



STATEMENT ON THE SOMALIA DROUGHT SITUATION

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the most severe food crisis in the world today, with Somalia being the hardest hit. In the first half of 2011, the number of people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance increased by almost 850,000 to some 2.85 million people, one in three Somalis. This number is expected to increase further.

This crisis in Somalia will have an increasingly devastating effect on other countries in the region. In the Horn of Africa there are currently already 10 million people in crisis, including the 2.85 million in Somalia. The number is increasing on a daily basis, with thousands of Somalis fleeing to Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti every day. Three in five children arriving in refugee camps in Ethiopia from southern Somalia are malnourished. In refugee camps in Kenya, more deaths were recorded amongst Somali children in the therapeutic feeding centres in the first quarter of 2011 than the whole of 2010. This is an indicator of how dire the food security situation is in southern Somalia, the epicentre of the regional crisis.

A recent assessment conducted in Banadir Region by ADRA Somalia and Development Action Network – a local NGO working in Mogadishu –revealed the exact magnitude of the drought that has ravaged the region. Interviews with Internally Displaced Persons at one of the camps in Xamarweyne district (the camp is housing IDPs affected by the drought from the regions of Bay, Bakol and Lower Shabelle) perhaps best illustrates the dire situation. Mayow Osman is a forty year old IDP; all his animals have perished in the drought and he goes on to narrate how he reached the Xamarweyne IDP camp in Mogadishu, from his home in Dinsor District, some 300 kilometres away. He explains how he and his family walked for two weeks to get to Mogadishu while being stopped on the way by Al Shabaab who prevented him and his family of five from entering Mogadishu because they believed says he: “We are looking for assistance from the Transitional Federal Government controlled part of Mogadishu”. Mayow is part of 26,500 IDPs who have recently arrived at the camp, and many more are streaming in daily. The IDPs have no clean water access and in addition to the severe malnutrition; an acute outbreak of diarrhoea and measles cases have been reported. Mortality deaths have also been reported.

Child malnutrition rates in the worst affected areas are more than double the emergency threshold of 15 per cent according to UN OCHA, and are expected to rise. Almost half the children arriving from southern Somalia in refugee camps in Mogadishu and Ethiopia are malnourished, and those arriving in Kenya are little better. High mortality rates among children are being reported in all IDP camps.

Donor support to address current needs is urgently required to reduce and prevent a further deterioration of the crisis. According to reports, current funding is less than half the amount needed to reach the most vulnerable people. Lack of funds for food, nutrition and livelihood interventions is particularly concerning. If funding is not made available for humanitarian interventions now, the crisis might deteriorate even further.

ADRA Somalia's Planned Response to the Crisis

ADRA Somalia has just recently completed a PIN Project in Nugal Region of Puntland State of Somalia that was aimed at responding to immediate basic needs of vulnerable communities affected by the drought by increasing access to safe water through water trucking. The intervention targeted to support some 1,290 households of vulnerable families spread within seven (7) villages and approximately 7,740 beneficiaries were reached by project end. Moreover, ADRA Somalia has also begun implementing a USAID/OFDA funded intervention in Somaliland that is aimed towards strengthening resilience of communities in emergency situations in Somalia. The project is targeting a total of 93,200 individuals among which 20,637 are internally displaced persons (IDPs). The 12-month Program Supporting the Emergency in Water and Livelihoods (PSEWLS) will address critical food security and water needs for local residents and a portion of the IDP population in Somalia.

In of responding to the emerging emergencies, ADRA's strategy is to reach to unreached and provide the immediate life saving responses. ADRA recently carried out an assessment in Banadir Region of South Central Somalia. The findings of the assessment depicts a gleam picture that requires immediate response. The most urgent needs is water, food, health, sheter among others. The Water Trucking Project was implemented in Nugal Region of Puntland (North East). ADRA also proposes to partner with a local NGO in Banadir region (Development Action Network) to provide the much needed humanitarian assistance. These will include: Emergency Water trucking, support /repair of strategic boreholes, rehabilitation of water points (wells and berkads), rain water harvesting, water storage facilities, provide NFIs (plastic sheet for shelter, sleeping mats, blankets/sheets, mosquito nets, water container, basic utensils), construct latrines in IDPs camps, and provide chlorine tablets, hygiene and sanitation training, Cash For Work in environmental sanitation activities (digging waste disposal pits etc)

ADRA Somalia is open for funding resources for immediate response to the situation. Progress on the situation will continually be shared as it comes from the field. ADRA Somalia emergency team in the head office and at the field level are in close communication to coordinate the responses in a timely manner.

The Somalia Drought Crisis –Pictorial

