

Joint Statement to the donor community

NGOs call upon donors to urgently fund Somalia drought crisis

7.7 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, and current Somalia humanitarian appeal is underfunded by a staggering 98%



1st February 2022

We, the undersigned organizations, are deeply concerned for the lives of millions of Somalis facing a severe food crisis and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. We call upon all donors including institutional donors, corporates, foundations, and individual philanthropic donors to urgently fund the current humanitarian appeal in order to respond to the escalating drought crisis in Somalia before it is too late. 98 percent of the current Somalia humanitarian appeal of 1.46 billion USD has yet to be met and remains severely underfunded.

7.7 million people in various locations across Somalia are currently witnessing a shocking increase in humanitarian needs as the rains fail for a third consecutive season - possibly the worst drought in 40 years¹. Of those, an estimated 3.2 million people - in 66 out of 74 districts - are already suffering from an extreme drought². A predicted **1.4 million people will be displaced** in the coming months, congesting already overcrowded displacement camps³ and generating conflict over resources. There is a current outbreak of diarrhea due to lack of sufficient clean water and hygiene services and malnutrition is on the increase across the most drought-affected states⁴.

Experts are warning of a risk of famine⁵ as predictions for the next rainy season are worrying. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations reports that the drought severity has notably worsened since December 2021 and will continue to worsen⁶. Humanitarian leaders are saying that they have never seen a drought that has impacted pastoralists, as much this one and that their biggest concern is the imminent famine, if funds are not received urgently⁷.

Despite this unprecedented need, less than 2% (26.3m USD) needed to respond to the crisis has been funded to date. Only a few donors have contributed so far: CERF (mostly Norway), the US Government, Germany, the EU, Canada and Switzerland⁸. Whilst we acknowledge that the overall humanitarian appeal tends to increase as the year progresses, we know that financing early prevents a catastrophe from happening and a costly response later and saves lives. The next few months are thus extremely critical to urgently respond to the needs on the ground.

In 2011, despite the warnings, the international humanitarian system did too little too late and an estimated 260,000 people lost their lives to a famine⁹. We must make sure that history does not repeat itself. By contrast, in 2017 the international community responded in force to the same indicators and averted wide spread disaster, the same scale of response is needed again.

¹ <https://www.unocha.org/somalia>

² According to UN OCHA in Somalia as of 25th January 2022 ³<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/somalia-%E2%80%94-drought-related-displacement-analysis-december-2021>

⁴ According to UN OCHA in Somalia as of 20th January 2022

⁵ According to UNICEF Somalia Humanitarian Situation Report No. 11 as of November 2021

³ According to UN OCHA in Somalia as of 25th January 2022: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Somalia%20-%202022%20Drought%20Response%20Plan%20%28Draft%20as%20of%2017%20December%202021%29.pdf>

⁴ ibid

⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/1/8/somalia-may-be-on-the-verge-of-another-famine>

⁶ Email update from FAO on 27th January 2022

⁷ Interview with Aydrus Daar, WASDA in Jubaland has been involved in droughts of 91/92, 05/6, 11/12, '17

⁸ According to UN OCHA in Somalia as of 25th January 2022

⁹ Oxfam and Save the Children report: <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/a-dangerous-delay-the-cost-of-late-response-to-early-warnings-in-the-2011-drought-203389/> AND <https://news.un.org/en/story/2013/05/438682-somalia-famine-killed-nearly-260000-people-half-them-children-reports-un>

We, local and international NGOs, stand ready to increase our response to meet the need. Many of us, thanks to donor support and private funding, are already scaling up our existing programming to better meet the people’s needs. However, we cannot respond to the escalating crisis without a sharp increase in funds by donors. **We urge you to increase your commitments, cut and/or reduce red tapes to release and allocate funds. The time to act is now.**

Signatories



act:onaid



Building Community Resilience



People for development





----ENDS----

For more information or to arrange media interviews contact:

- Abdisamad Yassin:
comms@somaliangoconsortium.org, Somali
NGO Consortium
- Lillian Omariba, lillian_omariba@wvi.org,
Advocacy & Communications Working Group

Notes to the Editor:

The Somali NGO Consortium is a network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working together to improve international aid coordination and raise the presence and profile of NGO representation within the aid coordination structure for Somalia/Somaliland.