Somalia is experiencing an historic drought following four consecutive failed rainy seasons that are leading to mass displacement, widespread death of livestock and a devastating food crisis. The drought is projected to intensify as Somalia faces the risk of a fifth consecutive failed rainy season from October to December 2022. In addition, persistent conflict, unresolved political tensions and global supply and price shocks are further exacerbating the water and food crises.

Half of the over 15 million population are facing acute food shortages, with more than 213,000 people facing catastrophic levels of hunger and starvation. The risk of famine is becoming more real every day, as rains continue to fail, commodity prices keep rising and humanitarians don’t have enough resources to assist all those in need. Famine is projected in three areas of Bay Region by October.

The number of people affected by severe drought has increased from 3.2 million in December 2021 to 7.8 million in August 2022. Over 1 million people have been displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture since 2021. Most people have settled in major Somali cities and towns as they seek humanitarian assistance, while others are crossing into neighbouring Ethiopia. Displaced populations live in congested settlements, where they face poor sanitation and hygiene conditions settlements and are often at risk of eviction by landowners.

Additional pressure on critical services like water, sanitation, and health due to the current drought poses a severe threat to their well-being. Drought conditions also threatens to increase the risk of violent conflict over resources and grazing land in rural areas where populations are less prepared to deal with extreme weather events. At least 20 people died in a recent conflict over grazing land in Galmudug in August, with tensions expected to increase due to the ongoing drought situation.

IOM is working closely with the Federal Government of Somalia, UN agencies and local partners to address the immediate needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), migrants, and vulnerable groups living in rural areas.

IOM’s response focuses on assisting displaced communities with an integrated package of life-saving assistance to save lives, avert famine and prevent putting an additional strain on cities already hosting large numbers of IDPs living in overcrowded conditions. IOM is simultaneously upscaling emergency support to pastoralist communities in rural areas whose livestock is critical for agricultural value chains. This can reduce food insecurity, conflict over natural resources, and forced displacement. IOM’s response is also focusing on implementing longer-term initiatives that strengthen the resilience, livelihoods and coping capacities of displaced and host communities to support them withstand future shocks. Efforts are also being made to provide evidence-based data on displacement dynamics and cross-border mobility.
IOM Drought Response Map - Operational Presence

July - August 2022

IOM Somalia Drought Response

IOM Somalia

Donations

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IOM Drought Response Map - Operational Presence

Find more information about the severity of the drought through the latest FAO SWALIM Drought Update.

For more information on displacement, please read the latest IOM, OCHA, and UNHCR report on Displacement.
As part of a coordinated response, IOM, UNICEF, and WFP launched the Minimum Response Package (MRP) in May to avert famine by addressing the most pressing needs of those displaced by drought. Through the MRP, United Nations agencies and partners aim to provide immediate life-saving relief for over 100,000 newly displaced persons who have arrived to Baidoa and Somalia’s capital Mogadishu in the last months in search of food, water, and health care.

The assistance provided through the MRP is tailored to the needs of men, women and children and includes cash, water trucking, hygiene kits, shelter, nutrition programmes and health care. The MRP will also expand community level access to water, latrines, and health services through an area-based approach.

As of August, over 19,000 vulnerable displaced households were identified and registered to receive a multi-sectorial assistance package. Over 18,760 people received tarpaulins, a plastic sheet to improve their shelters, while 15,999 received hygiene kits. Water trucking, sanitation services, nutritional support, health assistance and cash also reached thousands of families between July and August.

IOM identified, verified, and recorded urgent and immediate needs of IDPs and shared them with humanitarian partners to ensure that resources mobilized are channelled to those most in need. IOM also ensured displaced community members’ full engagement and participation in designing the drought responses.

As the drought situation continues, of the more 1 million people internally displaced, more than 40 per cent have moved to Mogadishu and Baidoa cities, expanding already congested IDP sites. Many of these families have travelled for multiple weeks and demonstrate extreme vulnerabilities.

To respond to the needs of many of these families, IOM engaged with a local minority right organisation to provide a rapid response to 50 IDP sites in Beletweyne, Jalalasqi, and Bulu Burto. The expansion to these sites is key for IOM as historically, Shabelle river basin has suffered from lack of humanitarian attention despite urgent needs related to both drought and conflict displacement. The support involved engaging with local authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure strong coordination. Teams met directly with newly arrived families to ensure they are provided with transparent information and guidance on their rights and access to services, including receiving questions from community members through a complaints and feedback mechanism. IOM also supported partners to identify people in need and registered with a total of 4,320 families (over 25,000 individuals) reached with various types of assistance such as food, multi-purpose cash, non-food items, hygiene kits, and latrines.

Widespread displacement is driving the establishment of new IDP sites or increasing population in existing IDP sites. There is an urgent need for enriching community engagement and awareness initiatives that enable individuals to make informed decisions in accessing services. During July and August, 77 per cent of IDPs sites managed by CCCM partners that received new arrivals provided dedicated information awareness sessions on service availability, emergency referral information and how to raise complaints within 48 hours of individuals entering managed sites.

IOM is the co-lead of the CCCM Cluster in Somalia. During July and August, CCCM Cluster partners were able to reach 1,540,000 IDPs with CCCM services. These activities included site improvement initiatives aimed at raising living conditions in IDP sites with 689 IDP sites or 908,600 individuals benefiting from these operations. CCCM site improvement activities during the months consisted of cash-for-work operations focusing on site drainages construction, site level cleaning campaigns and the installation of solar lights.

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Boreholes and shallow wells are drying up across the country which is leading to the exponential rise in water prices, making it difficult for many households to access clean and safe drinking water. Water scarcity has also led to a high mortality rate amongst livestock and failed crop production. In addition, communities are increasingly accessing water from contaminated water sources which together with poor hygiene practices is leading to a surge of water-borne diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea and measles.

Water Infrastructure

The ongoing state of emergency and drought in south-central Somalia is exacerbating forced displacement and subsequent population movements triggering the influx of IDPs from rural to urban and peri-urban centres. Due to their positioning along the Shabelle river, many of the IDP sites in Hirshabelle remain at constant risk, particularly those close to the urban centres of Beletweyne, Jowhar, and Afgooye. As part of the drought response, IOM completed the construction of 11 shallow wells in Beletweyne (5) and Jowhar (6), where newly displaced populations settle along the riverbeds. Moreover, IOM continued to rehabilitate and upgrade already existent water sources, and trained community members to administer and maintain water supply and sanitation resources to ensure all those in need benefit.

Emergency Water Trucking

Emergency water trucking activities ensured the provision of life-saving water to the affected communities as surface water sources dried up. The assistance provided a minimum of 15 litres of water per person per day in Benadir, Bay and Gedo regions, some of the most affected areas in the country.

9,510,140 LITRES OF CLEAN WATER were distributed to over 34,092 PEOPLE through EMERGENCY WATER TRUCKING across 9 DISTRICTS

Hygiene Promotion

IOM conducted hygiene promotion campaigns and distributed hygiene kits to affected communities. Hygiene kits serve as a first response to households’ urgent needs as local market solutions were not immediately available or accessible.

45 HYGIENE PROMOTERS reached 99,750 people with HYGIENE PROMOTION activities aimed at improving hygiene practices and reducing the spread of water-borne diseases.

19,347 HYGIENE KITS distributed to displaced and hard-to-reach communities including a 10-LITRE BUCKET, JERRY CAN, SOAP, WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS, AND MENSTRUAL HYGIENE ITEM

SINCE JANUARY, IOM HAS COMPLETED:

22 SHALLOW WELLS were rehabilitated in Lower Shabelle (12), Gedo (4) and Lower Juba (6)

62 new SHALLOW WELLS were constructed in Gedo (22) and Bay (29), Hiiran (5), Middle Shabelle (6)

29 BOREHOLES were rehabilitated and constructed in Mudug (8), Galgaduug (11), Lower Juba (2), Lower Shabelle (3), Bay (4), Bakool (1)

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IOM continued to scale up its health and nutrition services to reach communities affected by the drought in central and southern Somalia. The activities aimed at managing and treating severe acute malnutrition, whilst reduce morbidity and mortality and improving health-seeking behaviours to prevent disease outbreaks.

IOM currently supports 7 STATIC HEALTH CLINICS supported, 3 MOBILE HEALTH CLINICS, 4 OTP MOBILE CLINICS and 3 MIGRANTS RECEPTION CENTRES and 1 TRANSIT CENTRE.

Nearly 25,000 PEOPLE were supported with free HEALTH CONSULTATIONS

5,019 CHILDREN received routine immunization (54 per cent of the vaccinated children were female.)

348 successful DELIVERIES

10,386 MEN and 16,256 WOMEN reached through HEALTH PROMOTION at health clinics

IOM ensures that the essential primary healthcare services are accessible to and utilized by IDPs, returnees, migrants and host community members. Health services are being provided by health workers seconded to the Ministry of Health who are being trained by IOM. Working through local health workers contributes towards continuity and sustainability of services.

In July and August, IOM, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, provided emergency primary health activities rural areas and displacement sites in urban areas through health facilities and mobile teams in Lower Juba and Gedo regions. The activities contributed to reducing maternal and child mortality whilst improving health-seeking behavior.

Nutrition

IOM continued to work closely with the Ministry of Health and local authorities at State level to treat severely acute malnourish children and provided families with training on appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

IOM, in coordination with the state-level Ministry of health, re-activated nutrition services integrated into the existing primary health care clinic in Bardhera, Gedo, while also providing OTP services through 2 mobile teams in Dollow and 2 in Dhobley. Additionally, 23 Ministry of Health seconded nutrition staff were recruited and trained on the latest Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition guidelines to respond to nutrition emergencies.

12,902 CHILDREN between 6 to 59 months for malnutrition of which 2,221 were referred with MODERATE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

970 CHILDREN admitted with SEVERE ACUTE MALNUTRITION

Expansion of health services

To reach more people in need and bring services closer to populations, especially in hard-to reach areas, IOM is scaling up life-saving essential health and nutrition interventions by deploying 10 mobile teams across Hudur (3), Baidoa (3), Beletweyne (3), and Dollow (1). The mobilization of teams, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, has been completed in Hudur, Baidoa and Dollow. A refresher training was given to the staff in the last week of August and the teams will be active in September.

Protection

Members of the three mobile clinics were trained to provide psychological first aid and basic counselling to meet the needs of Gender-Based-Violence (GBV) survivors and vulnerable IDPs- Given that 80 per cent of those internally displaced are women and children, these mobile contribute to mitigate the GBV risk.

IOM teams also distributed dignity kits to meet the needs of women and girls, as well as, conducted protection and GBV awareness training sessions to camp and religious leaders, focusing on advocating for women involvement in camp decision making, and ensuring everyone arriving is fully aware of their rights and services available to them.
In January 2022, DTM, OCHA, and the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) started to produce a bi-weekly Drought Displacement Monitoring Snapshots to monitor displacement trends and hotspots. The data produced supports operational planning and allows IOM and partners to respond better to the needs of the affected communities.

The monthly Snapshots are accessible on the following links: **July 2022**, **August 2022**

The number of drought-related displacements since January 2021 has exceeded 1 million (1,002,796 people as of July 2022), with July and August observing a significant uptick of displacement in -Bay region, particularly in Dinsoor, Qansax Dheere and Baidoa. As the scale of displacement in Bay continues to grow, DTM is expanding its ETT tool to support operational partners through providing regular and reliable information on new IDP arrivals into IDP sites and host communities.

**Emergency Trends Tracking (ETT)**

ETT is a crisis-based tool that tracks sudden displacement triggered by specific events or emerging crises. The data collected is of a rapid nature and to help prioritise humanitarian response and to enable partners to deliver rapid assistance. During the 2017 drought, DTM Somalia conducted a country wide ETT and the data from that period indicated the highest numbers of displaced individuals were observed in Bay, Banadir and Gedo regions. Based on this and due to IOM’s operational presence in Gedo region, DTM decided to deploy first an ETT pilot in Gedo region to monitor drought-induced displacements on a weekly basis through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs). ETT in Gedo has different coverage to the New Arrival Tracker (NAT) and covers sites that are not covered by CCCM partners. For example, ETT monitors 66 sites in Gedo whereas the NAT receives data from approximately 36 sites, on average. In addition, DTM covers 151 non IDP site locations.

July and August saw a significant uptick of displacement to Baidoa, Dinsoor and Qansax Dheere districts in Bay region. As the scale of displacement in Bay continues to grow, IOM’s DTM team is expanding its ETT tool to support operational partners through providing regular and reliable information on new IDP arrivals into IDP sites and host communities.

IOM is also planning to expand the tool to Banadir and Hiraan regions which have also experienced a high influx of arrivals due to drought. For Banadir region, IOM trained 42 enumerators, including 16 women, in data collection to support the implementation

Regarding the expansion of ETT to Bay, Banadir and Hiraan regions, IDP sites that are currently reporting regular and reliable information through the NAT will not be covered. This will ensure de-duplication with the NAT and free up DTM teams and resources to target other IDP sites that do not have a CCCM partner presence as well as host community locations.

The ETT reports can be found [here](#).

In an Assessment across 6 districts in Gedo region, IOM observed:

**As of July, 244,138 individuals were displaced by drought in Gedo region since November 2021.**

**As of August 25th, 269,780 individuals were displaced by drought in Gedo region since November 2021.**
Shelter & Non-Food Items (S-NFI)

Depending on the affected community’s vulnerabilities, assets, capacities, and preferences, IOM provides identified populations with non-food items and emergency, transitional shelters or more permanent shelter support through in-kind and/or cash-based interventions.

Shelter support

Plastic sheets remained the most requested item by newly displaced households. While structural elements to build basic local emergency shelter solutions can be easily acquired locally, quality plastic sheeting is not available in the local market.

IOM supported **10,601 families** with emergency shelter as part of integrated package assistance in Banadir and Baidoa regions.

From June to August, IOM supported 16,228 newly displaced households in Banadir and Baidoa through the distribution of high-quality plastic sheets as part of an integrated multi-sectoral assistance. IOM is planning the construction of 1,500 emergency shelters whilst planning the construction of transitional shelters in areas hosting large numbers of displaced persons.

Shelter and NFI stocks

IOM, together with the Shelter Cluster, maintained a contingency stock to preposition life-saving emergency shelter and NFI items in a central warehouse in Mogadishu. The contingency stock has been successful in ensuring immediate access to emergency shelter and NFIs materials to enable quick response at the onset the emergency. From April to August, IOM procured 31,000 plastic sheets through IOM Global Stocks and international service providers. Currently, IOM has 20,000 Plastic sheets prepositioned in various locations across Somalia, including Baidoa, Dollow and Mogadishu. Moreover, IOM is currently procuring another 16,000 plastic sheets and 4,500 NFI kits.

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

MPCA has proven effective in delivering timely, targeted and timebound assistance in Somalia and have been reported by communities as their preferred modality of receiving humanitarian assistance. Based on the assessments and in coordination with the Cash Consortium, IOM is planning to assist 16,000 families through MPCA over the next months.