**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Section A: Basic information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Organisation: | International Aid Services Denmark |
| Title of alert: | Risk of Famine in Horn of Africa |
| Type of crisis: | * *rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B)*
* *slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C)*

*x spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)* |

**Section D: Spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis**

|  |
| --- |
| d.1 **Where is the crisis?** The drought situation continues to worsen in the Horn of Africa, leaving large swathes of arid and semi-arid areas (ASALs) of Somalia, southern and south-eastern Ethiopia, and northern and eastern Kenya facing exceptional drought.d.2 **What is the nature of the crisis?** The Horn of Africa is experiencing one of its most severe droughts, and acute food and water insecurity is affecting at least 15 million people across the region following three back-to-back poor rainy seasons and a fourth under-performing rain season.**d.3 What information do you have about the situation?** **What is the source of that information?** Nearly 6 million in Somalia, 5.5-6.5 in Ethiopia and 3.5 million people in Kenya are severely food insecure. The water insecurity levels for households and livelihoods are alarming. Field assessments show that many of the most reliable surface water points during a “normal drought” are dry. Even the best locally built rainwater harvesting and storage systems (*hafirs*, *berkads*) that provide water during the dry season, are dry. Over three million animals have died in the region severely effecting livelihoods and sustenance among pastoralist communities, whose nutrition relies heavily on milk, meat and blood. The remaining livestock are not yielding milk, which is negatively affecting nutrition, especially for children under age 5. 5.7 million children in the region are acutely malnourished and 1.7 million of those are acutely malnourished, a number that is expected to rise according to UNICEF. In Kenya and Somalia, pastoralists are trekking long distances to find water and pasture for livestock, leading to resource-based and inter-communal tensions and conflict and exposing women, children and the elderly who are left behind to heightened protection risks and shortages of essential items, including food. Food prices are rising due to a combination of macro-economic challenges, below-average harvests and rising prices on international markets, leaving families unable to afford even basic items. Increased resource-driven conflicts (e.g. livestock raids) have already been observed across drought-affected areas of the region and are expected to increase. The drought crisis is having devastating consequences for women and children, heightening the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and hampering children’s access to education. While the delivery of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance has scaled up significantly in recent months, humanitarian partners including OCHA are appealing for more than US$4.4 billion to provide life-saving assistance and protection to about 29.1 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in 2022.<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20220422_RHPT_KeyMessages_HornOfAfricaDrought.pdf><https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/horn-africa-drought-humanitarian-key-messages-25-april>[Horn of Africa Drought: Humanitarian Key Messages, 25 April 2022 - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb](https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/horn-africa-drought-humanitarian-key-messages-25-april-2022#:~:text=Communities%20in%20the%20Horn%20of%20Africa%20are%20experiencing,season%20is%20likely%20to%20be%20average%20to%20below-average)<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/FSNWG_Drought_Alert___5_April_2022.pdf>[FSNWG\_Drought\_Alert\_\_\_5\_April\_2022.pdf (mcusercontent.com)](https://mcusercontent.com/9206ea93bb8c6f35f98cc8ccf/files/6ecb17e8-ae58-1f41-da6b-77c81dfe6d56/FSNWG_Drought_Alert___5_April_2022.pdf)<https://unocha.exposure.co/drought-in-kenya/photos/7775139>.[Joint Statement FAO OCHA UNICEF WFP Drought Emergency April 12 2022.pdf (reliefweb.int)](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Joint%20Statement%20FAO%20OCHA%20UNICEF%20WFP%20Drought%20Emergency%20April%2012%202022.pdf)[Somalia-Updated-IPC-and-Famine-Risk-Analysis-Technical-Release-8-Apr-2022.pdf (reliefweb.int)](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Somalia-Updated-IPC-and-Famine-Risk-Analysis-Technical-Release-8-Apr-2022.pdf)[Horn of Africa drought: Late rains in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are inflaming hunger, warns WFP | World Food Programme](https://www.wfp.org/stories/horn-africa-drought-late-rains-ethiopia-kenya-and-somalia-are-inflaming-hunger-warns-wfp)**d.3.1 Do you consider there to be a spike/change in a slow onset/chronic crisis or in a protracted humanitarian crisis?** There is a spike in the slow onset drought crisis due to the underperforming rain season.During the month of March and April, weather across the Horn of Africa has been mostly dry, with mild to moderate rainfall deficits appearing across areas where the rainy season should have started. Rainfall across most of the region has not yet been sufficient for planting or for the germination of dry-planted crops. Across pastoral areas, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is showing major vegetative deficits. The dry season (January-February) was also exceptionally warm, which contributed to the desiccation of rangelands and the reduction of water availability. Looking forward, short-term rainfall forecasts for May are indicating a continuation of below-average rains across parts of the region. On this background, the UN (OCHA, WFP) and NGOs (e.g. Save the Children) have released reports and alerts warning that the late rains are inflaming hunger and that the Horn of Africa risk facing famine within the next two months without further humanitarian assistance.**d.3.2. Describe as specific as possible when the spike has started**. The spike has occurred over the last 4-8 weeks with WFP issuing a warning 19th April and OCHA issuing the latest warning 25th April 2022 (see above documentation). **d.3.3. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?** Early action to cushion vulnerable households and livestock assets against the adverse effects of the spike of the drought: Direct food provision to meet the nutritional needs; water asset rehabilitation; CBA; support children in schools with food, water and hygiene kits; fodder for livestock; small-scale kitchen gardening to build drought resilience. Targeted assistance to the most affected populations, incl. female-headed households, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and marginalized hard-to-reach communities not catered for by other donors who are particularly at risk.**d.4 Are you already responding to this emergency?** IAS Denmark is currently responding to the drought emergency through implementing partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somaliland. Interventions target the most vulnerable pastoralist communities and populations through provision of food and water, CBA, rehabilitation of water assets, support to school-going children and GBV training. Own assessments points towards a deteriorating situation once the current assistance comes to an end. |