DROUGHT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

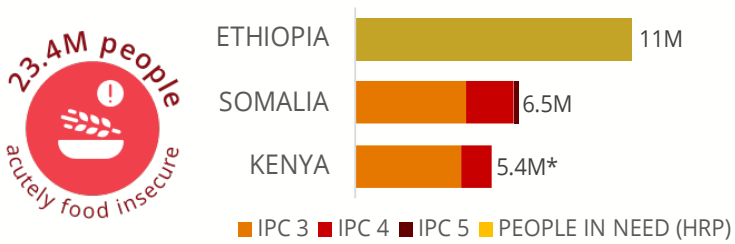
Situation Update, July 2023

WFP World Food Programme

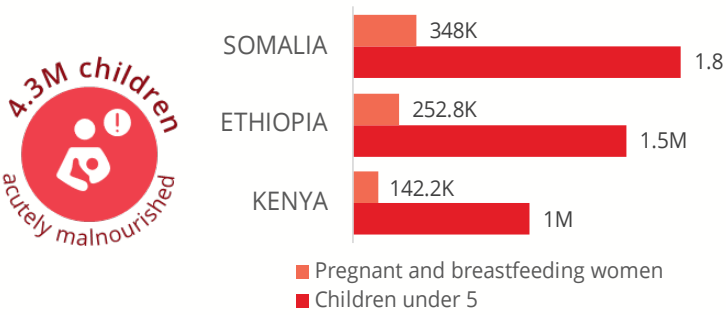
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

- The prolonged drought in the Horn of Africa (HoA) left 23.4 million people acutely food insecure and 5.1 million children acutely malnourished. An estimated 2.7 million people have been displaced by the drought.
- The drought affected livestock body conditions and decimated herds, which, in turn curbed livestock production. Successive below-average harvests, coupled with high production and transport costs, reduced local agricultural produce. All this led to food price spikes that still persist, which, reduced household purchasing power and access to nutrient-rich foods.
- Despite the improved rains during the 2023 March to May (MAM) season and the forecasted El Niño event for end 2023, the impacts of the 2020-2023 drought are likely to persist for a long time. As droughts have become more frequent and intense, it will take longer for the affected populations to fully recover.
- Immediate and medium-to-long-term actions are needed to prevent and mitigate the worst impacts and reduce vulnerability and risks while building and strengthening resilience.

EFFECTS OF THE DROUGHT ON FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS



**NDMA: additional 495,362 people affected in non-ASAL counties*



Five consecutive below-average rainy seasons left 23.4 million people[1] acutely food insecure and 5.1 million children malnourished in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

In Somalia, the three areas identified as at Risk of Famine in in January 2023 (Mogadishu IDPs, Baidoa IDPs and Burhakaba Agropastoral) saw a significant reduction in the number of people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) from 194,000 to around 12,000 with additional reductions in the number of people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and are no longer at Risk of Famine.

While recent rains are starting to ease the impacts of the drought, agropastoral livelihoods are likely to need at least five years to recover. Considering many households lost all of their livestock and drought events are becoming more frequent and intense across the Horn, some may be forced to leave pastoralism[2]. Above-average MAM rains have also resulted in flooding across parts of the region, causing widespread damage and affecting at least 900,000 people[3].

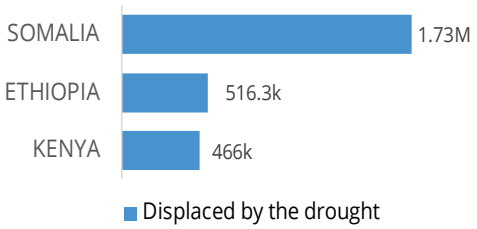
[1] Other than IPC, the Kenyan National Drought Management Agency (NDMA) reports an additional 846,318 people affected and in need of assistance in non-ASAL counties

[2] [3] OCHA. Horn of Africa Drought – Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action. May 2023.

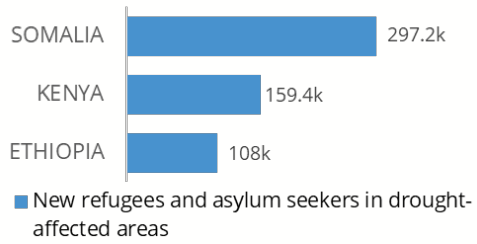
EFFECT OF THE DROUGHT ON THE LOCAL POPULATION[2]

Internally displaced people in Dolow, Somalia
© WFP/Petroc Wilton

Displaced by the drought



New refugees & asylum seekers



36.6 million people have been affected by the drought across the HoA; of these 6.2 million people leave in affected areas.

2.7 million people have been displaced by the drought. Highest figures are in **Somalia** at 1.7M, followed by **Ethiopia** (516,000) and **Kenya** (466,000).

Over 270,000 refugees and asylum seekers had arrived in drought-affected areas since Jan 2022.

Critical rates of acute malnutrition (>15 percent) and rising SAM admission trends amongst new refugee arrivals.

Displacements (internal and external) and continued elevated levels of epidemics add to the food insecurity as key drivers to malnutrition.

The admissions into SAM treatment in the HoA remain significantly higher compared to 2022, requiring sustained scale up.

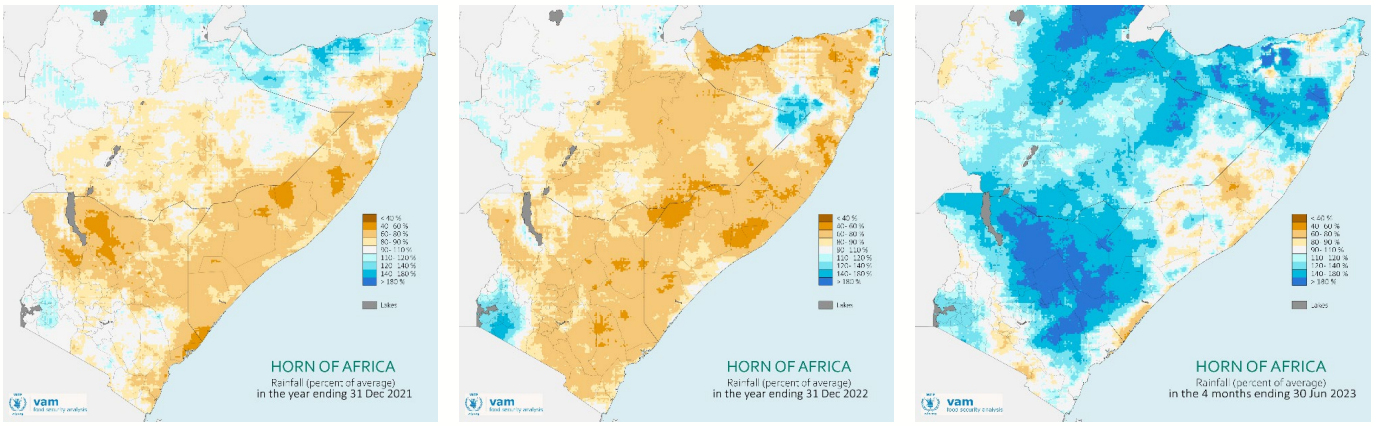
CURRENT STATUS OF THE DROUGHT

An animal carcass lies in a river in drought-affected Marsabit County, northern Kenya
© WFP/Alessandro Abbonizio

The eastern Horn of Africa experienced severe meteorological drought following consecutive seasons with below-normal rainfall since late 2020 impacting on agriculture, livestock, vegetation, and water resources, disrupting livelihoods, and inducing human displacement in search of alternative livelihoods and grazing resources. Maps 1 and 2 (next page) depict the magnitude of annual rainfall shortfalls in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

[2]*Sources: People affected by the drought, people living in drought-affected areas and people displaced by the drought: FSNWG – Drought Update on the HoA, June 2023; new refugees and asylum seekers: Refugees:* OCHA. Horn of Africa Drought – Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action. May 2023.

Between March and May 2023, wetter-than-normal rains contrary to the seasonal forecast were experienced across nearly all of the region owing to the influence of the of tropical cyclone Freddy and the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO) over the Indian Ocean. As a result, the meteorological drought has declined except in areas that had below-normal rains in south-central Somalia and parts of southwest Kenya (Map 3).

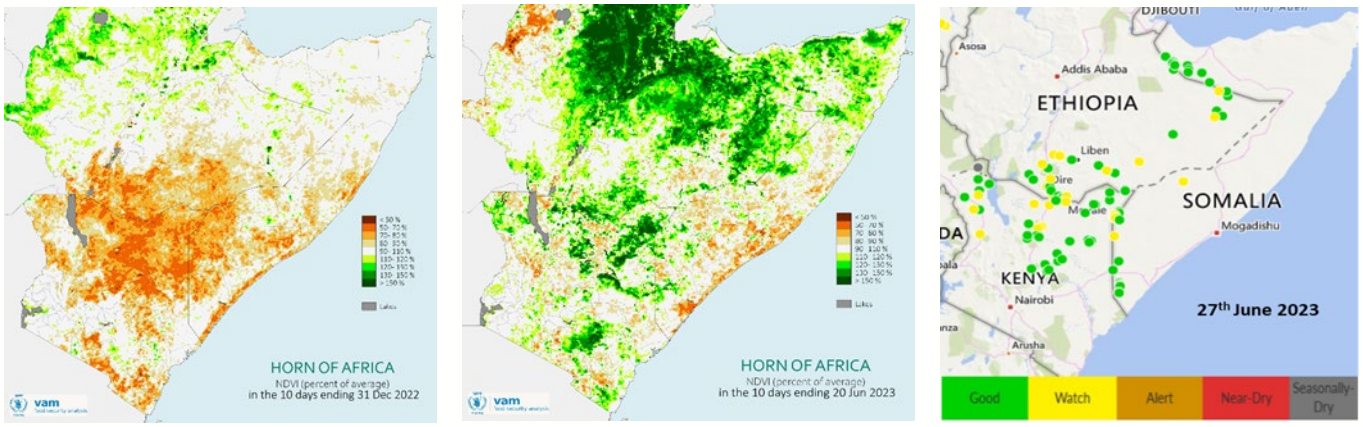


Annual rainfall anomalies for 2021(Map 1, left) and 2022 (Map 2, centre) as a percentage of the average (blues for wetter-than-average conditions, browns for drier-than-average conditions). Rainfall in the period March-June 2023 (Map 3, left) as a percentage of the average (blues for wetter-than-average conditions, browns for drier-than-average conditions).

The favourable rains over March-June led to better-than-normal vegetation condition in the pastoral and agropastoral areas of Ethiopia, northern Somalia, and parts of Kenya (Map 5, centre) compared to the end of 2022 short rains season (Map 4, left). This signifies improved availability of livestock grazing pastures/forage except in localised areas.

The favourable rains also supported crop production in the marginal agricultural areas of eastern and coastal Kenya and average harvests might be achieved starting July, thereby improving food availability in coming months. However, in south-central Somalia and southwest Kenya, insufficient precipitation or localised incidences of floods might impact the seasonal harvests, affecting food availability. Surface water resources have improved as evidenced by the USGS/Fews Net monitoring system (Map 6, right), easing the severe water stress. As a result, livestock trekking distances in search of water and pastures have reduced.

Outlook: Vegetation and water resources in pastoral and agropastoral areas will likely deteriorate over the June-September dry season. However, further improvement is expected towards the end of the year driven by wetter-than-normal conditions associated with the forecasted El Niño event.

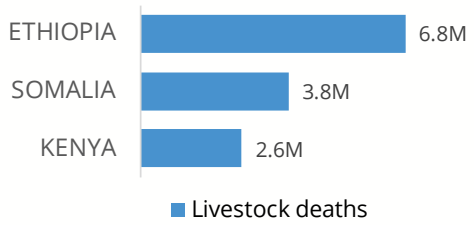


NDVI in late December 2022 (Map 4: left), and mid-June 2023 (Map 5: centre) as percentage of average (shades of greens indicate average to above-average, browns/orange for below-average). Map 6 right: Status of surface water points by late June 2023 (Source: USGS/USGS).

LIVESTOCK CONDITIONS

The prolonged drought decimated over 13 million head of livestock since 2021 in the three countries. The MAM good rains improved water and pasture availability. This combined with reduced heat stress had a positive impact on livestock body conditions and milk production, while also reducing livestock deaths.

Livestock market prices have also started improving in several markets in pastoral and agropastoral areas, which will allow households to raise incomes and access food nutrients-rich foods such as milk and meat. While the current seasonal performance will allow households to start rebuilding their herds, it will take relatively longer for the livestock sector to fully recover from the impacts of the prolonged drought.




A struggling livestock cow, Galkayo (Galmudug state,) Somalia
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CROP PRODUCTION TRENDS

Weather plays a critical role in food security as it directly impacts both the availability of and access to food.

This resulted in a reduced local food supply, causing a surge in prices and negatively affecting the livelihoods of millions of households. Although there has been relatively good rainfall between March and May 2023 in most affected areas, the situation remains critical in certain parts of Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, despite prospects for good harvests. Since the onset of the drought, food prices have skyrocketed, more than doubling the pre-drought levels in most markets across the region and have remained high through to the second quarter of 2023.

Country	2019	2020	2021	2022	% change 2022/19
Ethiopia	19,915.52	19,671.81	20,824.56	-	-
Kenya	3,652.42	3,961.62	2,978.33	2,998.49	*-18%*
Kenya (ASALs)	879.72	959.66	607.37	542.25	*-38%*
Somalia	184.82	168.16	108.01	135.46	*-27%*

Kenya: maize; Somalia: sorghum and maize; Ethiopia: maize, teff, sorghum. Sources: FSNAU, CSA, Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture


Drought in Borenna, Oromia region, Ethiopia
© WFP/Michael Tewelde

CEREAL PRICES IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS

ETHIOPIA

Latest staple cereal prices remain high across most drought hit regions (Oromia, SNNPR and Somali). In a few selected markets however, significant m-o-m eases were observed between April and May.

Region	Market	Current price/100kg (May)	% change in the past 3 months	% change May 2023/2022	% change 3-year avg
Oromia	Beddenno	3,800	12%	31%	97%
	Chiro	3,600		13%	88%
	Shashemene	3,200	14%	23%	32%
SNNP	Dila	3,588	10%	33%	91%
	Hawassa	3,600	3%	60%	138%
	Karati	4,500	50%	25%	96%
Somali	Gode	5,200	24%	30%	73%

Maize prices, source: WFP Dataviz

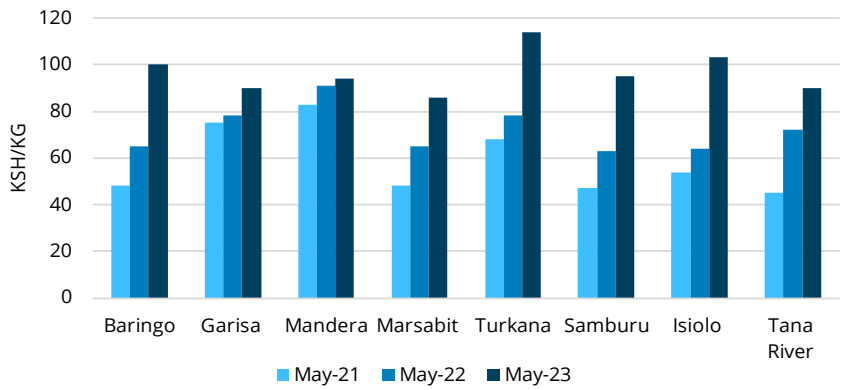
In most markets within the affected regions, maize prices are between 13-60 percent above the already-elevated prices recorded in May 2022. Similarly, teff prices have also surged, reaching levels as high as 70 percent above the prices recorded in 2022.

Besides reduced supply due to below-average production, macro-economic challenges also remain key driver of food prices in drought-affected regions.

KENYA

Staple maize prices remained elevated through to the second quarter of 2023 across most markets in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya. Average prices recorded in May 2023 across most counties remained significantly higher than May 2022 and May 2021 levels.

Higher-than-normal prices have also been recorded in Kenya's major maize production region mainly attributed to reduced availability due to below-average production, a consequence of the prolonged drought and the high cost of inputs.

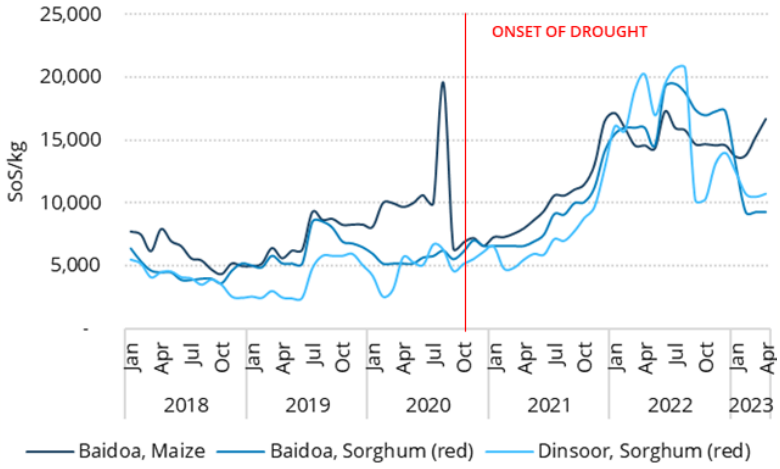


Maize prices, source: NDMA

Anntonina Irima Ujeru, a 33-year-old, buys vegetables for her family, Kenya
© WFP/Arete/Lisa Murray

SOMALIA

Food prices remain high in most drought-affected areas. In the reference markets of Baidoa and Dinsoor, the sorghum price has remained stable since February, with the latest price recorded ranging between 42-47 percent below levels one year ago. The below-average *Deyr* harvests relatively boosted supply.



Source: FSNAU

Food availability in the past month remained good across most parts of the country supported by uninterrupted trade flows, except in flood-affected districts where roads were damaged in May.

TERMS OF TRADE

COUNTRY		Kgs of maize for 1 medium-sized goat[1]		
		May-20	May-23	Change
KENYA	Marsabit	76.0	48.0	-37%
	Turkana	50.0	20.0	-60%
ETHIOPIA	Jijiga	156.3	91.7	-41%
	Shinille	125.0	83.9	-33%
SOMALIA	Bay	128.4	115.4	-10%

[1]Shoat instead of goat for Ethiopia. Data sources: NDMA, WFP Ethiopia, FSNAU.

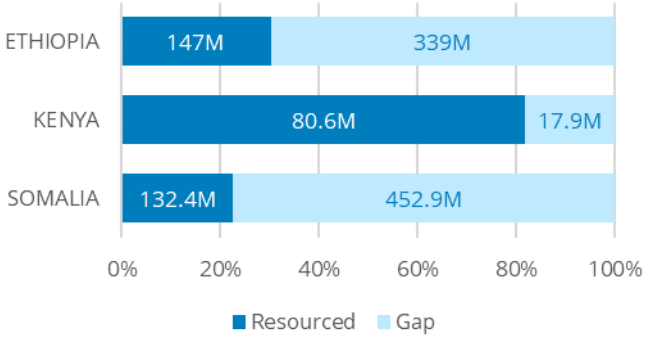
At the micro level, terms of trade are indicative of household purchasing power. Following the historical drought, the purchasing power of pastoralists in the areas most severely affected by the prolonged drought has dramatically decreased between May 2023-2020.

The average decline in terms of trade between a medium-sized goat (shoat for Ethiopia) and 1 kg of maize ranged between 10 percent in Bay, Somalia and 60 percent in Turkana, Kenya.

WFP FUNDING SITUATION FOR THE DROUGHT RESPONSE

WFP drought response for the Horn of Africa received USD 360M in total, therefore representing 31 percent of the estimated needs.

Somalia recorded the highest funding gap (77 percent of estimated needs), followed by Ethiopia (70 percent). Drought response in Kenya has been well funded, with resourced funds covering 82 percent of estimated needs.



Source: WFP as of May 2023 – latest available

Siddharth Krishnaswamy
Senior Regional Advisor
siddharth.krishnaswamy@wfp.org

Cinzia Monetta
VAM Officer
cinzia.monetta@wfp.org

Edith Amondi
VAM Officer
edith.amondi@wfp.org

Zaccheus Ndirima
VAM Officer
zaccheus.ndirima@wfp.org

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