing a more sustainable solution and improved the general well-being of the vulnerable communities.

Read more [here](#)

Building community resilience through livelihood support

In Somalia, ACTED resilience programmes have a core focus on building flexibility and strengthening the recovery capacities of affected populations, supporting them to recover from shocks and crises in ways that preserve integrity, and do not deepen vulnerability.

Through the STREAM (Somalia Resilience Action) consortium, ACTED and partners piloted an innovative social safety net scheme for disaster-affected communities in Kismayo, Dhobley and Afmadow to support communities to absorb, recover, and transform in the face of shocks and stresses.

The project which is funded by the [European Union](#) offers beneficiaries predictable cash assistance as a safety net to cushion them from depleting their productive assets. As a result, the targeted households are able to increase their access to basic food and non-food needs and have access to basic services. This also ensures that the most vulnerable households are able to meet their immediate needs, and to take steps toward realizing their livelihood strategies.

The formation of sustainable group enterprises-The social safety net project encourages beneficiaries to form livelihood groups which help them to access grants to build their economic status. Through the project, 96 livelihood groups have been formed and have received a revolving grant of \$1,500 each to help them initiate income generating activities and enhance their livelihood opportunities. The groups are registered with the local authorities and financial services providers to support their financial wellness through trainings on business entrepreneurship. The groups have opportunities to access financial services such as loans and savings to build their financial capacity and stability.

Read Abdi's story [here](#)



Programme Achievements 2017



WASH

7 boreholes, 10 water tanks "Berkhads" and 24 shallow wells rehabilitated

11,734,200 litres of water trucked and chlorinated

10,500 hygiene kits distributed



Food Security

46 livelihood groups formed

2500 food vouchers disbursed

46,000 USD grants given to the 46 livelihood groups



Cash transfers

31,407 households received cash transfers

20,925 beneficiaries received Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT)

10,482 beneficiaries participated in Cash for Work (UCT) activities



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

25 Internally displaced persons camps targeted

4,136 Internally displaced households directly benefiting from both UCT and CFW

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