

# Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 20, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>23</b> MILLION</p> <p>People in Need of Food Assistance Due to Drought in the Horn of Africa</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>24.1</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Affected by Drought in Ethiopia</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>4.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Living With Daily Household Water Insecurity in Kenya</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>7.8</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Affected by Drought in Somalia</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>1.3</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of People Displaced Due to Drought in Somalia Since January 2021</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>
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- Poor rainfall during the October-to-December *deyr* rainy season marks the fifth consecutive below-average rainy season in the Horn of Africa, contributing to continued emergency-levels of humanitarian need for vulnerable populations across the region.
- Drought conditions drove heightened displacement across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their homes seeking basic services and humanitarian assistance in recent months.
- Ongoing cholera outbreaks resulted in the deaths of nearly 200 people in drought-affected areas of the region during 2022.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Horn of Africa Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup> \$411,422,073

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6*

**Total \$411,422,073**

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Fifth Consecutive Below-Average Rainy Season Exacerbates Already Acute Water Shortages, Adversely Affects Livelihoods in Region**

Following the fifth consecutive below-average rainy season since 2020, drought-induced water shortages and resultant humanitarian need remain widespread throughout Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. While the October-to-December *deyr* rainy season marginally replenished water resources in drought-affected areas of the region, cumulative *deyr* rainfall was less than 55 percent of the 30-year average in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), according to the Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). Accordingly, as of December, individuals and livestock in some areas of the ASALs were forced to travel distances of approximately 6 to 9 miles, or 40 to 70 percent above the three-year average, to access water sources, FEWS NET reports. Milk production—a critical source of income, livelihoods, and nutrition for pastoralist households—remains negligible in Kenya's Samburu and Turkana counties, while milk production levels are 70 to 90 percent below-average in the country's Isiolo, Marsabit, and Wajir counties, with households producing between one-quarter to one-half of a liter of milk per day.

The *deyr* rains also underperformed in Somalia, with cumulative rainfall ranging between 25 and 70 percent below average across much of Somalia from the start of the season in October until mid-November, according to the UN. Somalia continued to face rainfall deficits into December, with much of the country remaining abnormally dry and river water levels below long-term averages. Vulnerable populations in Somalia will likely continue to face constrained water access through the January-to-March dry season due to groundwater deficits, relief actors report. Moreover, the ongoing January cereal harvest in southern Somalia is likely to be 40 to 60 percent below the 1995–2021 average, the UN reports. Meanwhile in Ethiopia, *deyr* rains likely failed in Oromia Region's Borena Zone and Somali Region's Dawa and Liben zones, according to FEWS NET. Poor livestock health, extremely low birth rates, and reduced herd sizes continue to adversely affect households in Ethiopia that rely on livestock for income and nutrition.

### **Increased Levels of Displacement Continue Across Horn of Africa as Populations Seek Humanitarian Assistance to Alleviate Drought's Effects**

The ongoing drought continues to drive displacement across the Horn of Africa, as insufficient access to water and resultant dwindling livelihood opportunities and resources force vulnerable populations to depart their areas of previous residence, according to the UN. In Somalia, the number of drought-related displacements since January 2021 rose to more than 1.4 million people, with nearly 108,000 people displaced during October 2022 and an estimated 76,000 people displaced during November 2022, the UN reports. Displaced populations continue to seek humanitarian assistance in major Somali cities and towns or as refugees in neighboring countries. Drought-driven displacement is also on the rise in Ethiopia, with more than 516,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country citing drought as their primary driver of migration, an International Organization for Migration (IOM) assessment conducted from August to September reports. Between July and September 2022, the number of people displaced in Borena Zone increased by nearly 77,000 people, while the number of people displaced in Dawa Zone increased by nearly 20,000 people during the same period. IOM notes that displacement levels in Ethiopia are likely higher than the UN agency's statistics indicate, as relief actors were unable to access previously assessed sites during the assessment period. In Kenya, drought-affected Garissa County continued to host more than 205,000 displaced people as of November 2022; an estimated 80,000 people, primarily from Somalia, now reside both in and around Garissa's Dadaab refugee complex, approximately 44,000 of whom arrived at Dadaab during 2022.

## Cholera Outbreaks Lead to Hundreds of Deaths in the Horn of Africa

As of January, cholera outbreaks are ongoing in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia and Kenya, as food insecurity, malnutrition, inadequate vaccination coverage, insufficient access to health and nutrition services, and poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions continue to heighten the risk of waterborne diseases. Since an outbreak began in Ethiopia in late August, the Ethiopian Public Health Institute has reported more than 890 suspected cases and 27 associated deaths across 10 *woredas*, or districts, in Oromia and Somali as of January 12. The country's cholera outbreak has continued to spread in recent weeks, with health actors reporting nine suspected cases between December 31 and January 9 in Nensebo *woreda* in Oromia's West Arsi Zone.

A cholera outbreak has also been underway in Kenya since mid-October, with more than 2,900 suspected cholera cases and 105 associated deaths countrywide as of December 18, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. The outbreak has particularly affected the Dadaab refugee complex, with more than 500 suspected cases and three related deaths as of December 18, according to a non-governmental organization (NGO). Cholera also affected Somalia during 2022, with WHO reporting more than 13,900 suspected cholera cases and 73 related deaths in the country—primarily in Banadir and South West states—during the year as of December 11; approximately 64 percent of cases and 78 percent of deaths occurred among children ages five years and younger.

### KEY FIGURES



**4.2 Million**

People in Somalia reached with WFP food assistance in November



**13 Partners**

Providing health services to vulnerable communities in the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports two UN agencies and ten NGOs across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced wheat or sorghum, pulses, and vegetable oil—to populations in greatest need, including refugee households. USAID/BHA partners in the region also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets, where available. In Somalia, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provides vouchers redeemable for food in local markets to reduce food consumption gaps at the household level, with an estimated 4.2 million people receiving some form of WFP food assistance in November alone; the UN agency distributed more than 13,000 metric tons of in-kind food assistance in Somalia during the month.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs and three UN agencies to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia and Somalia. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support mobile health units, and train community health workers to support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. In addition, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partners support essential health interventions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.



**483,000**

People in Somalia who received nutrition assistance from WFP in November

## NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Working through 11 NGOs and four UN agencies, USAID/BHA supports community-centered and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related illnesses and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as identification and treatment of wasting, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA nutrition partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia implement life-saving nutrition services as part of the national health systems and integrate nutrition assistance with food security, health, livelihood, and WASH interventions to prevent excess mortality and improve resilience among drought-affected households.



**12 Partners**

Providing protection services to drought-affected communities in the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

## PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection concerns into all USAID/BHA-supported activities, USAID/BHA is also supporting 12 implementing partners responding to conflict- and drought-generated protection needs across the region. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (GBV) case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, and providing dignity kits—which contain items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors. Implementing partners are also providing mental health and psychosocial support services to conflict-affected communities in the region. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide protection services to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs.



**28 Partners**

Providing WASH services to vulnerable populations across the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout the Horn of Africa to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, such as cholera, and wasting in children and mothers. With USAID/BHA support, 25 NGO partners and three UN agencies across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are providing WASH services—including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems, and providing safe drinking water—to IDPs and other drought-affected people in need. USAID/BHA partners are also improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, distributing supplies to test and treat contaminated water, and providing technical support for community-led experts responsible for managing water and sanitation infrastructure. Additionally, State/PRM is supporting the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to implement WASH activities that assist refugees sheltering across Ethiopia. In Kenya, USAID/BHA partners are supporting communities, as well as local and national governments, to rehabilitate and manage water systems in drought-affected areas and promote improved hygiene and sanitation practices for both drought-affected Kenyans and refugees.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia struggle with a confluence of recurring climatic shocks, widespread food insecurity, and reduced access to livelihoods. These ongoing challenges, exacerbated by persistent conflict and resultant displacement, contribute to sustained humanitarian needs and ongoing complex emergencies. U.S. Government humanitarian assistance is designed to remain flexible and respond to needs as they arise, providing support to crisis-affected populations across the Horn of Africa.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to acute needs resulting from persistent dry weather in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall between 2020 and 2022 leading to the most severe drought on record in the Horn of Africa in the last 70 years. Critical water shortages in drought-affected areas have significantly undermined livestock conditions, livelihoods, and food security. The former USAID Office of Food for Peace and the former USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to heightened food and nutrition needs resulting from drought in Ethiopia between 2015 and 2018, as well as drought in Kenya and Somalia between 2016 and 2018.
- Intercommunal conflicts in Ethiopia have generated displacement, exacerbated humanitarian needs, and impeded humanitarian access since 2018. In Somalia, ongoing conflict—related to al-Shabaab attacks and resultant military operations, as well as intercommunal violence—continues to contribute to displacement and food insecurity, while restricting access to livelihoods. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help conflict-affected households meet their basic needs and rebuild assets.
- On October 28, 2022, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ethiopia for FY 2023 to assist vulnerable populations adversely affected by armed conflict and climatic shocks, including the ongoing drought. On October 19, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Margaret Whitman renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Kenya for FY 2023 due to the drought-driven complex emergency. On October 11, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Larry E. André renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Somalia for FY 2023 in response to the ongoing complex emergency, including climatic shocks and protracted conflict.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$150,350,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$192,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
	Program Support		\$79,515
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$411,422,073</b>

**TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN SOMALIA IN FY 2023<sup>3</sup>**

**\$411,422,073**

**TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023**

**\$411,422,073**

**TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023**

**\$411,422,073**

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 20, 2023 and reflect estimated values of assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, which are subject to change.

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)