



IN NUMBERS



6.7 million

Over half the population facing acute food insecurity (IPC 2, 3 and 4)



2.2 million

2/3 of people in IPC 3 & 4 are in rural areas. 9 in 10 of those on the brink of famine (IPC 4) are rural



680 000

People displaced due to drought since November 2016



5-10 years

Time it takes for rural people to become self-sufficient again after being displaced

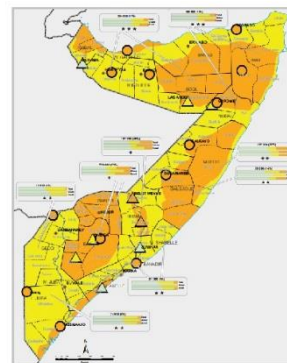
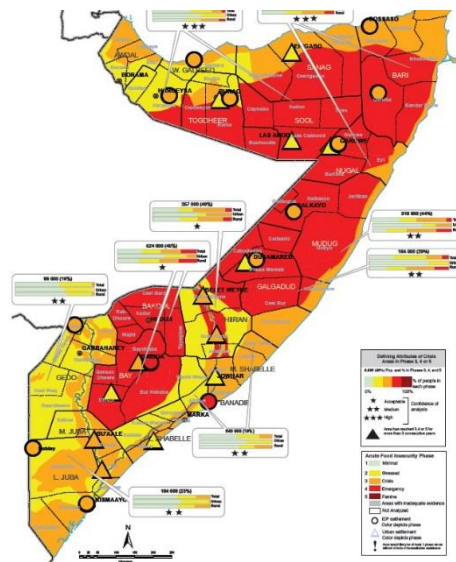
KEY MESSAGES

- **Rural livelihoods provide a critical defence against famine.** Interventions that reinforce rural livelihoods meet immediate food needs, mitigate displacement pressures, reduce the overall humanitarian burden, and lay the groundwork for recovery.
- **FAO is delivering large-scale, strategic combinations of assistance to rural people at high risk,** providing them with cash-transfers for food purchases while giving them the means to continue farming, raising animals, and producing crops now that the *Gu* rains have started.
- **Key FAO deliveries since the start of the current crisis include:** USD 8.5 million in cash payments to rural families, lifesaving veterinary treatments for nearly 9 million animals, and 848 tonnes of seeds to farmers ahead of the *Gu* growing season
- **Donors have risen to the occasion, but additional and sustained backing for rural livelihood support is required.** FAO's drought response and famine prevention plan is currently only 41 percent funded.

MAP

INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PHASE CLASSIFICATION

Mostly likely scenario from April through June 2017 (FSNAU and FEWS NET, 9 May 2017)



(Previous outlook for January 2017 [FSNAU and FEWS NET, 2 February 2017])

BACKGROUND

Poor rains and extended drought over consecutive growing seasons have impacted rural livelihoods and food security in Somalia, pushing the country to the brink of famine. This just five years after the 2011 crisis that claimed the lives of over a quarter million people and as the Somali people continue to rebuild from decades of internal conflict. Some 6.7 million people now face acute food insecurity (IPC phases 2, 3 & 4), with the majority – 68 percent – of severely food insecure (IPC phases 3 & 4) in rural areas (2.2 million). Rural areas are home to nine in ten people at greatest risk – those on the brink of famine (IPC 4). Following [early warning in February](#) a quick response by donors, the humanitarian community and the Somali government and people, the worst has so far been averted via a combination of interventions – including cash transfers and livelihood support delivered by FAO at massive scale. April-June rains are critical to Somalia's main *Gu* growing season and help rejuvenate rangelands. While they have now started, they started late and rainfall has been below average in many places. Meanwhile, displacement, disease (a severe outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera) and compounding needs are contributing to a further deterioration in food security.

CHALLENGES FACING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

In 2016, farmers suffered a 50 percent reduced cereal harvest during the *Gu* season (the source of 60 percent of Somalia's cereal production, running from April through June), compounded by a 70 percent reduction in *Deyr* season harvest at year-end. Low production left farmers without seeds to plant, cut wage labour income, and increased food and water prices. In northern Somalia, where families rely entirely on livestock to survive, pastoralists have struggled to keep their animals – their most critical asset and an important source of dairy protein – healthy and alive. Low-weight or sick animals do not produce as much milk, while their value as trade items used to acquire food and other essentials is greatly reduced.

The recently concluded January to March *Jilaal* dry season was drier and hotter than normal, reducing the availability of pasture and water resources. Poor households in northern and central areas report livestock losses of 40-60 percent; and in the south, 20-40 percent. The loss of livestock assets can have devastating consequences for pastoral and agropastoral families.

Gu rainfall started two weeks late and has been below average in all areas except the northeast. April rainfall deficits led to crop wilting in areas with rainfed agriculture, causing many farmers to replant. While rainfall in late April/early May led to seed germination, reduced yields are likely due to early season losses and erratic precipitation during *Gu*. Pasture and water resources have begun to improve with the rains, and livestock body conditions and value are expected to slowly increase through June.

Two critical needs for farming families ahead of and during *Gu* have been – and continue to be – cash for purchasing food for immediate survival and seeds so they can stay at home and plant rather than relocate. With below average *Gu* rains pointing to another reduced harvest, many farmers will need continued support to ahead of Somalia's next, secondary growing season, *Deyr*, which starts in October. For pastoralists, life-preserving veterinary care for animals remains crucial to keeping them self-reliant and preventing worsening household food insecurity.

FAO PRIORITIES, RESPONSE AND FUNDING

2017 PRIORITY ACTIVITIES MOVING FORWARD

FAO rapidly ramped up its operations in Somalia and is delivering large-scale, strategic combinations of life-saving interventions, targeting support to meet the needs of rural people at highest risk (those in IPC phases 3 and 4):

- Cash-for-work and unconditional cash-transfer programmes that put much-needed survival money in people's pockets.
- Supplying farmers with cereal and vegetable seeds and land-tilling services, along with cash payments to sustain them until they can reap their *Gu* harvests and plant *Deyr* crops.
- Providing veterinary care and water to pastoralists' herds at massive scale.s

With a well-established network of local partners, FAO has unique on-the-ground access in Somalia. In many rural zones, FAO is the only humanitarian agency in operation.

ACHIEVEMENTS AS OF 12 MAY 2017



USD 8.5 million injected into Somalia's economy via cash payments to 440,000 people (USD 4.6 million in April alone).



8.9 million animals treated for parasites, illness and injury, benefitting 1.3m people.



11.4 million litres of water regularly delivered to 107 sites across Somalia to sustain livestock

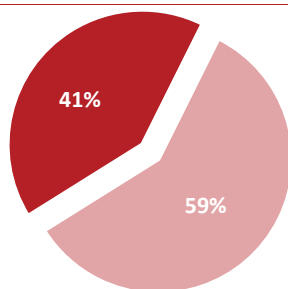


848 tonnes of sorghum, maize, cowpea and vegetable seeds distributed for *Gu* planting, with more on the way.



136 agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation projects (water catchments, irrigation canals, soil bunds).

FUNDING



- Funding to-date: USD 66 million
- Funding gap: USD 94 million

FAO requires
USD 160 million

To assist
840 900 rural people in IPC 3 & 4

APPEAL AND RESPONSE TO-DATE

Under its Famine Prevention and Drought Response Plan, FAO has appealed for USD 160 million to support livelihoods in Somalia; with USD 66 million raised to date, this plan is currently 41 percent funded.

Generous backing is being provided by the United States of America (USAID ODA/Peace for People, USD 31.5 million), the United Kingdom (DFID, USD 19.2 million), the European Union (ECHO, USD 7.5 million), OCHA/CERF (USD 4 million), Australia (USD 1.9 million), Sweden (USD 0.9 million) and Canada (USD 0.6 million). An additional USD 400 000 was mobilized from FAO's own funds.

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