



OVERVIEW



The humanitarian crisis in the region continues to deepen affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. **Currently, 22.2- 22.7 million people are in highly food insecure (IPC Phase 3+).** In Kenya, northern counties (Turkana, Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir and Garissa) are projected to face **Emergency (IPC Phase 4)** between March and June 2023. For Somalia, **Famine (IPC Phase 5) is no longer considered the most likely scenario**, however, agropastoralist population in **Burkhaba district and IDP settlements in Baidoa and Banadir face a Risk of Famine** if the 2023 Gu rains are worse than forecasted and assistance does not reach the most vulnerable. Although IPC analysis is not possible in Ethiopia at the moment, IPC compatible analysis demonstrates that in **southern Ethiopia some areas are within IPC Phase 3 and 4** between March and June 2023.



Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia have seen approximately 198,291 refugees and asylum seekers into drought affected areas since January 2022. During this period, very concerning malnutrition trends amongst new refugee arrivals have been reported with critical rates of malnutrition (>15%) and rising SAM admission rates.

The drought has forcibly displaced up to 2.28 million internally displaced across the region. Highest displacement has been witnessed in Somalia accounting for approximately 1,400,000 IDPs followed by Ethiopia. It is expected for these figures to continue rising throughout the first half of 2023 causing increased congestion rates at IDP sites and tensions between communities.



Water insecurity continues to increase the risks of disease and protection. **Dehydration, water-borne diseases (including Cholera), water-washed diseases (skin infections, trachoma), and malnutrition are present across the three countries.** Number of people with highest deprivation/severity of water cannot be calculated at this time, however, the WASH clusters in all countries are working with partners to sharpen the targeting and figures.



Inflation and food prices continue to rise across the region. The above-average prices on critical food commodities such as maize and cereal continue to constrain household purchasing power and food access for the most vulnerable populations in the urban and rural areas.



The drought has created a **severe protection crisis** with frontline/community-based partners across the three countries reporting the lack of capacity needed to deliver services that meet global standards of care for GBV assistance. **This creates major gaps in service delivery.** It is reported that marginalized communities including those in hard to reach areas across the three countries are not receiving assistance and targeting by humanitarian agencies delivering critical life-saving assistance must ensure targeting is fit for purpose.

- Water insecurity has also increased the **risk of violence and exploitation** as people have had to change water sources forcing women and children to travel longer distances.

KEY MESSAGES

1

While current forecasts for rainfall should be treated with a degree of caution, the current models show greater than 50% probability of an El Nino forming during the second half of 2023. Should this become a reality, it could result in reduced rains in the highlands of Ethiopia, western Kenya, parts of South Sudan and the Sudan towards end of June-September season.

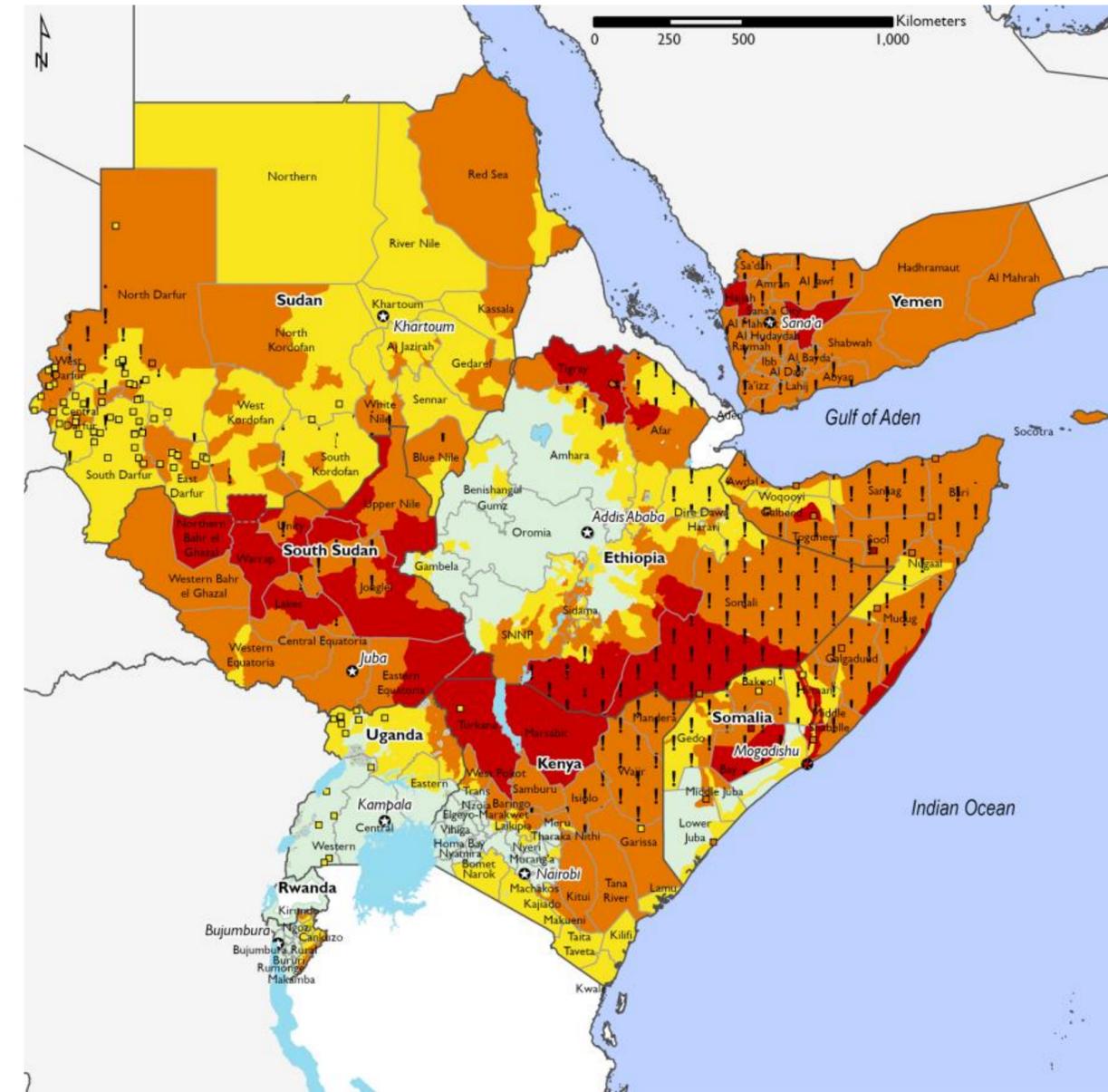
2

Current humanitarian emergency will persist until late 2023, requiring high level of frontline emergency assistance

3

The magnitude of impact of the drought on livelihoods will require many years to provide affected populations with the capacity to recover. Humanitarian agencies must therefore act now to mitigate the deepening crisis and start planning for pivoting activities to climate change resilience programming.

FEWSNET IPC Analysis: Horn of Africa – February to May 2023



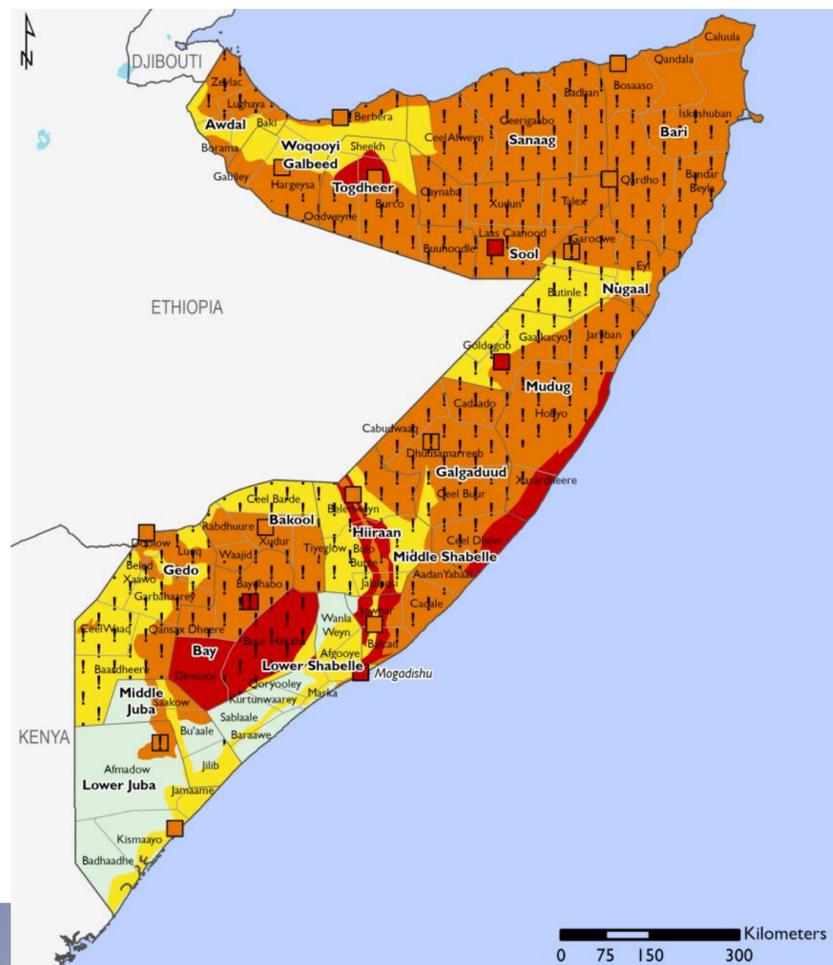
	IPC Phase 3	IPC Phase 4	IPC Phase 5	IPC Phase 3+ (or equiv.)	Note
Ethiopia				11,800,000	
Kenya (ASALs)*	4,213,529	1,224,686	0	5,438,215	NDMA reports an additional 495,362 people affected and in need of assistance in non-ASAL counties
Somalia	3,528,760	1,360,030	96,150	4,984,940	Total considering non-ASAL population in Kenya:
Total				22,223,155	22,718,517

Source: IPC, FEWS NET, NDMA, Ethiopia DRM-Agriculture Task Force

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Conflict and insecurity continue to cause forced displacement, disruption to market access and functionality and prevent households from accessing livelihood opportunities. This has also has a direct effect on access to humanitarian assistance of most vulnerable populations.
- In addition to 223,000 people who are expected to be in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) between April and June 2023, populations in Baidoa, Burkhaba district, and Mogadishu IDP sites **remain at Risk of Famine**. Humanitarian assistance (linked to in-kind food/cash, nutrition, WASH and health) **is not reaching the most vulnerable such as marginalized groups**.
- **Approximately 1.8 million children under the age of five in Somalia will most likely suffer from acute malnutrition over the course of 2023**. Of these 478,000 children are likely severely malnourished.
- **Major shortfalls in funding is causing partners to stop, suspend or reduce life-saving programming particularly for operations April 2023 onwards.**

FEWSNET IPC Analysis: Somalia – February to May 2023



DRC RESPONSE

SECTOR	UPDATE
MPCA	Galkacyo – DRC provided assistance to 850 households with a one-off MPCA distribution. These households were screened for malnutrition and targeted on the basis of high vulnerabilities.
CCCM	In coordination with the CCCM cluster, DRC is leading the conversation and roll-out of the New Arrival Tracking tool for household level registration of new arrivals across different areas in Somalia. During this period, DRC was able to register new arrivals in DRC managed sites in Baidoa, Beletweyne and Banadir . Registration of new arrivals integrates rapid MUAC screening, identification of highly vulnerable individuals and allows for second line responses to be prioritized.
WASH	DRC Emergency Teams procured a second water quality testing kits which will increase the capacity to conduct water quality and groundwater monitoring activities. Planning efforts during this period were the key focus in order for DRC will conduct 15 strategic water infrastructure rehabilitation in March targeting areas that have active AWD/Cholera transmission rates. DRC WASH teams continue to construct emergency latrines and rehabilitation of key water points in Beletweyne, Baidoa, Banadir, Galkacyo and Belet Xaawo .
Shelter/NFI	As part of the integrated first line response, DRC distributed emergency shelter NFI kits to newly displaced populations in the following locations: - 50 households in Baidoa. - 200 households in Banadir. - 166 households in Belet Xaawo. Beletweyne – to compliment the ongoing Minimum Response Package, DRC registered 600 households and distributed 1,200 blankets and mats to compliment IOM's tarps distribution.
Hard to Reach Programming	DRC continues to negotiate access and build community engagement networks with populations in Sulmo and Bukare with the expectation to be able to provide front line assistance in the coming weeks.



LAAS CAANOOD CRISIS

Heavy fighting between Somaliland Forces and Clan Militias in Laas Caanood in the disputed Sool Region has continued to cause mass forced displacement into neighboring districts and major destruction of civilian infrastructure within the district. Hundreds of civilians are reported to have been killed or injured in the crossfire including children.

More than 185,00 people have been displaced from Laas Caanood according to recent interagency assessments.

Despite calls for de-escalation from government authorities, community/traditional leaders and the international community, fighting continues to affect the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the conflict-affected populations. Access to Laas Caanood remains limited with facilitation through Puntland to areas in Taleex, Boocame, Xudun, Kalabeyr, Widhwidh and Buuhoodle.

[OCHA Flash Update No.2 Fighting in Laas Caanood, Sool Region](#)

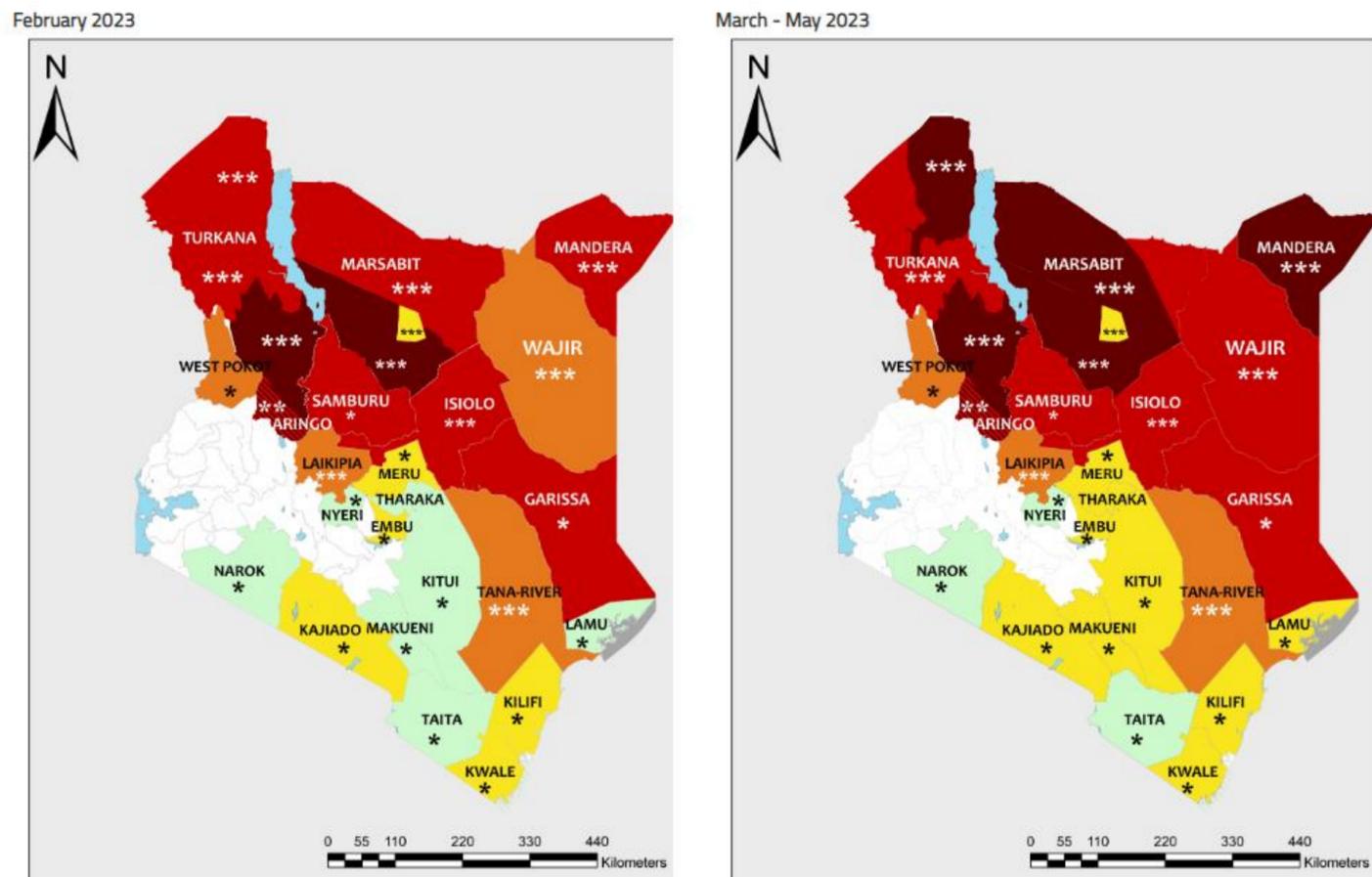
Joint Integrated First Line Response

- Provision of Individual Protection Assistance targeting minorities and marginalized communities. IPA assistance includes providing cash to facilitate access to medications and transportation to nearby healthy facilities in Kalabayr village.
- In coordination with ACF health and nutrition teams, DRC will be providing vulnerable individuals screened and identified by ACF to provide them with MPCA, emergency NFI, and emergency hygiene kits.
- Given the scale of displacement, DRC teams are conducting malnutrition screening and facilitating health and nutrition referrals to ACF. Additionally DRC has deployed one volunteer medical doctor in Kalabeyr to support with medical consultations
- DRC and IOM have developed a joint response plan in Buuhoodle and Kalayre to provide frontline integrated response.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Latest food insecurity data shows that **over 5.4 million people will experience acute food insecurity between March and June 2023**. Due to the harvesting season in February, there was a slight decrease of food insecurity across Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) areas.
- **Acute malnutrition** remains a critical concern as the majority of ASAL counties have witnessed a significant deterioration. Poor childcare practices contributes to the deterioration especially for those affected by extreme poverty and dry spells. IPC analysis indicates the following:
 - **Laisamis in Marsabit county and Turkana South classified in Extremely Critical levels** of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 5 – GAM WHZ > 30%).
 - **Samburu, Mandera, Garissa, Isiolo, Turkana West, Turkana Central, Turkana North, Tiaty Sub-County in Baringo, North Horr and Moyala sub-counties in Marsabi county are classified as Critical Situation** (IPC AMN Phase 4 – GAM WHZ 15% to 29.9%).
 - **West Pokot, Laikipia, Tana River and Wajir are in Serious Situation** (IPC AMC Phase 3 – GAM WHZ 10%-14.9%).
- **Current cholera outbreaks are affecting 17/34 counties with 11 counties reporting active transmission rates**. However, challenges and gaps remain with regards to information, funding and risk of continued cross-border transmission.

IPC Analysis – Kenya: Acute Malnutrition Situation Projections



DRC RESPONSE

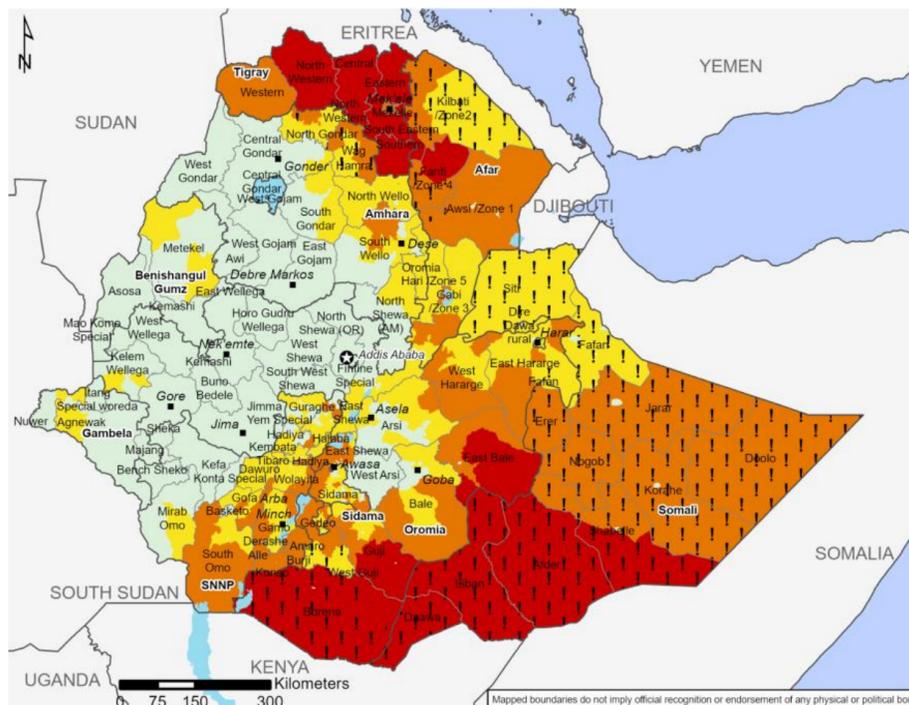
SECTOR	UPDATE
PROTECTION	In coordination with the CCCM actors in Dadaab refugee camp and IFO2 refugee camp, partners are registering over 100,000 new arrivals as a result of the drought. DRC is scaling up protection assistance as the lead protection actor in IFO2.
COORDINATION	DRC is actively participating in the newly formed HCT. Currently, active discussions around the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash coordination and ensuring data protection across all operations. • Release of CERF funding to local NGOs in Kenya to respond to the drought. • Formation and participation of an inclusive Access Working Group.



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023 has been endorsed by the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC). **Request is for \$3.99 billion USD to provide immediate humanitarian assistance.**
 - Response plan focuses on most vulnerable groups in Ethiopia requiring food, nutrition, WASH, healthcare, education, shelter and protection services. Approximately **9.3 million people** require assistance to meet their basic needs.
 - In the most recent hotspot classification, a total of 71 Woredas were designated as priority one. A total of 4.2 million people require food assistance, with 2.8 million receiving assistance, indicating 2.2 million gaps. Recent nutrition assessments in Somali and Oromia regions show a high proportion of children under five with wasting, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women (PBW). Elkare Woreda in the Somali Region's Afder Zone recorded 2,562 severely malnourished children (SAM) from January to December 2022 (latest data available), a 116% increase over the 1,185 SAM cases recorded in 2021.
- DRC primarily operates in Afder, Jerer and Fafan zones within Somalia region. Currently, Afder zone is classified as IPC Phase 4 with worsening humanitarian needs expected to worsen well into 2023. As per the OCHA prioritization list, these target areas are categorized as Priority 1 woredas. Similarly, Jerer zone is classified as IPC Phase 3 whilst Farfer zone is classified as IPC Phase 2. Both zones are classified by OCHA drought response as Priority 2a areas.
- Responses to Measles and Cholera outbreaks are ongoing with an integrated preventive measles campaigns completed in December 2022. For cholera outbreak there are ongoing OCV applications, however, mass religious gatherings and increased risk of cross-border transmission rates (primary via Dollo Ado) remain a challenge for mitigation measures.
- Increased of armed conflict in Afder zone within this period has created movement restrictions and limited access to services and livelihoods in the affected woredas including Barey and Elkari.

FEWSNET IPC Analysis: Ethiopia – February to May 2023



DRC RESPONSE

SECTOR	UPDATE
	<p>To assess market feasibility and appropriate modalities, DRC conducted rapid market assessments in Chereti, Hagelle and Dollo Bay woredas of Afder zone. Key findings from these market assessments will inform partners on suitable targeting criteria and facilitate further engagement with local administrations.</p>
	<p>Rapid protection assessments were conducted in Dirindir and Eldub IDP sites in response to the drought. Key findings from these assessments indicated major protection risks such as child labor and increase in GBV. Based on these findings, DRC is preparing and planning to respond with Individual Protection Assistance, establish GBV case management and strengthen community-based protection networks.</p>
	<p>DRC is providing emergency water supply through emergency water trucking in 14 locations to 26,556 drought affected people in Somali region. To ensure sustainability, DRC is working closely with WASH management committees in Afder zones to ensure the operations and maintenance of key water distribution points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,333 people are located in Eldup and Dhirin-Dhir kebeles. • 21,223 are located in 12 kebeles of Harshin and Harorey woredas in Fafan zones and Degahbur woreda in Jerer Zone. <p>To compliment water provision, DRC has been conducting key hygiene campaigns which have reached a total of 31,120 drought-affected people in Fafan and Jerer zones.</p> <p>Through the construction of emergency latrines and institutional latrine blocks, DRC has increased access to sanitation facilities to 4,260 individuals in Fafan and Jerer zones.</p> <p>DRC distributed emergency WASH NFIs in Harshin and Haroreys woredas to 12,000 drought-affected individuals.</p>
	<p>Targeted sites in Afder zone (Eldup, Derso and Dhridir) are categorized as hard to reach due to the physical and logistical constraints. Despite these challenges, DRC continues to engage with local communities and provide emergency water trucking.</p>

SOMALIA LAAS CAANOOD CRISIS INTO ETHIOPIA DOOLO ZONE

An estimated 60,000 individuals have crossed the border from Somaliland into Ethiopia following the deadly fighting broke out between Somaliland forces and the Laascaanood clan militia in Laascaanood district on the 5th of February. This population is being hosted in Bookh, Galhamur and Danot Woredas administration in Doolo zone. the majority are women and children. **DRC joined a multiagency assessment team in February, and has offered some support of NFIs, but is currently not in a position to respond in this location.** There is to date no formal registration of these individuals, so no assessment of refugee status, in the hope that the displacement will be brief. So far they are housed in host communities and communal sites, though there is discussion of a new camp being established, since the area is far from existing refugee camps. This influx is creating additional strain on resources in the drought context.



RESOURCES

[DRC Horn of Africa Donate Now](#)

[DRC Joint Statement: NGOs Call for Urgent Funding Surge as Somalia is Expected to Face Famine](#)

[DRC Horn of Africa: Drought Response Appeal](#)

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