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

### **HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT**

**COVERING KENYA, ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND DJIBOUTI** 





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#### **Facts and Figures**

- 13 million people need emergency assistance in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti;
- Increased border insecurity with Somalia restricts access to those in need:
- Six regions declared 'famine zones' in southern Somalia;
- Malnutrition rates over 30% in drought affected areas;
- Livestock mortality has increased by 15-30%;
- The EU's solidarity represents one third of the overall international assistance, the EU having allocated more than €705 million to the Horn of Africa so far in 2011, of which almost €184 million is Commission aid.

#### THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

The humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa remains critical and is not expected to improve any time soon. Over 13 million people are now in need of emergency assistance in the entire Horn of Africa. Although prompt international and regional assistance has contributed to reducing malnutrition and mortality rates in affected areas in Kenya and Ethiopia, the situation in Somalia continues to deteriorate.

In September, famine was officially declared in four more areas of southern Somalia, bringing the current total to six and raising the number of people at risk of starvation to 750,000. The number of malnourished children in Somalia has grown from 390,000 to 450,000, of which 75% reside in the southern regions.

In October, Kenya launched a military offensive in Somalia. This recent development, along with high levels of insecurity on the Kenya-Somalia border and nearby refugee camps, has further decreased humanitarian access to populations in need and adversely affected the distribution of relief aid.

Two failed rainy seasons have already resulted in a reduction of more than 25% of rain in pastoral areas in Somalia, Northern and Eastern Kenya, Southern and Eastern Ethiopia, and Djibouti. The current drought comes shortly after a severe dry spell in 2008/09.

The food security outlook for the region over the coming months is highly dependent on the performances of the October-December rainy season. Although a moderate amount of rain has fallen in key areas, it remains below the normal levels. Heavy rain has in some cases made things worse, causing flooding, flash floods, and outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Prolonged drought has caused harvests to fail, high livestock mortality, and an increase in the prices of food and water. The price of basic commodities, especially staple cereals like maize, has remained high in all affected countries.

Millions of people in the region cannot meet basic survival needs, and emergency levels of acute malnutrition are widespread. In most areas affected by the drought, malnutrition rates are over 30%, more than double the internationally recognized emergency threshold.

UN agencies report that during the first half of October, the number of Somalis crossing the Somalia-Ethiopia border has increased to an average of 300 to 400 per day. The refugee influx into the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya on the other hand, has decreased due to military tensions in border areas and the onset of heavy rains.

#### THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HUMANITARIAN AID RESPONSE

The European Union is one of the world's largest humanitarian donors, having provided to date more than €705 million to the area. This represents nearly one third of the total assistance to the Horn of Africa in 2011.

The European Commission alone has so far allocated nearly €160 million in humanitarian aid for the Horn of Africa in 2011 and is mobilising an additional €24 million to assist vulnerable people threatened by famine and the effects of drought in the Horn of Africa. Of this amount, more than 70% will be committed to respond to the drought crisis. The priority sectors are food assistance, nutrition, water and sanitation. Since the beginning of this year, the Commission's focus has been on protecting livestock and ensuring that the most vulnerable households continue to have access to food.

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

An emergency response is vital but is not enough. Droughts are a recurring phenomenon, intensified by climate change. A sustainable solution is needed to increase the levels of resilience and to strengthen the 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 Drought Decision. This initiative focuses on drought preparedness and aims to make local communities more resilient while building their capacity to cope with the impact of recurrent drought. The immediate objective is to reduce the need for emergency response to future droughts.

However, 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 planning for contingency measures. These measures include stockpiling cereal and grains, buying up animals before they get too weak and repairing water boreholes. In this way the adaptation to climate change is being integrated into development strategies. In Kenya, for instance, the Kenya Rural Development Programme, worth € 66,4 million, notably addresses food security, drought management and support to pastoralists in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

European Union humanitarian contributions to HORN OF AFRICA in 2011 as indicated in EDRIS – 11/11/2011			
<u>Donor</u>	contributions input in EDRIS	Other (1)	Total Amount
Austria	1,514,000 €		1,514,000 €
Belgium	14,050,000 €		14,050,000 €
Czech Republic	80,000 €		80,000 €
Denmark	46,476,277 €		46,476,277 €
Estonia	110,000 €		110,000 €
European Commission	157,470,000 €	23,860,000	181,333,000 €
Finland	14,750,000 €		14,100,000 €
France	29,299,631 €		29,299,631 €
Germany	37,325,547 €	118,000,000 €	155,325,547 €
Hungary	34,717 €		34,717 €
Ireland	7,581,000 €		7,581,000 €
Italy	5,278,004 €		5,278,004 €
Luxembourg	3,671,606 €		3,671,606 €
Malta	25,000 €		25,000 €
Netherlands	24,671,530 €		24,671,530 €
Poland	614,105 €		614,105 €
Slovenia	0€	50,161 €	50,161 €
Spain	27,128,252 €		27,128,252 €
Sweden	53,961,950 €		53,961,950 €
United Kingdom	108,229,953 €	31,770,047 €	140,000,000 €
Sum:	532,271,572 €	173,680,208 €	705,951,780 €

(1) Contributions not yet in EDRIS (pledges or information not yet in EDRIS)



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## ECMWF Seasonal Forecast. Issued 15/07/2011 Probability of Rainfall above the median

October 2011 - December 2011

#### November 2011 - January 2012

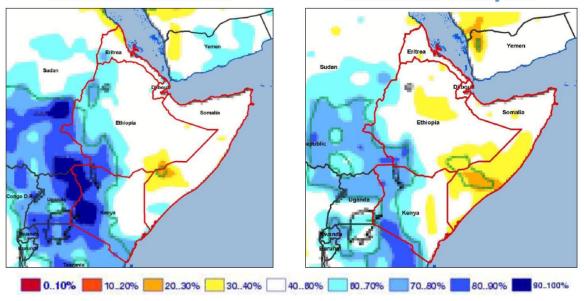
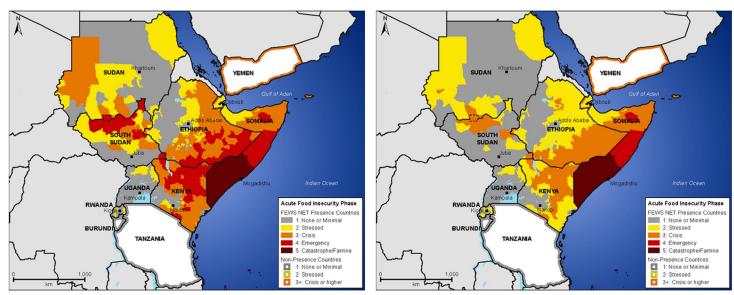


Fig 1 — ECMWF forecasts for rainfall in October-December (left) and November-January (right). Blue shades indicate increasing probabilities of wetter than usual conditions, while yellows to reds indicate decreasing probabilities. Note low to moderate probabilities of drier than average conditions over parts of Somalia and strong probabilities of wetter than average conditions in Uganda, Western Kenya and Southern Sudan. See Fig 3a for rainfall forecasts from a different source with a consistent pattern.

Source : European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)



FEWSNET Estimated food security conditions, August-September 2011

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