

HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT SITUATION

Critical Funding Needs

November – December 2022



Khadiya Omar Shire, an internally displaced person due to the drought in Ethiopia, is currently living in Melkadida Ethiopia, with her family. ©UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil

Overview of the situation and current funding levels

Following poor rainfall in recent years, along with changing climatic conditions, the Horn of Africa region continues to contend with a catastrophic drought, the worst seen in 40 years. The drought is severely affecting millions of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. There have been over 80,000 new refugee and asylum-seeker arrivals into drought affected areas as well as 1.77 million newly internally displaced people since January 2022.

In June 2022, UNHCR released a regional [Drought Response Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa](#), requesting US\$42.6 million to address critical humanitarian needs for some 1.5 million refugees, internally displaced people and local host communities affected by the drought in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. The appeal covers the period May-December 2022 to align with the inter-agency drought response plans coordinated by OCHA at country level and derived from the relevant Humanitarian Response Plans. As of

30 September, UNHCR had received US\$2.3 million specifically for the drought response since May; the overall funding levels of the three country operations indicate that approximately 45% of the funds required for UNHCR's drought response are available based on unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions received this year (53% Kenya, 47% Ethiopia, 30% Somalia)¹.

Impact of underfunding and critical needs

ETHIOPIA



Priority financial needs through December 2022:

- **USD 6.06 million** needed to provide additional shelter and basic relief items to refugees and IDPs in Melkadida and Jijiga.
- **USD 3.73 million** needed to enhance access to water and WASH facilities for new refugee and IDP arrivals in camps.
- **USD 1.16 million** needed for multipurpose cash assistance to support basic critical needs from food and water to rent and healthcare.
- **USD 583,000** needed to conduct protection monitoring activities and provide adequate response to gender-based violence survivors or unaccompanied children.

The impact of underfunding includes refugees and internally displaced persons living in inadequate shelter and unsafe conditions. Those who have lost their livelihoods will not be able to meet their essential needs, resorting to harmful coping strategies, such as eating less, child labour, early marriage, survival sex and begging.

Following five consecutive failed rainy seasons already in Ethiopia, the lack of water and extreme food insecurity has severely impacted eight million people in the southern regions of the country. The three regional states most affected are the Somali, Oromia and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. In those regions, UNHCR is prioritizing 763,000 internally displaced people and 304,000 refugees and host communities for immediate response.

Many host and IDP communities in the Somali region have lost all their livestock due to both conflict and the drought. The communities lack necessities for survival, with water, food, and access to health care often out of reach.

Education is increasingly affected with the school dropout rate increasing due to families migrating to better-off areas and due to lack of water sources at schools. Families are increasingly engaging in harmful strategies to meet their basic needs, resulting in a rise in early marriages and child labor.

With the available funding for the drought response, UNHCR in Melkadida has only been able to provide minimal assistance in the Liban zone, reaching some 240,000 individuals (40,000 households). Additional funds are required for UNHCR to expand this assistance including for some 408,000 (68,000 households) drought and conflict affected IDPs in Dawa and Afder zones. To date, UNHCR in Jijiga has reached an estimated 32,600 (5,000 households) drought affected IDPs through protection monitoring and targeted assistance in 6 zones in Somali region and West Hararghe in Oromia region.

In accordance with the response planned by the Shelter/NFI cluster, UNHCR in Melkadida intends to assist 20,000 vulnerable families with the provision of emergency shelter kits this year if funds allow. UNHCR in Jijiga intends to further support an additional 10,000 most vulnerable IDP households with emergency shelter kits and core relief items.

¹ UNHCR plans to revise and update the Drought Appeal for 2023 as growing needs are already apparent. Funding will be urgently needed at the start of the year to keep the response going and expand it considerably.

In the Somali refugee camps in Ethiopia, UNHCR aims to undertake improvement of water supply and latrine coverage in a sustainable manner, which includes provision of electro-mechanical equipment and construction of communal/household latrines. Currently, water consumption is on average 15 litres per person per day (l/p/d) in the Melkadida and Jijiga camps, which is below minimum post emergency standard of 20 l/p/d. The household latrine coverage is very low, at only 23.4%, exposing families to communicable diseases. Cases of Cholera outbreak have already been reported in the region. For the IDP response, there is also an urgent need to rehabilitate existing water infrastructures and build communal latrines and solid waste disposal facilities.

Providing adequate shelter coverage is also one of the priorities. Currently, only 40% of shelter needs have been met, resulting in 60% of refugees living in inadequate accommodation. In Dollo Ado, a total of 3,500 newly arrived refugee families are still living in temporary communal shelters and tents.

KENYA



Priority financial needs through December 2022:

- **USD 2.35 million** needed to begin to provide additional shelter to refugees and new arrivals in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps. Some 80,000 arrivals to Dadaab in recent years, including nearly 45,000 this year, currently have no access to proper shelter. Procurement of plastic sheeting, tents and other shelter materials, including transitional shelters, is urgently needed to provide shelter in the Ifo 2 camp that will reopen to accommodate these arrivals.
- **USD 1.83 million** needed for multipurpose cash assistance to support basic critical needs of the most vulnerable refugee families.
- **USD 992,000** needed to do continuous profiling and registration, support to persons with specific needs, ensure prevention and response to gender-based violence, child protection interventions, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and protection activities such as the engagement of women in gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps.

The impact of underfunding means new arrivals in Dadaab and Kakuma are living in inadequate and unsafe conditions, while cash assistance is only reaching a tiny fraction of the most vulnerable refugee families, including those with serious protection needs.

In Kenya, the **Dadaab** refugee camps have received some 45,000 new arrivals since January 2022, mainly from Somalia, who are part of a larger group of more than 80,000 arrivals in recent years who are yet to be officially registered and fully assisted. Registration of new arrivals in Dadaab has been suspended since 2016. While the Government is yet to resume registration of asylum-seekers, UNHCR has undertaken a process of profiling and vulnerability screening jointly with the Department of Refugee Services (DRS), which has allowed for the provision of food and other basic assistance.

The recent approval from the Government of Kenya for the use of the previously closed Ifo 2 camp in Dadaab to accommodate these arrivals requires urgent funding now and into 2023. One of the most pressing needs is shelter as there is currently no physical space in the existing three camps to accommodate new arrivals. This means they are forced to live on the outskirts of the camps in squalid shelters and resort to squatting and residing with friends and relatives, which is creating congestion in the existing camps. Procurement of plastic sheeting, tents and other shelter materials will be required to provide shelter in the Ifo 2 camp. New arrivals living in and around the camps share the limited water and latrines available in the camps. UNHCR has provided latrines and water on the outskirts of the camps but urgent rehabilitation of water network structures in Ifo 2 camp is needed.

UNHCR will continue with profiling and related activities for new arrivals, support to persons with specific needs (PSNs), prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), Child Protection interventions, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

The office has reviewed its contingency plan in readiness for potential larger-scale arrivals as the drought situation continues to deteriorate. Currently, UNHCR's border monitors estimate that some 2,000 persons arrive each week. In addition to these new arrivals, almost 16,500 individuals of the host and surrounding communities are also directly affected by the drought, whom UNHCR interventions will also target. It is projected that the total number of new arrivals by April 2023 will be approximately 120,000 persons.



New arrivals line up to fetch water at Dagahaley in Dadaab, Kenya. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

In **Kakuma**, the operational areas at critical risk due to underfunding in the refugee response are Shelter through Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), Health and Nutrition, WASH and Protection.

The shelter sector in Kenya remains one of the least funded despite the ever-increasing needs due to recurrent population movements. UNHCR uses CBI to upgrade shelters belonging to refugees from transitional to permanent shelters. Settlements as well as individual shelters must be safe for women and girls, people living with disabilities, children and the elderly. Adequate shelters are a key factor in mitigating the risk of exposure to gender-based violence and is also crucial in preventing diseases.

The drought crisis in Kenya together with the global economic crises have impacted the prices of staple foods and water. This has contributed to a deterioration in food security across the region. The food and water shortages disproportionately affect the pastoral areas such as Marsabit and Turkana, which are the counties that account for half of the population or more facing crisis levels of food insecurity.

The funding gap to support protection and women's engagement in the prevention and mitigation of GBV increases the risks of human rights violations for vulnerable populations. In the absence of protection

monitoring and funding for relevant protection intervention packages, survivors of violations will not be identified, referred, or cared for in a timely manner, including unaccompanied children, children associated with armed forces and groups, and survivors of GBV. UNHCR monitors GBV incidents and supports organizations, prioritizing cash assistance, as well as comprehensive responses in coordination with humanitarian partners as part of GBV response. With WASH needs unmet, women and children are exposed to risks of GBV as they have to walk long distances to fetch water, with disputes between communities also likely.

SOMALIA



Priority financial needs through December 2022

- **USD 3.5 million** needed to meet critical needs for shelter/NFIs
- **USD 2.4 million** needed for multi-purpose cash to help meet basic needs.
- **USD 500,000** needed for protection related activities including continued delivery of integrated GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions in the affected regions; strengthened community-based outreach and monitoring, complaint and feedback mechanisms, and identification of vulnerable groups and minority clans; protection monitoring and identification and provision of specialized assistance to persons with specific needs.

Underfunding means that early 200,000 individuals are at risk of living in unsafe and undignified living conditions, heavily exposed to protection risks. UNHCR is unable to assist refugees, returnees, and IDPs with cash assistance that would provide the most flexible means for them to meet their basic needs.

The deepening crisis is affecting 7.8 million people, nearly half of Somalia's population, including the people UNHCR serves and their host communities. According to the UNHCR-led [Protection and Return Monitoring Network \(PRMN\)](#), 1.4 million individuals have been displaced internally within Somalia in 2022, including 926,000 due to the ongoing drought and 68,000 new displacements in the month of September alone. The current situation is exacerbated by insecurity, access constraints, and weak capacity of service providers, including local NGOs and authorities. The coping capacity of the most vulnerable has reduced significantly due to the severe impacts of climate-induced shocks, sharp increases in food prices, and conflict. Displaced people face multiple protection risks, with shelter, livelihood, food, and water identified as priority needs.

There is an urgent need for shelter and NFIs for the newly displaced who do not have access to shelter materials resulting in the construction of makeshift shelters that expose them to unfavorable weather conditions and protection risks such as gender-based violence, physical and mental health. The new displaced communities often settle in existing IDP sites, which are already congested settlements and at heightened risk of hazards like fire and disease outbreak with minimal access to basic services

Many of the displaced have lost their productive assets such as livestock and cannot access their farmlands, others have sold off the assets in order to survive, leaving most of the households with heavily eroded economic purchasing power and unable to meet their basic needs. Although significant funding gaps exist in all UNHCR-led clusters, funding is urgently needed to support multipurpose cash to ensure that vulnerable refugees, returnees and IDPs can meet their immediate basic needs, which would also assist to stimulate economic activities and local markets.

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