



### Facts and Figures

- For 2012 the Commission has allocated €102 million in humanitarian assistance for the Horn of Africa;
- The EU collectively provided €730 million in humanitarian aid to the region in 2011. €181 million was from the Commission.
- The food security situation has improved in the Horn of Africa but remains very fragile;
- There is no longer a famine in Somalia, but emergency conditions still apply;
- Malnutrition rates have decreased but are still between 15% and 30% in the most affected areas;
- There is continued insecurity in Somalia, and in refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. Access to vulnerable people in border areas is restricted.

### THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

In two successive failed rainy seasons in 2010 and 2011, rainfall was reduced by more than 25% in pastoral areas in Somalia, northern and eastern Kenya, southern and eastern Ethiopia, and Djibouti. This drought came shortly after a severe dry spell in 2008/09. Prolonged drought has caused failed harvests, severe levels of mortality among domestic animals, and an increase in the prices of food and water. This caused high mortality and malnutrition rates among the affected population. At the peak of the crisis in 2011, 13 million people were in need of emergency assistance across the Horn of Africa.

In 2012, the number of people suffering from food insecurity and famine decreased as a result of good harvest and significant international assistance. Nevertheless, the humanitarian situation in the region remains a concern and calls for sustained assistance.

In Somalia, none of the areas previously affected by famine are now classified as famine areas. Malnutrition and mortality rates have dropped but still remain very high in some areas. The number of people affected by the crisis has decreased from 4 million to 2.34 million, which represents nearly one third of the estimated population.

Insecurity and the ban imposed by the Al Shabaab militants on humanitarian organisations reduce access to those in need, which is a cause of great concern and an increasing challenge for humanitarian operations.

Military operations involving neighbouring countries are ongoing in Somalia. This creates additional insecurity in the Kenya-Somalia-Ethiopia border regions and nearby refugee camps. While the influx of Somali refugees into the Dadaab refugee camps in north-east Kenya has decreased, this still remains the largest refugee camp in the world with almost 500 000 refugees. Many Somalis who flee the drought and violence also head towards Ethiopia and the Dollo Ado refugee camps which host 130 000 refugees.

The food security outlook for the region over the coming months is highly dependant on weather conditions and the subsequent quality of harvests. Climate analysts have recently expressed concern about the increased likelihood of below to near-normal rainfall ahead of the March – May main rainy season in the Great Horn of Africa. In the current situation, direct humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable populations has to be sustained; this will include emergency preparedness and medium to long-term support to strengthen resilience among the region's population.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HUMANITARIAN AID RESPONSE

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The European Union is one of the world's largest humanitarian donors, having provided almost €730 million to the Horn of Africa in 2011. This represents nearly one third of the total assistance to the region in 2011 and reached 6.5 million people.

The European Commission alone allocated nearly €181 million in humanitarian aid for the Horn of Africa in 2011, assisting vulnerable people threatened by famine and the effects of drought. For 2012, the Commission has allocated €102 million for humanitarian assistance to the region. The main priority sectors are food assistance, nutrition, water and sanitation.

### Responding to a recurrent drought problem by offering sustainable solutions: a collective responsibility

An emergency response is vital but not sufficient. Droughts are a recurring phenomenon, intensified by climate change. A sustainable solution is needed to increase the resilience of affected populations and to strengthen links between relief, recovery and development. There is an urgent need to focus more on preparedness, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Since 2006, the European Commission has taken its share of this responsibility in providing sustainable solutions by being actively involved in disaster risk reduction in the Horn of Africa through its regional funding decision. This initiative focuses on drought preparedness and aims to make local communities more resilient while building up their capacity to cope with the impact of recurrent drought. The immediate objective is to reduce the need for emergency response to future droughts.

Nevertheless, only long-term action by development agencies and national governments can deliver effective and sustainable results. This can be done by investing in local coordination, better resource management, animal health and the preparation of contingency measures. These measures include stockpiling cereal and grains, buying up animals before they become too weak and repairing water boreholes. In this way, adaptation to climate change is being integrated into development strategies. In Kenya, for instance, the Kenya Rural Development Programme, worth €66.4 million, addresses food security and drought management, and supports pastoralists in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



**European Commission – Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection**

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00 – Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72 – email: [echo-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:echo-info@ec.europa.eu)

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>