Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Rapid response and mitigation plan to avert a humanitarian catastrophe

January–June 2022

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Contents

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
ASAL	Arid and semi-arid land
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit
FSNWG	Food Security and Nutrition Working Group
GIEWS	Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
LEGS	Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SWALIM	Somalia Water and Land Information Management

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Executive summary

The Horn of Africa is facing the third severe La Niña-induced drought episode in a decade, and the region is on the verge of a catastrophe if humanitarian assistance is not urgently scaled up. Drought is exacerbating the humanitarian situation in a region characterized by underlying vulnerabilities and already suffering from the impact of multiple shocks since late 2019. These include a desert locust upsurge (the first in 70 years), the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and its socioeconomic implications, abnormally high food prices, and protracted conflict and insecurity.

Drought is among the most devastating of natural hazards – crippling food production, depleting pastures, disrupting markets and, at its most extreme, causing widespread human and animal deaths. Droughts can also lead to increased migration from rural to urban areas, placing additional pressures on declining food production. Herders are often forced to seek alternative sources of food and water for their animals, which can create conflict between communities, competing for the scarcely available resources.

In 2011, the drought considered to be "the worst in 60 years" at that time, combined with serious access issues, pushed Somalia into famine. Up to 260 000 people – half of them children – died, and the drought caused massive displacement across the region. The response was deemed to be too little too late.

Between 2016 and 2019, the region faced six out of seven below-average rainy seasons. The worst was avoided thanks to anticipatory action, including the use of crisis modifier modalities, rapidly mobilized additional resources in 2016 and sustained large-scale humanitarian assistance throughout the period of concern.

Since October 2020, the region has entered into a new episode of worsening conditions, for the third consecutive season.

> More than 80 percent of the damage and loss caused by drought directly impacts agriculture, especially livestock and crop production.

The increasing number of people facing high acute food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC] Phase 3 or above) in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region does not mean that the resilience agenda is failing. In fact, without the investments to build more resilient societies and systems over the past ten years, the region would undoubtedly have been in a more critical situation. But the recurrence of conflicts, combined with shocks of unprecedented magnitude, is a challenge that rural communities, in particular, cannot overcome alone.

Livelihood support is disproportionally underfunded in humanitarian responses in the IGAD region, including in drought contexts, although more than 80 percent of the damage and loss caused by drought directly impacts agriculture.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) rapid response and mitigation plan for the Horn of Africa is based on seasonality and drought epicentres. The plan describes the set of activities that should be prioritized from the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) for Ethiopia and Somalia, as well as those included in the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal, in order to save the livelihoods and therefore the lives of 1.93 million rural people across the three countries. The timeframe for the plan is January to June 2022 (six months).

Out of the USD 138.3 million requested by FAO in the subregion through appeals led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), we urgently need USD 129.9 million to provide critical assistance to rural populations, prevent the further worsening of hunger and malnutrition, safeguard livelihoods, as well as prevent displacement and further increases in humanitarian needs in 2022.

Key messages and figures

25.3 million people projected to be facing high acute food insecurity by mid-2022

1.5 million rural people targeted by FAO with livelihood assistance (excluding those reached in 2021 through anticipatory action)

USD 129.9 million urgently needed by **June 2022**

- The international community has a narrow window of six to seven months to prevent a major humanitarian catastrophe in the Horn of Africa.
- Saving livelihoods save lives, but livelihood support is disproportionally underfunded in any humanitarian response.
- Bringing assistance to rural areas, as close as possible to affected communities, will prevent massive displacement, related aggravating risks and excess mortality.
- FAO is a partner of choice in rural areas to safeguard livelihoods and provide food solutions especially through its flagship cash+ programme.

Priority actions and targets

144 000 rural people able to meet food needs for up to six months through unconditional and conditional cash transfers

770 400 agro/pastoralists safeguarding their livelihoods and assets for the next six months. In addition, the set of interventions (including cash+) will secure the production of up to **90 million litres of milk** in the next six months, enough for **3 million children** under 5 years of age (targeted families plus surplus for surrounding communities)

568 800 farmers and agro/pastoralists safeguarding their livelihoods and assets for the next six months. In addition, the set of interventions (including cash+) will secure the production of up to **40 000 tonnes of staple food crop** (cereal and pulses) by harvest time (June–July 2022), enough to feed the targeted population until the end of 2022 (short rains harvest).

16 800 fishers safeguarding their livelihoods and assets for the next four months (fishing season from January to April). In addition, the set of interventions (including cash+) will secure the harvest of up to **900 tonnes of fish** in the next four months, enough to provide **50 percent of the calories** required for the targeted population per day.

Introduction

The FAO drought rapid response and mitigation plan must be implemented in conjunction with the 2022 Somalia and Ethiopia HRPs, as well as the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal (launched in September 2021 and now extended until March 2022).

The drought rapid response and mitigation plan aggregates the FAO components of the above-mentioned appeals for 2022 and provides further detail on what has already been achieved in 2021, what urgently needs to happen at scale from January 2022, and the risks associated with insufficient or untimely response in the next few weeks.

The document also explains that responding to a drought is first and foremost about implementing the right set of actions at the right moment of the drought cycle. During the emergency stage (January to June 2022), humanitarian needs will become so enormous that it is imperative to adequately prioritize interventions (geographically and thematically) and to factor in seasonality.

Inter-cluster (Ethiopia and Somalia) and inter-sector (Kenya) coordination will become more crucial than ever. Partners will have to balance resources between each lifesaving sector, i.e. (i) food assistance and livelihoods; (ii) nutrition; (iii) water, sanitation and hygiene; and (iv) health. The failure to respond to one of the above four sectors will undermine the efforts of the others.

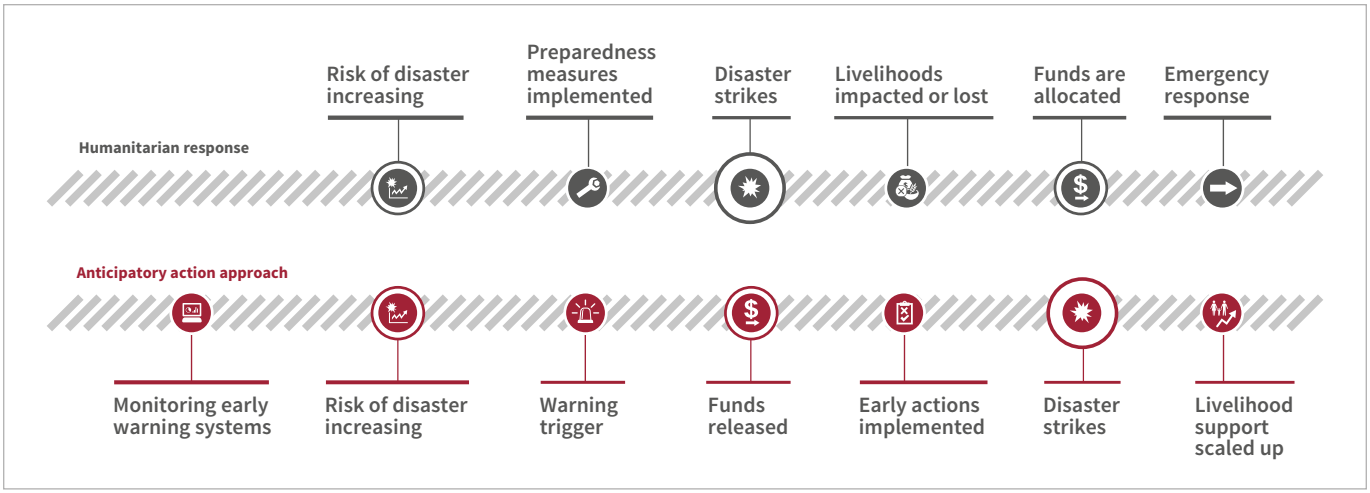
Early warning and anticipatory action

FAO is one of the lead agencies on early warning through the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) that continuously monitors food supply and demand and other key indicators for assessing the overall food security situation in all countries of the world.

At subregional and country level, FAO works with governments and non-governmental partners to collect and interpret food security indicators while contributing to the release of technically sound and time-sensitive statements and alerts.

FAO is also among the agencies leading global efforts in testing and scaling up anticipatory action approaches to prevent food crises among rural farming households. Curbing the deterioration of food security is crucially linked with protecting livelihoods and people's means to sustain themselves. FAO's anticipatory actions aim to protect agricultural assets and livelihoods from the impact of hazards to prevent the adoption of negative coping mechanisms that would lead to hunger and destitution. Empirical evidence shows that protecting agricultural livelihoods ahead of shocks can curb the deterioration of food security and reduce the need for costly humanitarian assistance, allowing people to recover more rapidly and build resilience to future shocks.

Figure 1. What is anticipatory action?



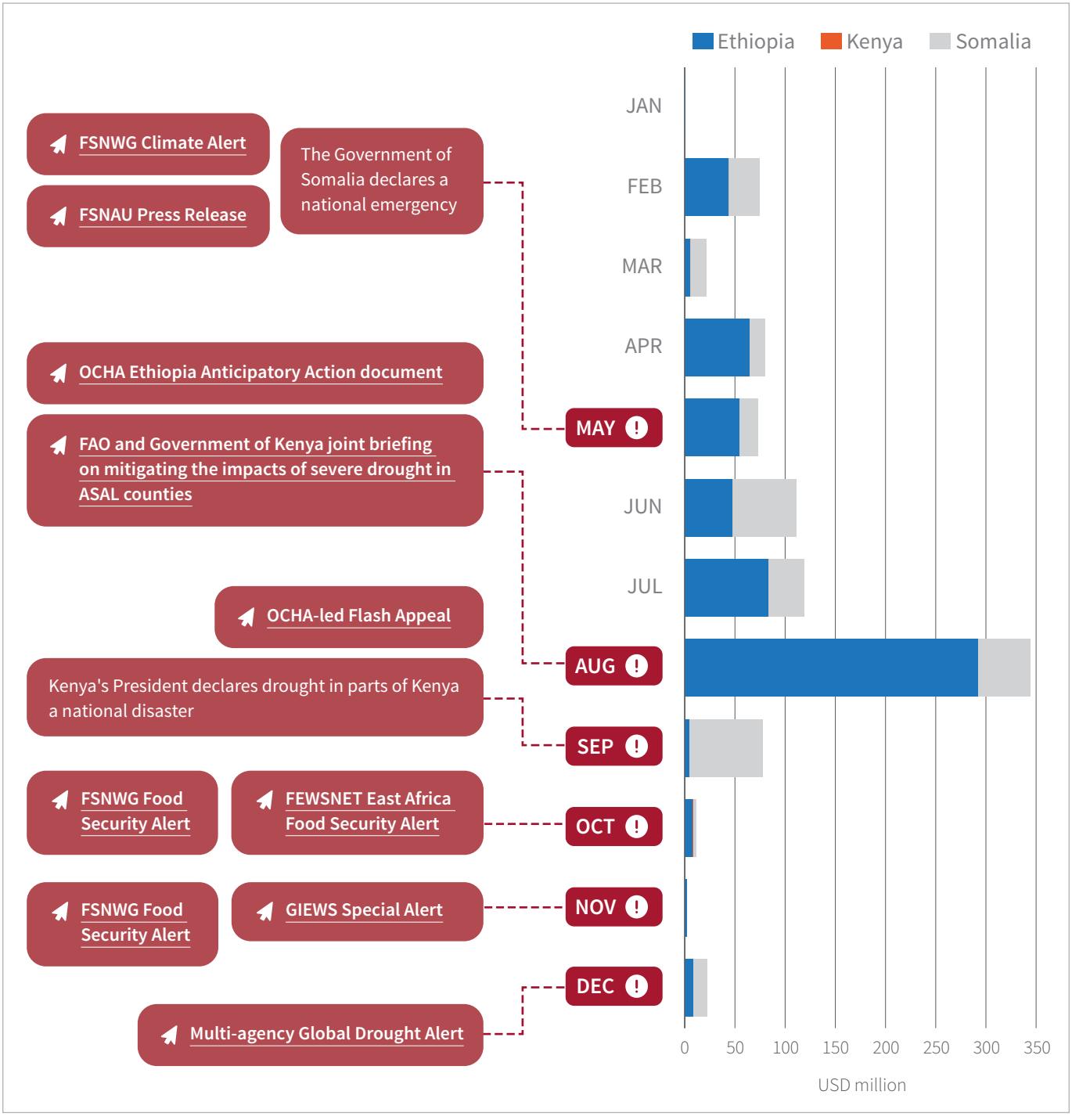
Source: FAO. 2018. *Mongolia, Impact of Early Warning Early Action. Rome. 32 pp. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO*

As shown in Figure 2, in the Horn of Africa, drought alerts since May 2021 have helped boost stakeholder awareness of the deteriorating situation and mobilize resources against underfunded HRPs for 2021, as well as the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal (USD 26.6 million out of USD 139.5 million in total).

In the three countries of concern, FAO received USD 8.79 million to implement anticipatory actions in 2021. Country-level, regional and global early warning products produced by FAO and its partners are consistently linked with the funding level of food security sectors (HRPs and Flash Appeal).

However, financial efforts remained insufficient, arriving too late to protect livelihoods at scale and prevent a rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition situation. As the region enters the next critical lean season, the situation of 25.3 million people will worsen. The brief window to implement anticipatory action is over and no effort must be spared to respond to emergency needs.

Figure 2. Drought alerts in the Horn of Africa in 2021 and funding progress of the Ethiopia and Somalia HRPs and Kenya Drought Flash Appeal



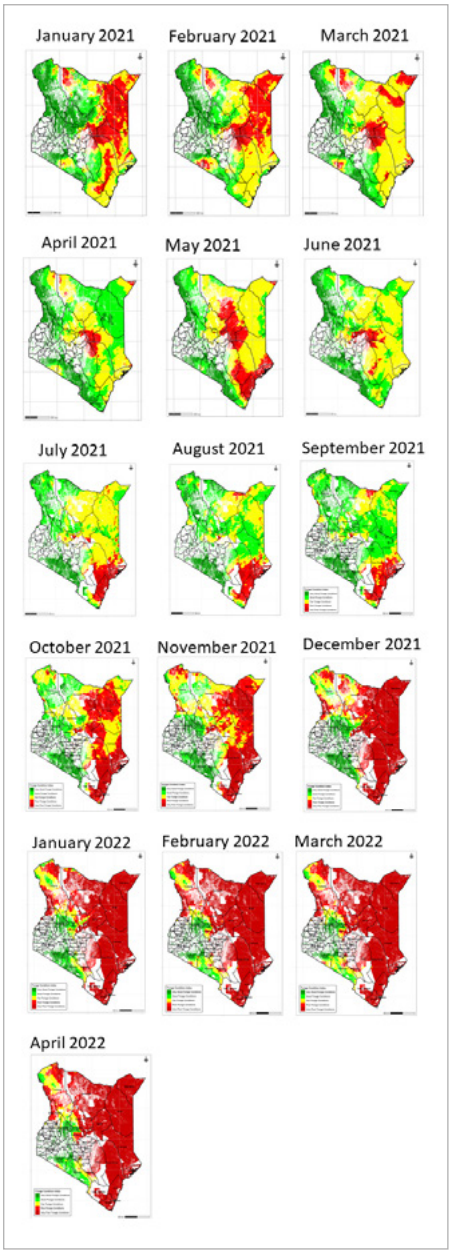
Source of data: OCHA. 2021. *OCHA Financial Tracking System*. [online] [Cited 10 January 2022]. https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/overview/2021/plans

A humanitarian crisis caused by several shocks

Across the Horn of Africa, households now face multiple concurrent shocks to food security. The ongoing drought occurs in a volatile context where conflict, insecurity, economic challenges and desert locusts are also straining rural livelihoods. While households are more resilient today compared to the recent past due to successful resilience-building programmes, the multiple shocks they face have pushed many to a breaking point, where their ability to further cope is now almost exhausted.

Significantly drier and warmer conditions since October 2020

Figure 3. Predictive maps showing varying levels of forage availability in Kenya (January 2021–April 2022)



Source of data: Texas A&M. 2021. *Predictive Livestock Early Warning System derived from near real-time climate and water balance data (January 2021–April 2022)*. **Source of map:** OCHA. 2021. *Map of Kenya* [online]. [Cited 10 January 2021]. https://data.humdata.org/dataset/ken-administrative-boundaries

During the 2021 short rainy season, much of the arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) regions of Kenya, southern and central Somalia and southern Ethiopia received less than 70 percent of average rainfall with a few areas experiencing one of the driest seasons on record.
These poor rains, combined with the effects of the previous two below-average rainy seasons (October–December 2020 and April–June 2021) have driven poor rangeland and water availability for pastoralists, with remote sensing data showing significant negative Normalized Difference Vegetation Index anomalies (measurement of vegetative greenness) and many livestock watering holes at "alert" or "near dry" stages. In Kenya, FAO and the National Drought Management Authority's (NDMA) Predictive Livestock Early Warning System is projecting that poor and very poor forage availability will continue into the first half of 2022. Poor rangeland conditions have driven below-average livestock body conditions, falling livestock prices, poor terms of trade, reduced milk production and livestock deaths throughout Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. For example, the preliminary results of the Kenya mid-season assessment October–December 2021 found that over 1.4 million livestock have died over the last three months. Unusual livestock movements have also been observed, resulting in rising resource-based conflicts that are expected to escalate during the upcoming dry season.

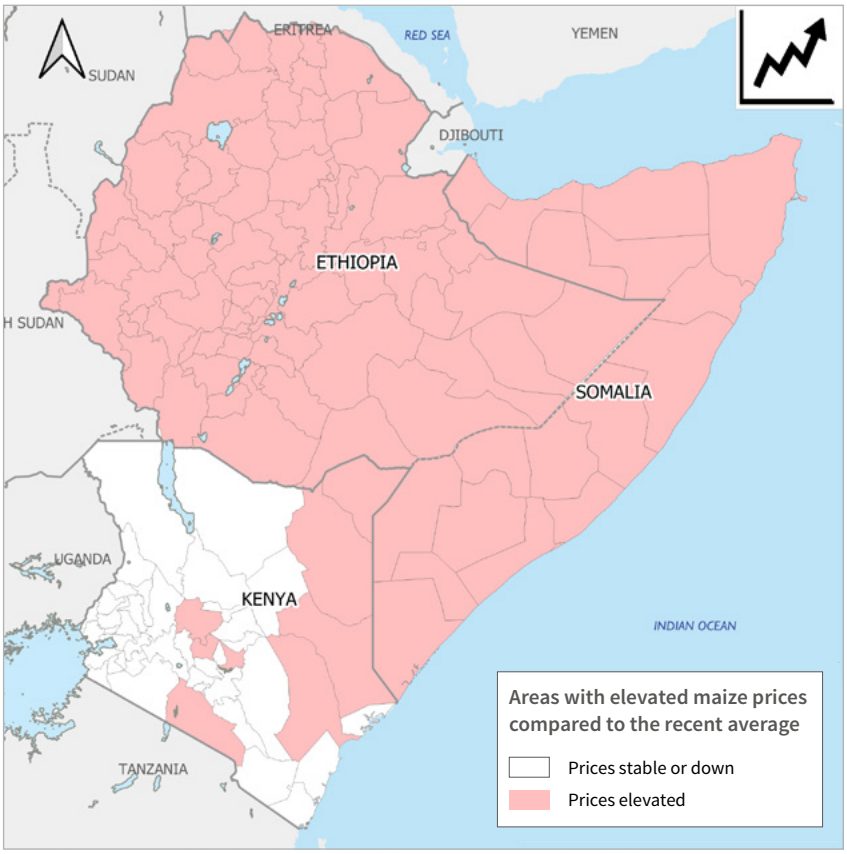
For agropastoral areas, a delayed start to the current rainy season (in many cases, over a month late) and the overall below-average cumulative rainfall totals have driven very poor crop conditions and/or crop failure across affected areas. Consequently, below-average crop harvests are expected during the upcoming January/February harvest period. For example, the FAO-led Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) currently estimate that the *Deyr* crop harvests in Somalia will be 50 to 70 percent below average.

Similarly, the preliminary results of the Kenya mid-season assessment October–December 2021 show that maize production will be up to 70 percent below average in marginal agricultural areas. For cropping households, the previous two below-average harvests have already caused households to be market dependent for a prolonged period of time, and this is expected to continue with the next poor harvest.

Abnormally high food prices

Food access has been further constrained by rising food prices across drought-affected areas in all three countries. In Ethiopia, food prices have risen sharply due to the combined effects of pre-existing macroeconomic challenges that have been recently exacerbated by the economic impacts of the conflict in Tigray. In Somalia, below-average harvests from the last several seasons of drought have driven significant increases in cereal prices which, in the worst-affected areas of the country, have been larger than those observed during the 2011 famine and 2017 drought emergency. The situation is worsened by significant increases in market prices for basic commodities due to a ten-year high of global market prices, unavailability of basic food commodities, and ongoing tension in Ethiopia which affects the flow of goods from Ethiopia into Somalia. In Kenya, favourable harvests in the western, breadbasket areas of the country have maintained relatively average food price trends, though cereal prices have begun to move to above-average levels in drought-affected areas of the ASALs due to local below-average harvests.

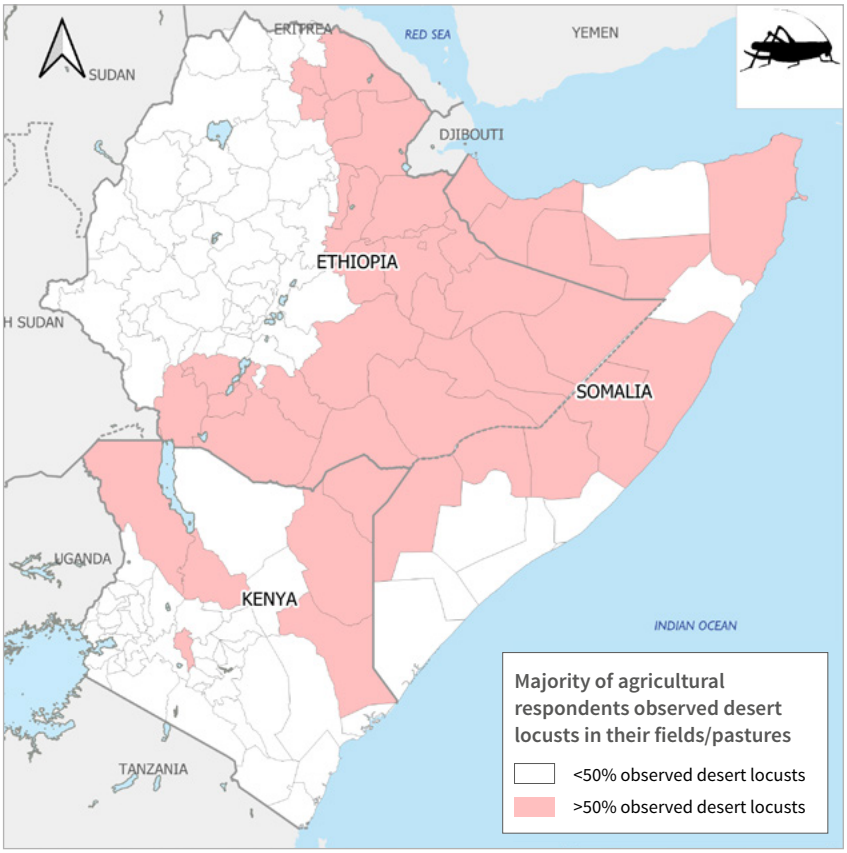
Figure 4. Areas with elevated food prices (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia)



Source of data: FAO. 2021. *Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA)*. https://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/home/en/; FSNAU. 2021. *Market Update, November 2021*. https://fsnau.org/downloads/Market-Update-November-2021.pdf; National Drought Management Authority. 2021. *Drought Early Warning Bulletins, November 2021*. https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/early-warning-reports

Source of map: OCHA. 2021. *Maps of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia* [online]. [Cited 10 January 2021]. https://data.humdata.org/dataset. Maps conform to United Nations Map for Horn of Africa (UN Geospatial, 2012) https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/horn-africa

Figure 5. Areas with high desert locust presence since 2020 (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia)



Source of data: FSNWG. 2021. *East Africa Regional Desert Locust Impact Monitoring Report: Round 3*. https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/east-africa-regional-desert-locust-impact-monitoring-report-round-3/; FSNWG. 2021. *Desert Locust Impact Assessment East Africa: Round 2.* https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/desert-locust-impact-assessment-east-africa/; FSNWG. 2020. *FSNWG Regional Desert Locust Impact Assessment Report: Round 1*. https://www.icpac.net/fsnwg/igad-regional-desert-locust-impact-assessment-report/

Source of map: OCHA. 2021. *Maps of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia* [online]. [Cited 10 January 2021]. https://data.humdata.org/dataset. Maps conform to United Nations Map for Horn of Africa (UN Geospatial, 2012) https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/horn-africa

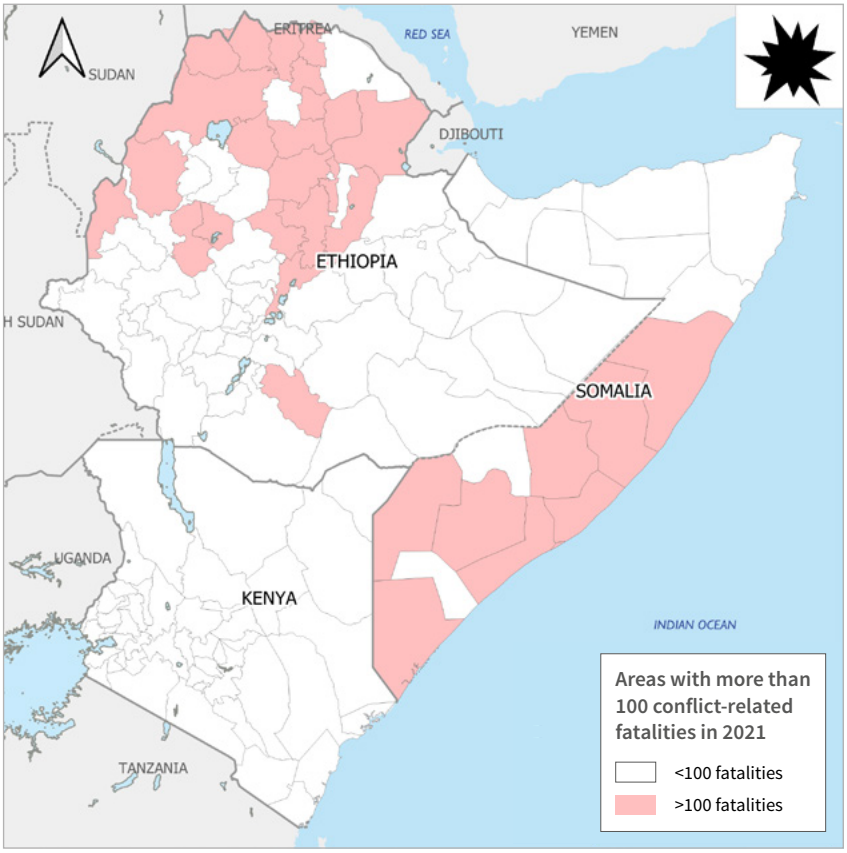
Desert locust presence since late 2019

Though the current presence of desert locusts is down significantly compared with the same time in 2020 due to very successful control operations combined with less favourable weather conditions for desert locusts, the food security impacts of this pest during the past two years have been significant in worst-affected areas. For example, numerous IPC analyses across the region have found that desert locusts were among the key drivers of food insecurity and the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) found through its desert locust impact monitoring that the majority of affected farming and livestock-keeping households experienced high or very high desert-locust related losses.

Conflict and insecurity

Conflict and insecurity are also a key driver of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, disrupting livelihoods, limiting functioning of markets, and driving large-scale displacements, particularly in Ethiopia and Somalia. Furthermore, significant humanitarian access constraints continue in both countries and are also worsening across parts of Kenya due to an increase in drought-related, resource-based conflicts. In Somalia, major river beds have dried up allowing further movement of armed groups across conflict lines.

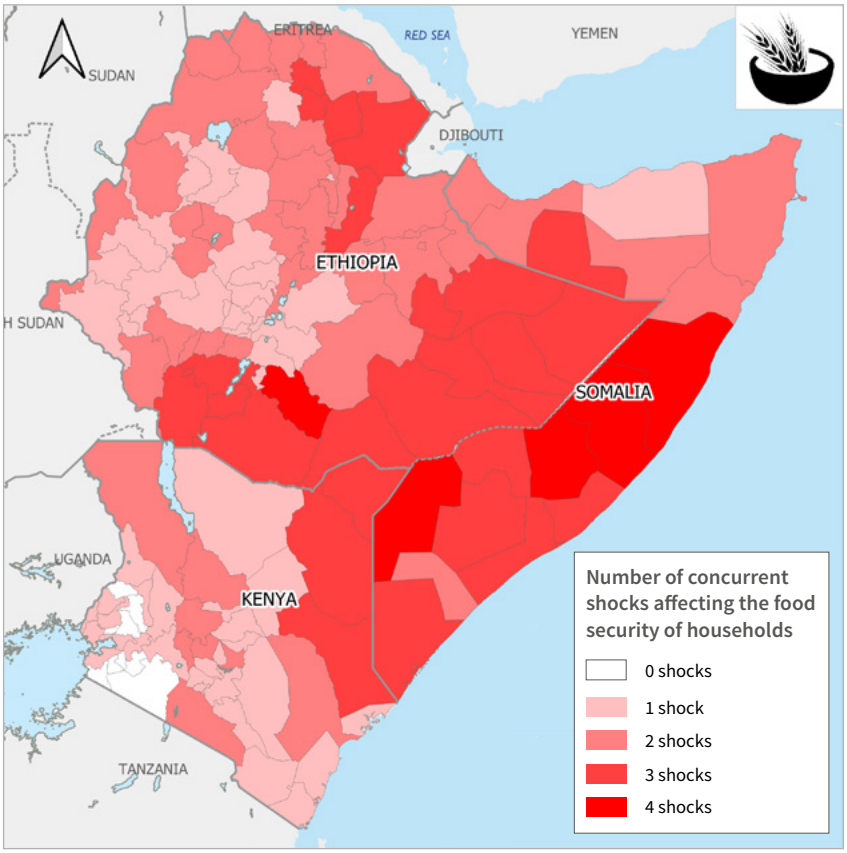
Figure 6. Areas with conflict-related fatalities in 2021 (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia)



Source of data: ACLED. 2021. *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) Data Export Tool.* https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/

Source of map: OCHA. 2021. *Maps of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia* [online]. [Cited 10 January 2021]. https://data.humdata.org/dataset. Maps conform to United Nations Map for Horn of Africa (UN Geospatial, 2012) https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/horn-africa

Figure 7. Concurrent shocks affecting the food security of households in the Horn of Africa



Source of data: FAO. 2021. *Shocks impacting food security in the Horn of Africa derived from data consolidated from various sources*
Source of map: OCHA. 2021. *Maps of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia* [online]. [Cited 10 January 2021]. https://data.humdata.org/dataset. Maps conform to United Nations Map for Horn of Africa (UN Geospatial, 2012) https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/horn-africa

Figure 8. Somalia: Time Series Early Warning Early Action Map (January 2016–November 2021)

Source of data: FSNAU/FAO, 2016–2021. *Somalia Early Warning Early Action: Trends in Risk Factors, January 2016–November 2021* (Indicators in Alarm Phase) **Source of map:** FSNAU/FAO. 2021. *Map of Somalia*. Conforms to United Nations Map for Somalia (UN Geospatial, 2011) https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/somalia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Food security and nutrition situation and forecast

The affected region (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) is already facing high levels of food insecurity. In the ASAL region of Kenya, 2.8 million people are projected to be highly food insecure through January 2022 according to the preliminary results of the Kenya mid-season assessment October–December 2021. These figures represent a 229 percent increase compared with the same time in 2020. Similarly, in Somalia, 4.6 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between February and May 2022, which represents a doubling in the population compared with the same time in 2021. According to the HRP Mid-Year Review and Northern Ethiopia Response Plan, there are close to 18 million people requiring food assistance in Ethiopia.

Malnutrition rates are also high across the three countries, with many areas experiencing a prevalence of global acute malnutrition above the emergency threshold of 15 percent. For pastoralists, research has shown a clear link between milk availability and nutritional outcomes for children and given the significant decline in milk production currently due to poor livestock conditions, malnutrition rates in pastoral areas will likely rise further during the upcoming dry season.

Though food security estimates for the first half of 2022 are not yet available for Kenya and Ethiopia, food insecurity will likely continue to deteriorate with the approach of the 2022 pastoral and agropastoral lean seasons (February–March and April–June, respectively), during which food availability and access are seasonally the most constrained. Limited pastoral resources and rising food insecurity will also likely drive

drought-related population displacements as people seek food and income in other areas, as well as an escalation in resource-based conflicts in drought-affected areas.

> Every time a cow dies in the ASAL region, two children are no longer able to receive their daily cup of milk.

In many ways, the current situation resembles the regional drought emergency of 2017. For example, FSNAU's Early Warning Early Action Dashboard shows that the number of early warning indicators in alarm stage is very similar to those at the end of 2016 and early 2017. Similarly, in Kenya, NDMA is indicating that currently 12 counties are in the "alarm" stage and nine are in "alert". This is higher than during the same time period in 2016, when eight counties were in "alarm" stage and ten were in "alert". During the 2017 drought, food insecurity spiked across the three countries, with a peak of 15.2 million people. Recovery took years due to the massive loss of livelihood assets, particularly livestock herds, and the drought-related displacement of roughly 1.4 million people across the three countries.

Research has shown that the April–June long *Gu* rains are more difficult to forecast than the October–December short *Deyr* rains, and current forecasts covering the Horn of Africa region are showing mixed signals. However, a recent multi-agency alert examined rainfall performance during previous La Niña years and found a high percentage of La Niña years (78 percent) that had a below-average April to June rainy season. Given the current state of food insecurity in the Horn of Africa and the low capacity of households to cope further, another failed season would have serious consequences for the region, with a likely significant rise in food insecurity levels both in terms of severity and magnitude.

Drought-related anticipatory action in 2021

USD 8.79 million received for drought anticipatory actions (including for coordination and data analysis) between May and November 2021

1.1 million people (187 000 households) food secure for 4.5 months on average, thanks to anticipatory action

730 000 children under 5 years of age prevented from suffering from severe acute malnutrition

Between May and December 2021, FAO and partners issued a number of drought alerts, calling for (i) urgent resource mobilization against the existing HRPs 2021 in Ethiopia and Somalia and (ii) urgent funding of the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal. FAO received a total of USD 8.79 million.

Ethiopia

(USD 3.08 million received)
With resources received, FAO has implemented and/or is implementing the following activities in Ethiopia:

- **Production of forage under irrigation** by 2 000 households along the Dawa river basin. The support will produce 18 000 tonnes of fodder, enough to feed 37 000 cattle and 100 000 small ruminants for 90 days. In addition to keeping animal alive, FAO estimates the milk production from these animals to be 790 000 litres, securing a glass of milk every day for 58 500 children under 5 years of age for three months. Households will also benefit from better prices for their livestock in markets due to improved animal body conditions.

- **Scale-up of animal health services** in order to treat 1.5 million heads of livestock. This avoided potential outbreaks of transmissible or contagious animal diseases that would lead to large-scale livestock deaths. There is a need to continue vaccinating 2 million cattle and 3.5 million small ruminants. FAO estimates that the treatment and vaccination of these animals will contribute to preventing a drop in milk production. The milk production differential between treated and non-treated animals is estimated at 40 percent. The averted loss of milk is estimated at 8.32 million litres for six months. This is equivalent to 305 000 children enjoying a glass of milk each day for six months.

- **Ongoing rehabilitation of at least 35 livestock watering points** (community ponds) to benefit 300 000 heads of livestock and 10 000 households. FAO estimates the milk production from these animals to be 3.47 million litres until the next rainy season (five months from intervention), securing a glass of milk every day for 155 000 children under 5 years of age for five months. In addition, households will benefit from better prices for their livestock in markets due to improved animal body conditions.

- **Unconditional cash transfers** to 5 000 affected people, securing food to each for two months. The cash transfers will also reduce distress selling of livestock.

Kenya

(USD 4.17 million received)
With resources received, FAO has implemented and/or is implementing the following activities in Kenya:

- **Unconditional cash transfers** to 10 000 affected people in 11 counties, securing food to each for two months.

- **Provision of assorted animal feed supplements** to the most vulnerable pastoralists benefiting 2 000 households. FAO estimates the milk production from these animals to be 94 600 litres, securing a glass of milk every day for 7 000 children under 5 years of age for three months.

- **Protective treatment of 63 000 small ruminants.** The averted loss of milk (difference between milk production of healthy animals and less healthy animals) is estimated at 110 800 litres for six months. This is equivalent to 4 050 children enjoying a glass of milk each day for six months.

- **Collaboration with the Ministry of Devolution and ASALs**, including contingency planning, situation analysis and community engagement.

- **Training on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards** (LEGS) for 125 officers before the implementation of livestock interventions.

- **Additional activities** are ongoing or about to start, including the rehabilitation of boreholes (USD 245 779), conditional cash transfers (USD 273 000) and nutrition-sensitive actions to enhance utilization of nutrient-dense food (production, preparation and preservation practices).

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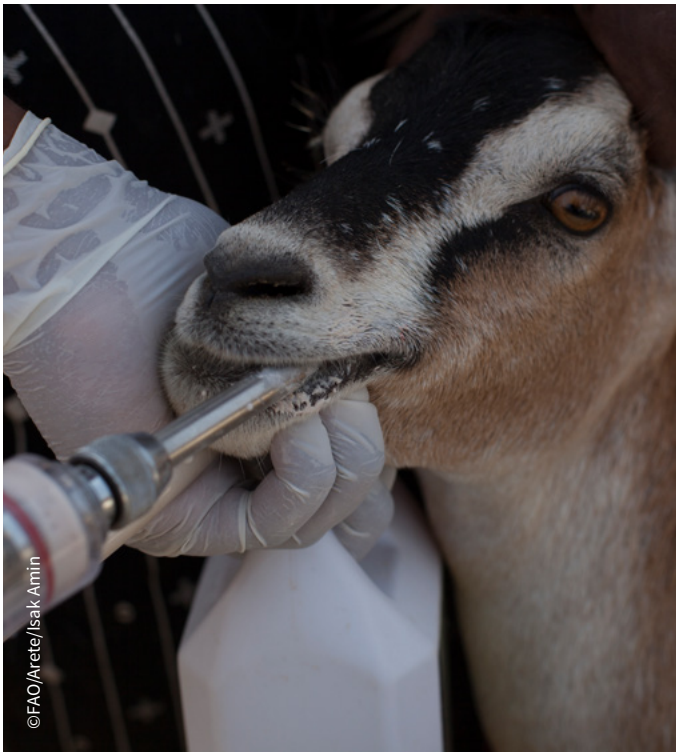

Somalia

(USD 1.54 million received)
With resources received, FAO has implemented and/or is implementing the following activities in Somalia:

- **Unconditional cash transfers** on a monthly basis during the lean season in Kismayo and Xudur districts of Lower Juba and Bakool to enable rural households to meet their immediate food needs. 2 050 agropastoral households were assisted for three months.

- **Livestock treatment** in 17 districts in Bakool, Gedo, Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle. This intervention is geared towards sustaining livestock body conditions, reducing the spread of disease and supporting income generation to help enable households to meet their nutritional needs. The treatment efforts benefited 50 000 households. The averted reduction in milk production (difference between milk production of healthy animals and less healthy animals) is estimated at 5.45 million litres over six months. This is equivalent to almost 200 000 children enjoying a glass of milk each day for six months.

Response plan

It is not too late to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in 2022, but resources must be made available immediately. Interventions must cut across all impacted livelihoods, and modalities should be agile and flexible using cash and/or inputs, depending on the context. In addition, evidence for programming and monitoring, as well as coordination with all stakeholders (starting from governments), will require strengthening in order to accommodate the increasing demand for information and to measure effectiveness.

At the peak of the crisis, it will be imperative that lifesaving activities addressing health, food assistance, livelihoods requirements and water, sanitation and hygiene, be implemented in a timely and integrated manner to generate cumulative effects. The relevant clusters or sectors will need to work closely together and co-location of cluster/sector coordinators should be encouraged (which is the model followed in 2016–2017 at the time when the four countries of northeastern Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen were at risk of famine).

The following key objectives have been established by FAO across the region and are included in the 2022 HRPs (Ethiopia and Somalia) and the Kenya Drought Flash Appeal.

1. Increasing immediate food access in rural areas

Funding required: USD 19.44 million

Target: Enabling 144 000 people to immediately meet their food requirements for up to six months (until next harvest/production).

How: Through unconditional and conditional cash transfers.

What: Activities under conditional cash transfers will vary across the region and will be contextualized. FAO's objective is to provide the most vulnerable people with a direct source of cash, while rehabilitating vital irrigation infrastructure, water reservoirs and feeder roads that will boost food production in the longer term with water expected to be used for livestock.

Unconditional cash transfers will allow drought-affected households to cover basic expenditures until the next harvest (up to six months of cash transfers depending on needs). From similar activities in previous drought responses, families use cash largely for, but not limited to, food purchase. They will also often use part of the cash to purchase water and to cover the cost of some animal feed.


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2. Safeguarding livelihoods and supporting seasonal food production

Funding required: USD 104.29 million

Target: Enabling 1.35 million people to safeguard productive assets, produce 40 000 tonnes of crops and 90 million litres of milk, and harvest up to 900 tonnes of fish by June 2022, securing food availability for four to six months depending on the intervention.

How: Through input distribution, cash+ interventions and service hours.

What: Interventions will cut across four impacted livelihoods, namely pastoral, agropastoral, farming and fishing livelihoods.

Safeguarding agro/pastoral livelihoods

Animal destocking: While commercial destocking normally happens as an anticipatory action, animal slaughtering will aim at financially compensating families who will lose animals because they cannot feed/water them. The action will be conducted under the supervision of animal health workers or veterinarians. Furthermore, meat redistribution will take place in compliance with food safety measures (verification that animals are proper for consumption). During drought, income from destocking can account for up to 50 percent of household income and can be used to buy food, care for livestock, meet various domestic expenses, support relatives, and either pay off debts or augment savings.

Animal feed distribution and water trucking: The activity maintains productive animals for household needs and, as such, mitigates the impact of the drought on nutrition especially for children under 5 years of age. FAO will distribute mineral blocks (range cubes) and/or fodder, organize water trucking and the strategic positioning of water bladders along migratory routes. It will also use cash+ as a modality. FAO defines cash+ as an intervention that combines cash transfers with productive assets, inputs and/or technical training and extension services to enhance the livelihoods and productive capacities of poor and vulnerable households. The modality is impactful, enhancing the economic impacts of cash transfers while improving livelihoods potential. Evidence from various contexts shows that cash+ can significantly improve households' agricultural production, income generation, asset ownership, economic empowerment, as well as dietary diversity and food security.

Animal health and protective treatments: To improve survival rates, veterinary care will be a main priority, especially as migration continues to bring resident and moving herds into contact. Animal health activities should include prophylactic treatments against endemic diseases and parasites, the provision of multivitamins to boost immunity, and the engagement of community-based animal health services and local disease reporting systems wherever possible. To optimize response impacts on livestock survival, the intervention will complement the emergency feed interventions, including those being carried out by governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations in the targeted areas.

Rehabilitation of boreholes: In Kenya, the NDMA reports indicate a significant increase in trekking distances to water sources in 19 ASAL counties. Cases of broken down gensets are also common with boreholes located in or near dry grazing areas. These boreholes serve pastoralists during migration in search of pastures and water. Proposed activities to ensure continued availability and access to water during the drought season include the following:

- solarization of boreholes in dry season grazing areas, as many do not function because of the need for diesel;
- repair of boreholes in these areas through provision of spare parts and support technicians;
- refresher training of water users' associations, which manage the borehole water use;
- rehabilitation of basic borehole infrastructure (water troughs for livestock, standpipes for supply of water for human use etc.); and
- provision of collapsible water tanks (with 10 000-litre capacity), which are ideal as trekking distances increase.

Trainings: FAO will also continue to partner with government authorities, veterinary services and NGOs. This will include refresher trainings on the LEGS but also refresher trainings for animal health workers and dialogue and partnerships with affected communities on issues related to managing and protecting livestock during humanitarian crises.

Securing crop production with farmers and agro/pastoralists

Agricultural kits, nutrient-dense food production, including cash+ and water use management training: The agricultural livelihoods kit includes quality seeds comprising of drought-tolerant early-maturing sorghum/maize (staple cereals), cowpea and mung bean (a key source of protein), and assorted nutrient-dense vegetables for home gardening (nutrient-rich, fresh produce), crucial farm-based services (supplementary irrigation and land preparation), and training on good agricultural practices and nutrition. Through these trainings, farmers and agropastoralists will learn how to maximize their production and reduce losses before and after the harvest. The programme will also encourage households to consume the nutritious crop they produce and make better choices when purchasing food from the local markets.

Integrated cash and livelihood support programmes (cash+) are highly relevant in vulnerable farming and agropastoral areas. The combination of cash transfers and quality agricultural inputs has proven to improve immediate household food security and dietary diversity while increasing crop production levels, in addition this modality cushions households from consuming seed as part of a coping mechanism. The combination of quality-assured seeds, training and farm-based services (land preparation and tractor hours) allows farmers receiving support to produce up to 30 percent higher yields compared with other farmers (e.g. farmers who save seeds from the previous harvests).

In Somalia, farmers will also receive e-vouchers to redeem for seeds and a complementary kit of tractor hours or irrigation services, as well as tools to aid in crop production. Although extended drought can severely compromise yields, it is crucial to invest in farmers' potential in advance to achieve a better harvest and maintain their livelihoods.

Coastal fishers - Somalia only

Fishers often receive limited attention during humanitarian crises, yet their livelihood faces numerous threats including the drought being experienced across Somalia. In coastal areas, fishers often practice livestock keeping as an alternative source of livelihood since fishing is seasonal. When the drought coincides with a non-fishing season, it affects them severely forcing them to move inland and adopt pastoralism.

Likewise, pastoralists may move to coastal areas during drought, when pasture is limited, and become part-time fishers. During a drought, when livestock losses are high, alternative sources of food and income become especially vital. Very practical assistance kits that can have a high impact when combined with cash include: (i) boat kits, which comprise a small boat to fish near-shore (shared by three households), plus associated safety gear and fishing equipment; (ii) community fish drying and

processing kits, shared among internally displaced people and host community women; and (iii) household fish processing and cooking kits, packed within easy-to-carry cooler boxes. When deployed together within a community, the benefits of these kits reinforce one another (from fish catch to value addition to consumption) and create social cohesion.

The cash+ fishing kit is expected to provide an alternative source of nutritious food for severely drought-affected households in coastal communities, boosting household food security and nutrition (and potentially income).

3. Supporting evidence and coordination

Funding required: USD 6.17 million

Coordination

Coordination at country level with other partners and sectors will be essential and will require some dedicated personnel (including sector/cluster coordinators), events and products. At regional level, FAO will also provide coordination and analytical support including through its resilience measurement expert, conflict analyst, and its communication and outreach consultant.

Data collection, monitoring livelihoods indicators and analysis

Use of predictive early warning system and livestock body condition tools: FAO has contributed to the development of early warning systems in pastoral and ASAL regions. The capacity to continue analysing grazing conditions and livestock body conditions will be essential during the drought response.

FAO-led FSNAU: Within the drought rapid response and mitigation plan, FSNAU/FAO will regularly monitor risk factors for food security and nutrition and assess the food security and nutrition situation across Somalia throughout 2022 and during the 2023 *Jilaal* (January–March) dry season, in collaboration with the government and partners. The resulting information and analysis will be disseminated in a timely manner to stakeholders (government line ministries, United Nations agencies, local and international NGOs and resource partners).

FSNAU/FAO will ensure timely and relevant food security and nutrition information and analysis is developed for early warning and early action, informed emergency response, as well as evidence-based policy and strategy support for long-term development planning and resilience.

Relevant actions include:

- weekly market monitoring;
- monthly climate, river and vegetation cover monitoring;
- *Jilaal* impact seasonal food security assessments;
- *Gu* seasonal food security assessment;
- regular updates of Early Warning and Early Action dashboard indicators;
- market, climate, vegetation cover, food security and nutrition updates and food security outlooks;
- dissemination of key information products; and
- briefings on food security and nutrition to key stakeholders.

Water resource mapping: The Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) unit is the specialized unit monitoring water availability, uptake, use, management and supply. Its role is essential for

early warning, evidence for programming and monitoring. Its work on water resource mapping will be paramount during the drought response and therefore its operational capacity must remain optimal throughout the drought response. A national survey will be carried out to update the national database on the current status of existing water sources and, at the same time, to map newly established sources, which is critical for informing humanitarian response programming. Using the updated database, key strategic water sources will be identified in consultation with relevant institutions to perform their monitoring on a weekly basis.

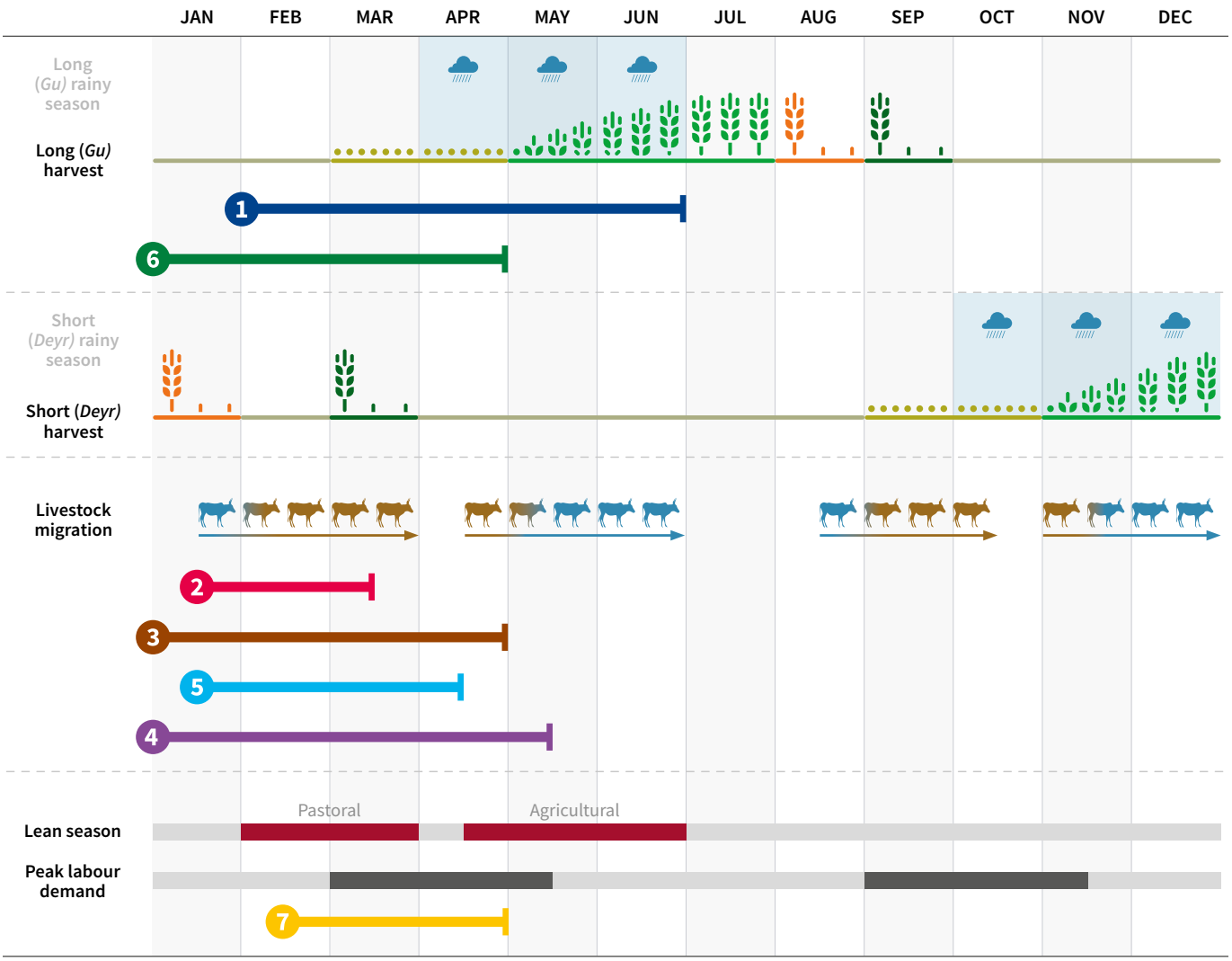
Project monitoring

FAO has a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) system. It will be applied across the region under the coordination of the subregional office and the technical backstopping of headquarters. The standardized MEAL system is also sponsored partially through the Global Network against Food Crises.

Stakeholder engagement

While partnerships with governments is at the centre of FAO's work, collaboration with the Ministry of Devolution in Kenya is a very advanced way of working with decentralized units that requires resources in the next seven months. In other countries resources are also made available through pre-existing projects. Furthermore, partnerships with national and international NGOs including on issues related to targeting, distribution and/or monitoring will materialize through Letters of Agreement when and where necessary.

Seasonal activities



LEGEND

- Land preparation
- Planting and growing
- Harvest
- Off-season harvest
- Migration to dry-season grazing areas
- Migration to wet-season grazing areas

1. Unconditional and conditional cash transfers
2. Animal destocking
3. Animal feed, water trucking (including cash+)
4. Animal health and protective treatments
5. Borehole rehabilitation
6. Agricultural kits, nutrient-dense food production (including cash+)
7. Cash+ fisheries

Accountability

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is central to FAO's programming. FAO's AAP approach facilitates improved engagement with community members and enhanced transparency due to strengthened two-way communication between the affected populations and FAO. The Organization uses different tools and mechanisms to implement AAP in the region.

In Ethiopia, participatory monitoring and evaluation is an integral component of the MEAL framework. The system fosters inclusiveness and transparency, and empowers communities by providing them with a channel to directly communicate and provide their feedback. There are AAP focal persons in all regions, whose contact details are publicized during beneficiary registration. In Somalia, FAO provides local communities with information on interventions through various means, such as radio broadcast messages, printed material and mobile technology (SMS and FAO's Call Centre). Affected populations are also provided with secure and confidential feedback systems to report any concerns they may have regarding their involvement in FAO interventions. FAO's hotline number is printed on all cash-based intervention vouchers to enable beneficiaries to submit their feedback and complaints on interventions. FAO's implementing partners are key to the successful implementation of the AAP approach and compliance with these commitments as they have direct access to targeted communities.

Across the region, FAO operations, including its cash and voucher interventions, are subject to a rigorous monitoring and evaluation, and risk management framework focused on measuring results and ensuring compliance with standards. In particular, the nature of FAO's operations in Somalia requires additional measures including the regular deployment of field monitors, third-party monitors, regular reports by implementing partners, use of satellite imagery, photographic evidence with GPS and date stamping, phone-based surveys through FAO Call Centres, household surveys, use of biometric-based verification systems, and distribution of cash via mobile money.

Operational capacity

Since 2012, FAO has embarked on an initiative to strengthen the decentralization process, aimed at bringing the Organization closer to its Members. This has entailed not only a more decentralized structure, but also a new management approach with increased delegation of authority and an environment that encourages staff creativity and initiative. Decentralization was part of a wider reform within FAO to enhance the Organization's role as a centre of excellence and better define its work programme and responsibilities in support of its mandate. The aim of FAO's decentralization strategy was to improve the effectiveness of the Organization's work at the country, subregional and regional levels.

The Office of Emergencies and Resilience (OER), based in FAO headquarters, provides support to decentralized offices on a range of programming and operational matters, especially when Level 3 Emergency protocols are activated. But it also provides guidance and augmenting capacities on outreach, advocacy and evidence for programming.

The Regional Office for Africa (RAF) is based in Accra, Ghana. It is responsible for leading FAO's response to regional priorities for food security, agriculture and rural development through the identification, planning and implementation of FAO's priority activities in the region. It supports regional policy dialogue, capacity development and resource mobilization and facilitates the emergence of regional partnerships for food security, agriculture and rural development.

The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It is a technical hub which supports eight countries in eastern Africa and has a core team of professionals with multi-disciplinary expertise. It is responsible for developing, promoting, overseeing and implementing agreed strategies for addressing subregional food security, nutrition, agriculture and rural development priorities. It encompasses the resilience team based in Nairobi that also provides coordination on regional issues as well as preparedness and surge capacities in time of crises (such as drought or desert locust).

Country Representations assist governments to develop policies, programmes and projects to achieve food security, reduce hunger and malnutrition, help develop the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, and use their environmental and natural resources in a sustainable manner. In order to do so, Country Representations have developed effective operational and programmatic capacities over time. Relevant to the drought response is the capacity on data analysis, a well-established procurement system with international experts (Ethiopia and Somalia) and national officers (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia), as well as the presence of international and national operations officers in each office. FAO has also scaled up expertise and systems on cash transfer modalities. The Organization has been implementing cash and voucher assistance in Somalia since 2010 having launched its flagship cash+ portfolio in 2017.

Cash+ is the preferred modality for rural households affected by shocks and crises where markets are functioning, as it provides immediate life-saving support (cash) as well as allowing farmers, pastoralists and fishers to protect their livelihoods and get back into production.

To ensure compliant, accountable and efficient delivery of cash and inputs in hard-to-reach areas, FAO has a developed and robust in-house management system to specifically respond to the challenges of operating in some of Somalia's hardest to reach locations. FAO prioritizes the delivery of cash through mobile money to ensure that assistance reaches those who need it the most, safely and securely. FAO also provides 95 percent of its inputs through a well-established e-voucher system, connecting farmers to suppliers who can deliver appropriate, quality-controlled inputs to them at village level. FAO internal programming systems are robust and adaptable with capacity to take on large cash injections to allow programme teams to reach a considerable amount of people in need in times of crises.

FAO also implements cash+ and other cash-based interventions to scale in Ethiopia and Kenya, as demonstrated during the response to the desert locust upsurge.

Finally, FAO has established rigorous compliance systems and teams that analyse and monitor data from corporate systems, producing periodic reports that highlight good practices and identify areas that need attention.

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Funding requirements

Activities (2022)	Ethiopia	Kenya	Somalia	Regional	Total requirement per activity
Increasing immediate food access in rural areas	**125 910**	**2 355 375**	**16 964 557**	**–**	**19 445 842**
Unconditional and conditional cash transfers	125 910	2 355 375	16 964 557	–	19 445 842
Safeguarding agro/pastoral livelihoods	**27 298 561**	**10 824 146**	**7 595 685**	**–**	**45 718 391**
Animal destocking	19 555	2 581 577	–	–	2 601 132
Animal feed and water trucking/distribution (including cash+)	13 265 489	2 841 612	7 595 685	–	23 702 785
Animal feed and fodder production	–	–	–	–	–
Animal health	13 983 907	3 699 313	–	–	17 683 220
Rehabilitation of boreholes	–	1 375 000	–	–	1 375 000
Various trainings including LEGS	29 610	326 644	–	–	356 254
Securing crop production with farmers and agro/pastoralists	**427 800**	**5 258 688**	**50 957 770**	**–**	**56 644 257**
Agricultural kits including through cash+	427 800	2 750 000	50 957 770	–	54 135 570
Trainings and water use management	–	1 779 938	–	–	1 779 938
Nutrient-dense food production	–	728 750	–	–	728 750
Coastal fishers	**–**	**–**	**1 932 000**	**–**	**1 932 000**
Gear and safety kits, fish processing (including cash+)	–	–	1 932 000	–	1 932 000
Supporting evidence and coordination	**250 000**	**2 543 723**	**2 961 889**	**415 388**	**6 171 000**
Coordination	250 000	275 000	–	415 388	940 388
Monitoring livestock movements and body conditions	–	514 250	–	–	514 250
Data collection and food security analysis	–	161 838	2 011 000	–	2 172 838
Water source mapping	–	–	950 889	–	950 889
Project monitoring	–	481 250	–	–	481 250
Stakeholder engagement	–	1 111 385	–	–	1 111 385
Total funding requirement per country	**28 102 271**	**20 981 931**	**80 411 900**	**415 388**	**129 911 490**

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Saving livelihoods saves lives

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