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Somalia Fighting Famine

Arto Kleivit / The Netherlands Red Cross

Fighting famine in Central and East Africa

Millions of children, women and men face starvation and disease. Without urgent action, the crisis will continue to spiral out of control. Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers, who live in the communities under threat, are working to break this preventable cycle of drought, food shortage, disease and death. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross

and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are racing to help stop the crisis. Our three key priorities are to:

- **Reach** remote and underserved areas.
- **Respond** through our volunteer network to help communities prevent and treat malnutrition and disease.
- **Build community resilience** through programmes that restore dignity and strengthen food security and reduce need in the future.

Snapshot

Somalia is on the cusp of a humanitarian catastrophe. Drought has driven food insecurity to crisis levels across the country. People are being forced to sell or abandon the livestock they depend on for their livelihoods. Respiratory and acute diarrhoeal diseases are increasing alongside rising malnutrition levels among children. Famine is imminent. In addition to drought, Somalia's crisis is also driven by long-standing conflict, further hampering relief efforts. In 2011, a famine in Somalia killed nearly 260,000 people – half of them children. 2017 could be even worse. Action is needed to prevent terrible loss of life and to build strong communities that can resist disasters in the future.



IFRC appeal

IFRC is supporting the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) - which is present throughout the country – to respond to the many and growing challenges that communities face. An emergency appeal has been revised to expand an emergency operation that focuses on health; water, sanitation and hygiene; livelihood; nutrition; food security and shelter (including household items). It also reflects a substantial increase in the number of people being helped, timeframe for implementation, number of activities, and an enlarged geographic scope.

IFRC impact to date

Since the launch of the initial emergency appeal in March 2016, the SRCS has provided:

- Six mobile clinics reaching nearly 70,000 people - 80 per cent of the people targeted for assistance.
- Provision of clean and safe water through rehabilitation of 24 water reservoirs for 4,600 people in each area.
- Water filter distribution for more than 1,000 households and aqua tab distribution for nearly 43,000 households.
- Participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation training for 120 volunteers.
- Hygiene promotion and education for nearly 79,000 people.
- Food assistance for 900 households through mobile money transfers.
- Nutrition screening, treatment and referrals for more than 25,000 children.

3,308,035 Swiss francs
for urgent humanitarian support

An increase of 1,291,576 Swiss francs to help support 150,000 of the most vulnerable people in Somaliland and Puntland for ten months.

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Saving lives, changing minds.

 International Federation
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IFRC urgent actions



Food security and nutrition

Cash transfers, nutritional screening and supplementary feeding for children under five.



Health

Mobile clinics and primary health care for acute water diarrhoea, immunization, vitamin A, zinc and deworming for children under five years, antenatal services for women, micronutrients for pregnant and lactating women, post-natal services, procurement of medical supplies and nutritional supplements, nutrition counselling to new mothers.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

Fuel for borehole generators, rehabilitation of water points, water quality monitoring, distribution of water purification tablets, jerrycans and ceramic water filters, cash grants for water purchase.



National capacity

Training for community-based psychosocial support, water management, hygiene promotion.



Community engagement

Health, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation awareness raising and promotion activities in schools and households, information education and communication materials.



Shelter

Distribution of blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats to people in need.



Arie Kievit / The Netherlands Red Cross



Key figures



6.2 million

people need urgent humanitarian assistance – well over half of the population.



2.9 million people

face crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity.



363,000 children

suffer from acute malnutrition.



700 deaths
and nearly
40,000 cases

of cholera/acute watery diarrhoea since January 2017.

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