



BUSINESS BRIEF

HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT

REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW AND CALL TO ACTION

JULY 2022

The devastating effect of the drought on livestock, Kismayo (Somalia).

Photo Credit: OCHA/Ahmed Fais



OVERVIEW OF THE CRISIS

The Horn of Africa is suffering its worst drought in over forty years. People face the threat of starvation following four consecutive failed rainy seasons in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, a climatic event not seen in at least four decades. The frequency and severity of droughts in recent years have made it harder for people to recover between shocks.

Across the region, at least 19.4 million people are affected by the drought that began in October 2020. At least 18.6 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are living with acute food insecurity and rising malnutrition. They could number 20 million by September.

At least 7 million livestock—which families rely upon for sustenance and livelihoods—have died across the region since October 2020. Consequently, children have less access to the milk they need. Across the three countries, malnutrition rates are rising: more than 7.1 million children are acutely malnourished, including

about 2 million who are severely acutely malnourished, according to UNICEF.

More than 11.6 million people cannot access enough safe water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. Many water points have dried up or become unsafe, heightening the risk of water-borne diseases and increasing the risk of infections. Existing water deficits are worsened by the heat, which is forecast to continue until September 2022. In some of the worst affected areas in Somalia, water prices have increased up to 72 per cent since November 2021. Women and girls walk farther to access water—often up to double or triple

the distances they would have to walk during a regular dry season—exposing them to dehydration and violence. Water shortages are leading to poorer hygiene in health facilities and schools.

People are facing several crises at once. Food prices are increasing in many drought-affected areas due to the below-average harvests and rising prices on international markets. Floods, COVID-19, and the desert locust infestation have affected communities throughout

the region. Furthermore, millions of people in Ethiopia and Somalia are living through conflict.

Lives will be lost if there is not more funding. Forecasts indicate that the October-December 2022 rainy season could also fail, leading to an unprecedented catastrophe. Immediate action is required to prevent the worst in the months ahead. More information can be found [here](#).

HOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN HELP

1 ALIGN SUPPORT ACTIVITIES WITH UN COUNTRY-LEVEL CONSOLIDATED APPEALS

Financial contributions to reputable aid organizations and coordinated response funds are one of the most valuable and effective forms of response in humanitarian emergencies.

Country-level consolidated appeals are the main way to fund the collective humanitarian response to the Horn of Africa drought. These documents provide an overview of the situation, list the major humanitarian needs and outline the response plans. The private sector can contribute to the **appeals below** by supporting organizations and projects included in these documents and engaging in joint advocacy.

- Read the Kenya Flash Appeal [here](#).
- The Somalia Drought Response and Famine Prevention Plan, newly revised and updated, [here](#).
- Ethiopia: The Drought Response Plan is currently under review. Read more [here](#).

In addition to the consolidated appeals developed by the humanitarian community in each of the three countries, several humanitarian organizations have prepared regional documents for the Horn of Africa drought, including:

- The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a revised [Rapid Response and Mitigation Plan](#), which focuses on four drought epicentres across the region: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The plan supports local food production by vulnerable households by providing inputs for improved agriculture and livestock. The aim is to safeguard harvests, and animal production, ensuring food security through sufficient and nutritious locally produced food. For more information on how the private sector can engage read more [here](#).
- The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) [Regional Drought Response Plan for the Horn of Africa](#) seeks to address the needs of 3 million in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. Sustained humanitarian assistance, improved humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas and urgent additional funding for priority sectors, are needed to prevent the loss of lives and livelihoods and to avert the risk of famine. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) continues to collect and analyze data using various tools as well as share and disseminate information with humanitarian organizations and governments in support of a concerted effort. Read more [here](#).
- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency issued its [Drought Response Emergency Appeal for the Horn of Africa](#) to provide emergency support to some 1.5 million refugees, internally displaced people and local host communities affected by the devastating drought in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. The Appeal seeks to deliver safe shelter, water, sanitation facilities, nutrition, healthcare, cash assistance and protection. Support will be prioritized for the most vulnerable, including women, girls and children. To help displaced people affected by the drought please click [here](#). If you are interested in exploring a partnership with UNHCR, please email privatesectorpartnership@unhcr.org.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) prioritizes its response to women and children living in drought-affected children and their families in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. To find more about the regional call to action click [here](#). To find more about the UNICEF appeal click [here](#).

- The World Food Program's (WFP) Regional Drought Response Plan addresses the needs of 7.8 million people Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti. Four consecutive rainy seasons have failed, a climatic event not seen in at least 40 years has left more than 18 million people severely food insecure and 7 million children acutely malnourished. Please find more info [here](#).

2 MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The United Nations and partners are committed to deliver humanitarian aid and protection to the people most in need in the three countries hardest hit by drought.

The funding so far has enabled humanitarians to prevent the worst consequences. However, without additional funding very soon to scale up operations, humanitarians cannot keep pace with the rising needs driven by this unprecedented drought and will need to make impossible choices.

Companies are encouraged to consider making financial contributions directly to organizations included in the appeals listed above.

You can also support the work of trusted humanitarian organizations by contributing to the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) by visiting [here](#) and/or the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF) [here](#). Donations are collected into a single fund and made available locally to a range of carefully vetted and trusted relief partners on the ground and at the front lines of the response, closest to people in need. If you would like further information on how to contribute to these two Funds, please contact ocha.donor.relations@un.org.

3 MAKE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION OF GOODS OR SERVICES

OCHA generally urges companies to refrain from sending unsolicited donations that may not correspond to identified needs or meet international quality standards. Donors are highly encouraged to send cash rather than in-kind donations. Donations-in-kind are useful when they meet a pre-identified need on the ground for which supply through other means (procurement, prepositioned stock) is unavailable. In other circumstances, they may not fit needs, can potentially be administratively burdensome (placing demands on thinly stretched emergency personnel), and may undermine local markets.

For any questions about in-kind donations, please contact OCHA with as much detail as possible, including what you wish to donate and how much, the estimated market value, your time frame for delivery, details on shipping and any other conditions. We will guide you to the most appropriate recipient organization(s). Companies with employees, suppliers, or customers in the country or region or those with existing agreements with responding humanitarian organizations should aim to directly support these groups. **For more information, please contact Karen Smith, OCHA's Private Sector Engagement Advisor, at ocha-ers-ps@un.org.**

4 ADVOCATE

Lend your voice and advocate to highlight the needs in these countries. Amplify the message of the United Nations and partners calling on all parties to uphold their obligations to allow safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian aid to civilians in need.

5 MAKE A COMMERCIAL OFFER

If your offer is commercial, please refer to the UN Global Marketplace at ungm.org.

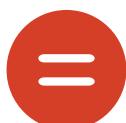
CRITICAL REMINDERS

- 👉 The UN Secretary-General encourages companies to coordinate their response efforts with the United Nations and the humanitarian coordination system to ensure **coherence with priority needs and minimize gaps and duplications with the other responders.**
- 👉 All response activities should be guided by the humanitarian principles of **humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence.** For more information, see the [Guidance Note: Conflict Sensitivity in Private Sector Disaster Management](#).



HUMANITY

Protecting life and health while ensuring respect for human beings



NEUTRALITY

Actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies



IMPARTIALITY

Action must be carried out based on needs alone with no distinction to social classes



INDEPENDENCE

Action must be carried out autonomously from the objectives of other actors

- 👉 It is important to ensure that donated items meet [Sphere Standards](#) and reflect priority needs.
- 👉 Affected people must be at the centre of any humanitarian response, for their increased engagement and empowerment in decision-making to address their specific needs and ensure that international response remains accountable to them.
- 👉 People in need of humanitarian assistance **must be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse** and have access to channels to report and address it. Further guidance for the private sector is available [here](#).

WHERE TO FIND THE LATEST INFORMATION

- For an updated list of reports and other information, please visit the following site [unocha.org/horn](#).
- The UN Global Compact is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, gathering over 15,000 companies from over 165 countries with 69 Local Networks around the world, including Kenya. The role of the UN Global Compact is to amplify the messaging of the UN appeals within the business community worldwide through its Global Compact Local Networks. For more information please contact Gabriel Torres, UN Relations and Policy, horncrisisresponse@unglobalcompact.org.
- For more information about the role of the private sector in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters, please visit the OCHA/UNDP Connecting Business initiative (CBI) online at [connectingbusiness.org](#).

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

For more information on how businesses can help, please contact:

- Luluwa Ali, ali19@un.org, OCHA Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa Humanitarian Affairs Officer/ OCHA Regional Private Sector focal point,
- Karen Smith, smith3@un.org, OCHA Private Sector Engagement Advisor