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Somalia: Continuing Humanitarian Crisis Affecting 42% of the Population

Results of a country-wide comprehensive inter-agency assessment, led by the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit for Somalia (FAO/FSNAU) with FEWSNET, confirm a widespread **Humanitarian Crisis** still persists in Somalia, with **42% of the population, or an estimated 3.2 million people, in need of emergency humanitarian assistance and/or livelihood support.**

“Although we are seeing some positive indicators in terms of the lifting of the livestock export ban and improved crop and livestock production in southern parts of the country, the food security and nutrition situation in central regions remains in **Crisis, where 70% of the population require assistance**”, says Grainne Moloney, the interim Chief Technical Advisor of the Somalia FSNAU. “More worrying is that recent escalating conflict and displacements are also occurring in central regions. This creates a double burden for drought affected populations, having to support those recently displaced, yet with reduced access to assistance from aid agencies due to the insecurity”.

Emergency levels of acute malnutrition continue to be reported, with **1 in 6 children in Somalia acutely malnourished** and in need of specialist care. Of these children, 1 in 22 is severely malnourished and at a 9 times increased risk of death compared to well nourished children. However in south and central Somalia the rates are higher, with 1 in 5 children acutely malnourished of which 1 in 20 are acutely malnourished. These national rates of acute malnutrition continue to be amongst **the highest in the world.** Currently, these rates translate into an estimated **240,000** children under 5 years of age in Somalia being acutely malnourished, of which **63,000** are severely malnourished. More than two thirds of these children are located in south and central Somalia, the area’s most affected by the current conflict. With 1 in 5 children also chronically malnourished, therefore unable to reach their development potential, long-term integrated responses combining nutritional rehabilitation with promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices and increasing access to safe water and health services, are the only way to address this **Nutrition Crisis.**

Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs) continue to be the largest single population group in crisis, representing **44% of the total 3.2 million**, and with the ongoing conflict in the country this number is likely to continue to remain high and even increase further. The nutritional status of IDPs is also of great concern, with even higher rates of chronic malnutrition reported, where 1 in 4 children are affected, compared to the national figure.

However, some good indications are reported for agricultural areas in the south, where a bumper harvest will increase food availability and accessibility to many households including poor urban households. This has resulted in a reduction of the rural population in crisis by 15% from 6 months ago.

Of particular concern are the populations in crisis in the north, the result of a drought following 4 seasons of below average rainfall. This has left 290,000 pastoral and agro-pastoral populations in crisis and in need of both life saving and livelihood support to recover.

In summary the population in crisis include 1.25 million rural people affected by a severe drought, 555,000 urban poor who continue to struggle with very high food and non-food prices, and 1.39 million internally displaced people (IDPs) who are fleeing from the conflict (*see Map and Table on reverse side*). The epicentre of the humanitarian crisis continues to be in Mudug, Galgadud and Hiran regions of south and central Somalia, due to the ongoing drought and civil unrest which has left **70% of the population** in those regions in **Crisis.** In these regions, livestock herds have been decimated due to 6 consecutive seasons of below average rainfall and destitute pastoralists are gathering in main villages and towns in search of assistance. In order for these populations to recover, a combination of expanded lifesaving and livelihood support is required urgently at scale.

All efforts to ensure sufficient resources and humanitarian space for aid agencies to provide the much needed life saving and/or livelihood support interventions, are key to prevent further deterioration in one of the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.

For more information see website: www.fsnau.org, or email: info@fsnau.org



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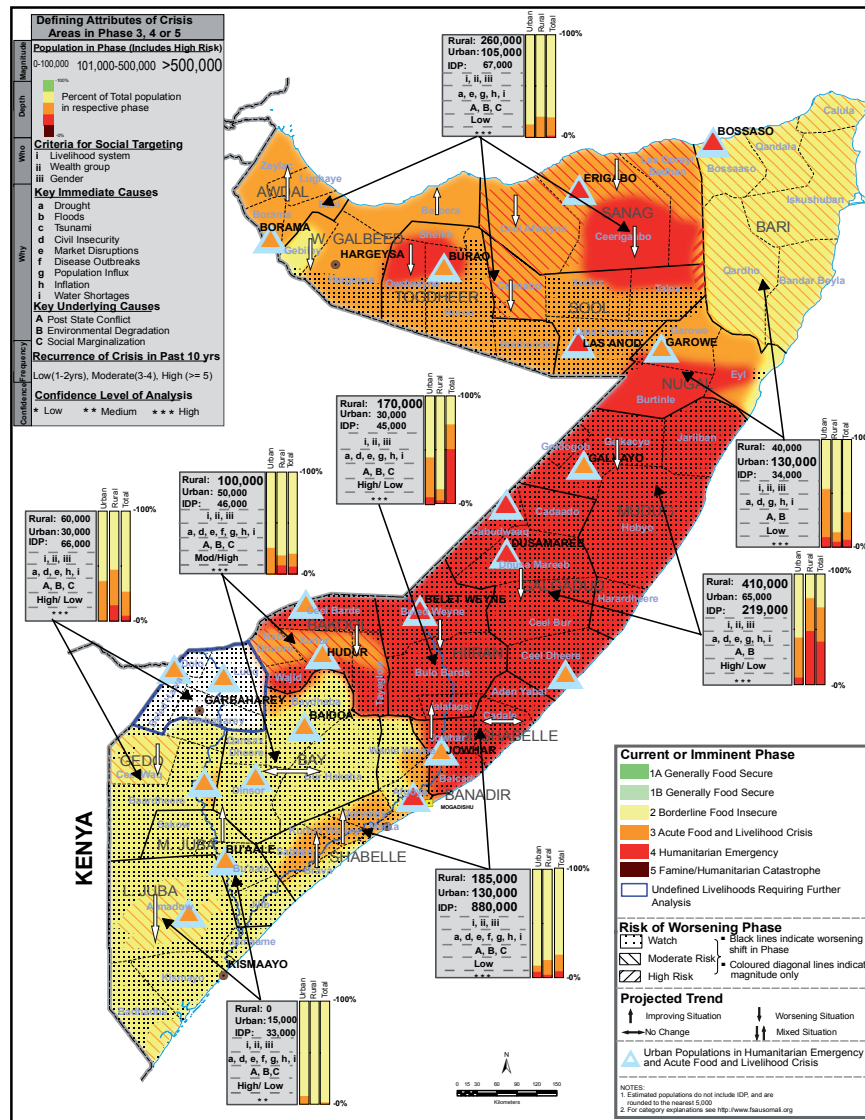
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Somalia Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, January - June 2010



Somalia Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Population Numbers, January - June 2010

Region	UNDP 2005 Total Population	UNDP 2005 Urban Population	UNDP 2005 Rural Population	Urban in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)	Rural in Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)	Urban in Humanitarian Emergency (HE)	Rural in Humanitarian Emergency (HE)	Total in AFLC and HE as % of Total population
North								
Awdal	305,455	110,942	194,513	5,000	20,000	0	0	8
Woqooyi Galbeed	700,345	490,432	209,913	0	30,000	0	0	4
Togdheer	402,295	123,402	278,893	50,000	75,000	0	5,000	32
Sanaag	270,367	56,079	214,288	25,000	60,000	5,000	20,000	41
Sool	150,277	39,134	111,143	15,000	35,000	5,000	5,000	40
Bari	367,638	179,633	202,737	80,000	0	25,000	0	29
Nugaal	145,341	54,749	75,860	25,000	25,000	0	15,000	45
Sub-total	2,341,718	1,054,371	1,287,347	200,000	245,000	35,000	45,000	22
Central								
Mudug	350,099	94,405	255,694	35,000	90,000	0	100,000	64
Galgaduud	330,057	58,977	271,080	20,000	65,000	10,000	155,000	76
Sub-total	680,156	153,382	526,774	55,000	155,000	10,000	255,000	70
South								
Hiraan	329,811	69,113	260,698	25,000	50,000	5,000	160,000	73
Shabelle Dhexe (Middle)	514,901	95,831	419,070	25,000	135,000	0	35,000	38
Shabelle Hoose (Lower)	850,651	172,714	677,937	35,000	15,000	10,000	0	7
Bakool	310,627	61,438	249,189	25,000	70,000	0	25,000	39
Bay	620,562	126,813	493,749	25,000	5,000	0	0	5
Gedo	328,378	81,302	247,076	30,000	40,000	0	20,000	27
Juba Dhexe (Middle)	238,877	54,739	184,138	5,000	0	0	0	2
Juba Hoose (Lower)	385,790	124,682	261,108	10,000	0	0	0	3
Sub-total	3,579,597	786,632	2,792,965	180,000	315,000	15,000	240,000	21
Banadir	901,183	901,183	-	5,000	-	55,000	-	7
Grand Total	7,502,654	2,895,568	4,607,086	440,000	715,000	115,000	540,000	24

Assessed and Contingency Population in AFLC and HE	Number affected	% of Total population	Distribution of populations in crisis
Assessed Urban population in AFLC and HE	555,000	7	17%
Assessed Rural population in AFLC and HE	1,255,000	17	39%
Estimated number of IDPs-updated 19th Jan 2010 (UNHCR)	1,115,000	15	35%
Estimated number of protracted IDPs	275,000	4	9%
Estimated Rural, Urban and IDP population in crisis	3,200,000	43	100.0%

Note: For Banadir, we have taken the same number as Gu 08. The adjustment for Banadir pop (i.e. less all IDP + IDP in Banadir) was leading to a negative number and it was agreed that we use the same number as we had for Gu 08. There is need to revise the population of Banadir considering the out-migration