



“I fear their right to live will be compromised”

PRESS STATEMENT - May 30th, 2021

Not time to recuperate between droughts, floods, and locust infestation, and not enough aid to get back on their feet, Somali families are trapped in negative cycles of increasing vulnerabilities with each layered crisis. The erratic Gu rains (from April to June), is whipping out the livelihood of past well-to-do rural families, with 2,7 million people expected to face food and water shortages in the coming months, and 50,000 people newly displaced since the beginning of 2021.

In the publication – “Even the rains bring little relief”, the Nexus platform brings a collection human stories from across Somalia, giving voices to Somali who are directly affected by the recent droughts and floods.

Mohamed Olow Aden, a father of 9, in Afmadow in Lower Jubba region confirmed that they had never received aid from any the humanitarian agencies working in the region and the local government. **“Our lives are at risk, we want food, water and shelter and any other basic needs that all human being need”** he said. Like Mohamed and his family, more [than 24,000 people in the district need urgent humanitarian assistance](#).

As a sigh of relief, the rains started in some parts of the country, after long delays. But the seasonal Gu (April to June) rains are bringing both relief and more struggle, [as an estimated 166,000 people are affected by torrential rains and flash floods](#). Such rains increase the risks of drought-weakened livestock being washed away and the increased moisture resulted in the return of desert locusts.

“Gradually the trees are getting green now, but the reality of the locust infestation coming back again is sending a message that the drought still exists,” said Bilad Osman, an IDP in Alla-aamin Camp, Abudwak District.

Adverse weather conditions such as high temperatures, violent rainfalls, erratic weather patterns cause the erosion of top fertile soils and widespread water shortages. The repeated droughts have, by now, severely impoverished the land, depleting pasture, which is directly affecting the agro-pastoral population. These compounded crises hit the pastoralists, farmers, businesses, and the vulnerable households the hardest.

The need for humanitarian assistance remains high, but not enough funds are disbursed, **“We used to get small aid from NGOs however these days whenever we call them through the hotlines, they complain that the NGO has no funds,”** said Mama Alasa during a focus group discussion in Afmadow district, in Lower Jubba.

“Some of the aid agencies do not have offices on the ground or local staff who represent them. We would appreciate fast emergence response from a closer source of support when the disaster is starting to happen. We believe this would significantly increase the efficiency of the assistance,” said Maryan Dahir Abdille, a resident in Kulmiye Camp, Abudwak District.

There is an urgent need to scale up the humanitarian programmes that saves lives, such as food security, nutrition and water. **“We call on and request donors to take immediate humanitarian actions and work with local and national actors to ensure quick, cost-effective and sustainable**

humanitarian response,” said Isaack Maalim, Director of the Nexus Platform. Moreover, humanitarian programmes need to go hand in hand with supporting the community’s capacities for self-reliance to be better prepared for future shocks.

Notes to editors:

- **80 percent of Somalia facing moderate to severe drought conditions.** On 25 April, the Federal Government of Somalia declared a drought. [More than 80 percent of the country is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions.](#)
- **2.7 million people across Somalia are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes between April and September 2021,** reflecting the deteriorating food security situation in the country.
- **Poor start and performance of 2021 Gu (March/April to June) season rainfall.** [Further rainfall is expected through mid-May, covering many parts of the country.](#) However, cumulative rainfall amounts are likely to remain below average in many parts of central and southern Somalia.
- **5.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.**
- 2.9 million People displaced by conflict and natural disasters across the country.
- **116 000 People displaced by water shortages** since October 2020.
- **[The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2021 \(HRP\) has been funded up to 19%](#)** or 207 million and is insufficient to respond to the basic needs of the drought-affected population in all regions of Somalia.
- Up to now, **[8,3 Million have gone to LNNGO from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund, but this represents 4%](#)** of what has been funded for the HRP.

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