



DROUGHT SITUATION OVERVIEW

Somalia is facing one of its worst droughts in decades following three consecutive failed rainy seasons that are leading to mass displacement, widespread death of livestock and deepening a food crisis. The drought is projected to intensify as Somalia faces the risk of a fourth consecutive failed rainy season in April-June 2022 that can bring catastrophic consequences if urgent action is not taken.

Populations are at risk of famine by June 2022 according to latest projections from the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit ([Famine Risk Analysis March 2022](#)). In addition, persistent insecurity, conflict and unresolved political tensions – particularly in central and southern Somalia – and global supply and price shocks are further exacerbating the food insecurity situation.

The number of people affected by severe drought has increased from 3.2 million in December 2021 to [4.9 million](#)

[in March 2022](#). Nearly 720,000 people have been displaced from their homes in search of water, food, and pasture; almost triple the 245,000 displaced in December 2021. Most people are fleeing to major Somali cities and towns searching for humanitarian assistance, while others are crossing into neighbouring Ethiopia. Displaced populations live in congested 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.

The drought 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. In February, at least 15 people were reportedly killed and several others injured in armed clashes over ownership of grazing land in Laas Caanood District, Sool Region, while conflict was also reported in Afmadow district.

KEY FIGURES



7.7 million people need humanitarian assistance in 2022



2.9 million people internally displaced in Somalia



4.9 million people affected by drought as of March 2022



719,000 people displaced by drought as of March 2022



7.7 million people depend on humanitarian assistance in Somalia as decades of conflict, food shortages, climatic shocks, disease outbreaks, mass displacement, desert locust infestations and the COVID-19 pandemic have deteriorated their coping mechanisms. The needs are rapidly rising in comparison to 2020 (5.2 million people in need) and 2021 (5.9 million people in need) according to the [Humanitarian Response Plan 2022](#).

CONTACTS



IOM DROUGHT RESPONSE

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working closely with the government, UN agencies and local partners to address the acute water needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), migrants, and vulnerable groups living in rural areas. Immediate action and long-term plans are critical to saving lives and livelihoods, mitigating further displacement, and avoiding greater needs.

IOM's response focuses on assisting communities where they reside or in smaller towns near their place of origin to prevent putting an additional strain on cities already hosting large numbers of IDPs living in overcrowded conditions. IOM is simultaneously upscaling activities in major urban centres to assist and prepare for potential arrivals.

IOM's response also targets 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.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

-  **78,000 people** reached with **33 million litres of water**
-  **33 shallow wells rehabilitated**
42 shallow wells constructed
23 boreholes rehabilitated
-  **10,990 people** reached with **hygiene promotion** messages
-  **15,700 people** reached with **hygiene kits**
-  **11,405 people** reached with **health promotion** messages
-  **2 static health clinics** supported in Dollow and Baidoa IDP sites

Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM's DTM team [analyzed](#) previous drought-related data from 2017 to better understand potential hotspots for displacement and projections of internal displacement movements in the next 6 months. DTM produced projections for 2 scenarios based on the drought severity at the time:

Scenario 1 estimates that **1,415,000 people** may be displaced by drought by June 2022

Scenario 2 estimates that **1,036,000 people** may be displaced by drought by June 2022

The report provided an evidence-based analysis and strengthened the understanding of displacement dynamics during drought. It also informed the response to anticipate and target regions that may observe the highest flows of IDPs due to drought conditions.

Drought Displacement Monitoring Snapshot

In January 2022, OCHA, the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) and DTM started to produce a bi-weekly Drought Displacement Monitoring Snapshots to monitor displacement trends and hotspots in support of operational planning.



IOM registers people displaced by drought in Dollow. Photo: IOM/Claudia Rosel

The bi-weekly Snapshots are accessible on the following links:

[January 30 to February 12, 2022](#)

[February 13 to 26, 2022](#)

[February 27 to March 12, 2022](#)

CONTACTS

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[LINK TO VIDEO: Responding to the drought in Somalia](#)



[LINK TO VIDEO: 'You can find dead animals everywhere'](#)



[LINK TO STORY: Responding to the drought in Galmudug](#)



Camels drink water provided by IOM in Galmudug. Photo: IOM/Ismail Salad Osman



Rehabilitated boreholes in Galmudug. Photo: IOM/Ismail Salad Osman



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The exponential rise in water prices is making it difficult for many households to access safe drinking water. Water scarcity has also led to a high mortality rate amongst livestock and failed crop production, essential elements of household survival. 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.

Emergency Water Trucking

Emergency water trucking activities ensured the provision of life-saving water to the affected communities as surface water sources dried up.

- **33,200,000 litres of clean water reached 78,000 people** in nine districts across the country (approx. 7.5 litres of water were distributed per day per person).

Water Infrastructure

As a sustainable exit strategy to the emergency provision of water, IOM rehabilitated and upgraded non-operational water sources as well constructed new ones. Solar system installations were included in all rehabilitated water sources. Moreover, IOM established gender-balanced community

water management structures to ensure water sources were effectively and transparently administered, managed, operated and maintained.

- **32 shallow wells were rehabilitated** in Lower Shabelle (12), Gedo (11) and Lower Juba (9)
- **42 new shallow wells were constructed** in Gedo (14) and Bay (28)
- **23 boreholes were rehabilitated** in Mudug (7), Galgaduud (8), Lower Juba (2), Lower Shabelle (3), Bay (3)

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 in situations like a drought crisis, where local market solutions may not be immediately available or accessible.

- **15,700 people received hygiene kits**, including a 10-litre bucket, jerry can, soap, water purification tablets, and menstrual hygiene items.
- **10,990 people reached in hygiene promotion sessions** aimed at improving hygiene practices and reducing the spread of water-borne diseases.

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Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

During the reporting period, 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 in designing the drought responses.

Expansion of services to new IDP sites

From the end of 2021, thousands of drought-affected persons arrived from rural areas of Gedo into the urban centres of Dollow and Luuq, settling within and next to previously established IDP sites whilst also establishing new sites on private land. As a result, IOM expanded their emergency operations, rapidly training and deploying teams to support three new IDPs sites in Dollow and 32 sites in Luuq.

Responding to newly arrived IDPs

Camp Management Committees (CMCs) previously and newly trained by IOM were assisted with the knowledge, materials, and support needed to support newly arrived IDPs in Baidoa, Dollow, Luuq, and Kismayo. The training included identifying

and verifying new arrivals, directing them to safe plots to settle, monitoring service access, and alerting CCCM actors on any concerns or protection cases. A community designed, driven, and led response is essential to address better the needs of drought-affected individuals and design responses tailored to the local context.

Information and Awareness Campaigns

Newly arrived drought-affected people have a limited understanding of their surroundings, options, rights, and access to services and support. Providing them with safe access to transparent information is essential to ensure they can make informed decisions.

IOM CCCM teams are directly engaging with new arrivals to ensure they receive transparent information and guidance on their rights and access to services. IOM teams conducted direct community sessions to raise awareness among community members on services and COVID-19 safety. The sessions also allowed participants to safely come together and discuss their challenges, share ideas and ensure IOM teams are attuned to their perspectives, feelings and demands.



Health activities

IOM scaled up its health and nutrition services to reach communities affected by the drought in central and southern Somalia. The activities aimed to reduce morbidity and mortality, improve health-seeking behaviours and prevent disease outbreaks.

IOM provided emergency primary health activities in urban and rural areas of Dhobley, Kismayo, and Jamame districts through health facilities and a mobile team. Health services were freely accessible to individuals newly displaced by drought as well as returnees and host communities. For many of these communities, health services offered by IOM were critical as they were the only ones accessible in towns such as Barsanguin and Bulagaduud in Jubaland.

IOM also conducted routine medical activities in newly created IDP sites in Bardhere as well as already established ones in Baidoa, Dollow and Kismayo, which experienced increased arrivals during the reporting period. The activities included primary health services through static health clinics,

health outreach, and mental health and psychosocial support counselling and stress management sessions.

- **2 static health clinics** supported in the IDP sites of Qansaxley (Dollow) and Barwaqo (Baidoa)
- **7,083 people** reached with **free medical services**
- **1,698 children vaccinated**
- **286 deliveries**
- **11,405 people** reached with **health promotion**

Donation of medical supplies

IOM donated medical supplies to support Bardhere district hospital following a shortage of essential medicines to respond to communities affected by the drought.

- **4 medical kits donated**
- **100 cartons of nutritional supplies donated** to a local NGO to respond to nutrition needs in new IDP sites

IOM drought response activities are possible thanks to generous funding from:

