

Alert

Horn of Africa

Horn of Africa hit by worst drought in 60 years

Geneva, 06 July 2011

1. Brief description of the emergency

The drought situation in the horn of Africa has reached crisis levels. This is the worst in 60 years. According to the UN OCHA Eastern Africa drought-humanitarian snapshot more than 9 million people in are in need of humanitarian aid, 3.2 million in Ethiopia, 117,000 in Djibouti, 2.6 million in Somalia and 3.2 million in Kenya¹.

2. Impact

According to ACT members in the Horn of Africa, the impact of the drought is seen everywhere and ACT staff members have never seen such a crisis in their life time. Among the impact is the skyrocketing of food prices and maize grain, livestock dying in large numbers and a massive increase in the number of new arrivals each day in Dadaab camp on the Kenya Somalia border. UN OCHA's Integrated Regional Information Networks reports that localised famine could be witnessed in some of the worst drought affected areas by September²

3. National, international response & ACT Alliance response

Governments and humanitarian organisations are meeting to prioritise the needs. Some ACT members are also waiting and lobbying for governments in the region to declare national disasters as they mount their responses to the crisis. In Ethiopia a revised "Joint Government and Humanitarian Partners" assessment report will be issued tomorrow. This report is crucial for the ACT members in country who are already working on an appeal.

ACT members supporting work and with physical presence in the countries affected are meeting in-country to coordinate their responses and jointly look at the priorities. In Kenya the ACT forum is meeting late today to discuss their response. More information will be provided through the ACT website as it is received, and detailed alerts for specific countries will be issued as they are received from the forums and members. Internationally, the ACT Alliance Secretariat is receiving urgent inquiries on the ACT response to the crisis and some ACT members are already involved in fundraising efforts for the cause. An ACT communicator from one of the member organisations is currently in Kenya to cover

1 http://www.fews.net/docs/Publications/Horn_of_Africa_Drought_2011_06.pdf

2 <http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=93151>

the situation and is working with the ACT Kenya Forum members. Stories will be posted on the ACT website as they are received.

4. Planned activities

The current needs as discussed with ACT members to date are as follows:

Kenya: Food distribution; supplementary feeding for nutrition targeting children, the elderly and nursing mothers; and water supply are the needs during the crisis phase. Farming inputs to include seed, fertilisers among others and livestock restocking are necessary for the recovery process.

Ethiopia: Food distribution, water supply to include rehabilitation of water points rehabilitation and water harvesting; livestock restocking, and rehabilitation of pasture and growing of future animal feed.

Somalia: The LWF/DWS Programme Coordinator for the Somali Refugee Program who was in Dadaab refugee camp yesterday communicated that “Here, things are changing by the hour and the situation has never been this bad”.

As the ACT Secretariat continues to receive information, it will be posted on the ACT website.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean-Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer (Jean.Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

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