



NRC Horn of Africa Drought Response

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DROUGHT CRISIS

The Horn of Africa is experiencing its most severe drought in living memory. Four consecutive seasons of below average rains have created dire water shortages, decimating crops, diminishing pastures and leaving millions of livestock emaciated or dead.

Tens of millions of people across Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia now have too little water to meet their basic needs. Many water points have dried up or diminished in quality, increasing the risk of water-borne disease and infection as households, schools and health facilities are forced to ration limited supplies. Women and girls are required to walk longer distances to locate and carry water, exacerbating the risk of violence and further hindering opportunities for girls to go to school. Faced with fewer resources, reduced capital, loss of income and dramatic price hikes, families and communities across the region are left in untenable circumstances, where all available options to meet basic needs pose a corresponding threat to safety, dignity or both.

The current drought represents a tipping point in the Horn of Africa, compounding the impact of sustained conflict, political instability, Covid-19, locust infestation, sporadic flooding, a global energy crisis and the reverberating impacts on food production, supply and cost of the international armed conflict in Ukraine. People across the region are now unable to produce or purchase enough food and water to survive; twenty million across Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are facing acute food insecurity, and 213,000 are now at catastrophic levels of hunger. Just over a decade since famine killed more than a quarter of a million people in Somalia, a new famine declaration is imminent. Multiple, interlocking humanitarian crises in the Horn of Africa and across the region foreshadow large-scale, entirely preventable starvation.

Despite this grim humanitarian outlook and the demonstrated capacity of donors to mobilise massive amounts of money quickly, funding for the Horn of Africa drought response remains insufficient. In the face of impending famine, Somalia's Humanitarian Response Plan is less than half-way funded, Ethiopia's stands at less than a third, and Kenya's 2022 Drought Flash Appeal is yet to hit 20 per cent. The situation for Ethiopia is arguably even more dire, with far more than 20 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and too few avenues open to enable its delivery. NRC's drought response in the Horn of Africa fits within the scope of our humanitarian response for people affected by displacement and contributes to a wider humanitarian effort to support affected communities through the immediate consequences of overlapping crises and to bolster their opportunities for recovery on the other side.

Drought and displacement

Displaced populations, and the communities hosting them, are among the most vulnerable to the immediate and long-term consequences of drought. The decision to leave one's home and community, including for pastoralists to break away from seasonal patterns of migration, represents a last-resort option, prompted by the loss of assets and lack of any alternative means by which to meet basic needs.

Halfway through the year, the debilitating impact of drought had already forced more than a million people in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia from their homes. Between January and June, 670,000 people in **Somalia** fled to urban and peri-urban areas in search of aid owing to drought, dwarfing the 129,000 who cited conflict as the primary reason for their displacement. More than 27 per cent of those displaced by drought came from the Bay region of Somalia, and over 31 per cent of the total number of people displaced by drought have arrived to Banaadir (Mogadishu), many having traversed conflict-affected and mine-contaminated terrain to access relief in overcrowded and under-resourced urban and peri-urban areas. People displaced by drought in 2022 are now among more than 3.5 million internally displaced people across the country, many of whom present with compound vulnerabilities, left without access to basic resources, income, security of tenure or the community support networks that could typically act as a safety net in times of crisis.



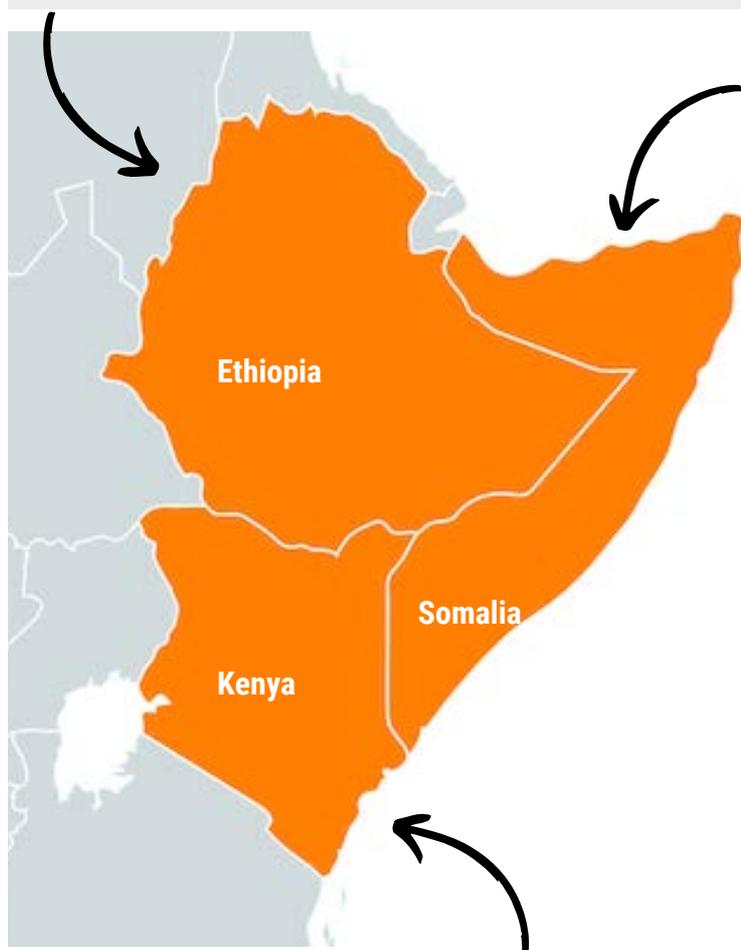


In **Ethiopia**, close to 300,000 people are reported to have left their homes in search of water, pasture or humanitarian aid through 2022, among 5.5 million internally displaced people across the country and more than 820,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) recorded half a million drought-related internal displacements in Ethiopia between 2016-2018, and UNHCR reported Ethiopia to be hosting 246,000 Somali refugees during the same period, foretelling a probable increase in displacements through an impending fifth failed rains, both internally and across porous national borders. Pastoralist communities in Ethiopia's Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions stand to be the worst affected by the impact of the drought but also present with high capacity for recovery when conditions return to normal, with indications that as many as 90 per cent of those affected by drought in 2016-2017 returned to their areas of origin when it was possible to do so.

In **Kenya**, 4.1 million living in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) counties face an unprecedented situation, with 90 percent of open water sources dried up and a reported 1.5 million livestock already dead. An estimated 20 million of Kenya's 51 million people live across ASAL parts of the country, along with more than 450,000 refugees from neighbouring countries living within the two major complexes of Dadaab (in Garissa county) and Kakuma (in Turkana county). 29,120 people were displaced in Turkana, Marsabit, Lamu and Baringo between December 2021 and March 2022 owing to resource-based conflicts - a relatively small number in the context of the region but a higher single-event figure than has been seen in Kenya for several years. Notably, while 130,000 refugees reached Dadaab in 2011 seeking urgent humanitarian assistance owing to drought and famine in Somalia, organisations operating in the camp now have considerably reduced capacity to meet basic needs, with food rations cut to less than 55 per cent of requirements since October 2021.

Humanitarian snapshot

Conflict, insecurity and recurrent climatic shocks have left more than 20 million people in Ethiopia in need of some form of humanitarian assistance, including as many as 20.4 million people reported by WFP as in need of food support. While Ethiopia's northern regions - Tigray, Afar and Amhara - record the most dramatic rates of displacement and highest levels of humanitarian need, almost eight million people across the country's Somali (3.5 million people), Oromia (3.4 million people) and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP, 1 million people) regions are now adversely affected by drought, including 7.2 million requiring food support and 4.4 million without access to safe water. People across these regions have already lost 2.5 million livestock and drought threatens the survival of around twenty million others, prompting close to 300,000 people to leave their home areas in order to access aid, and disrupting education for at least 700,000 children.



Severe drought has now left more than 7.1 million people in Somalia facing crisis levels of hunger or above, including 213,000 people on the very edge of famine. 670,000 have left their homes in search of assistance, typically arriving to crowded settlements on the outskirts of Somalia's urban centres where a lack of basic hygiene and sanitation facilities creates additional risk of disease outbreak, including acute water diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid. Displaced families most often have insufficient shelter, few to no resources and face extremely precarious tenure arrangements, where weak normative and institutional frameworks and increasing value of land have seen 66,788 forcibly evicted in Mogadishu alone. With hundreds of preventable deaths already recorded, humanitarian action in Somalia has moved from drought response to famine prevention and the near inevitability of another humanitarian catastrophe.

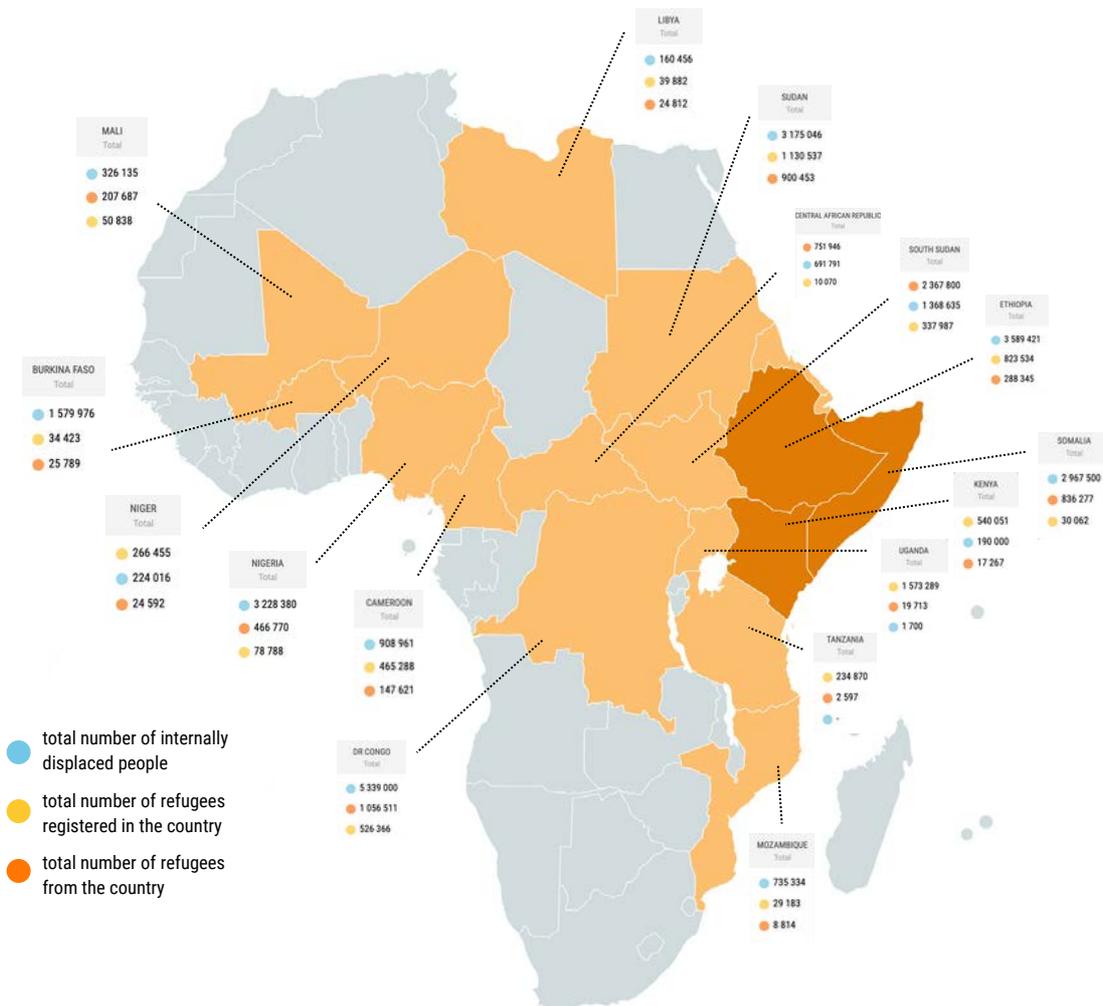
4.1 million people across the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) region of Kenya are now experiencing acute levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 or above), 700,000 more people than the number of severely food insecure people recorded in Kenya during the 2016-2017 drought. 3.3 million people are struggling to find sufficient amounts of water and 1.5 million livestock have died for lack of it. The death of livestock represents a loss of assets for pastoralist families; a dramatic reduction in related milk production and consumption has left just under one million children under five malnourished, among even higher numbers to have lost access to school, forced to find work or facing the prospect of child marriage as families look for ways to cope. Alongside people in the ASAL regions, 460,000 refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab are also subject to worsening conditions, including vastly insufficient food aid, limited water supplies and related health risks, all of which could be exacerbated in the case of up to 55,000 new arrivals projected by UNHCR in 2022.

Regional context: Food insecurity beyond drought

The immediate demand for resources to address humanitarian consequences of drought in the Horn of Africa should not obscure the need for rapid and deliberate commitments from the international community to confront monstrous levels of food insecurity across the continent, much of it caused or exacerbated by protracted conflict and associated displacement.

Based on data available from 44 of 53 countries most adversely impacted by food insecurity in 2021, the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises projects that close to 124 million people living in African countries will experience crisis or worse levels of food insecurity in 2022. In Ethiopia, the drought and other climatic shocks have further eroded coping capacities for millions of people impacted by conflict-related displacement and economic decline, stretching limited humanitarian assistance between eight million living in drought-affected areas and another 13 million subject to man-made, conflict-driven hunger.

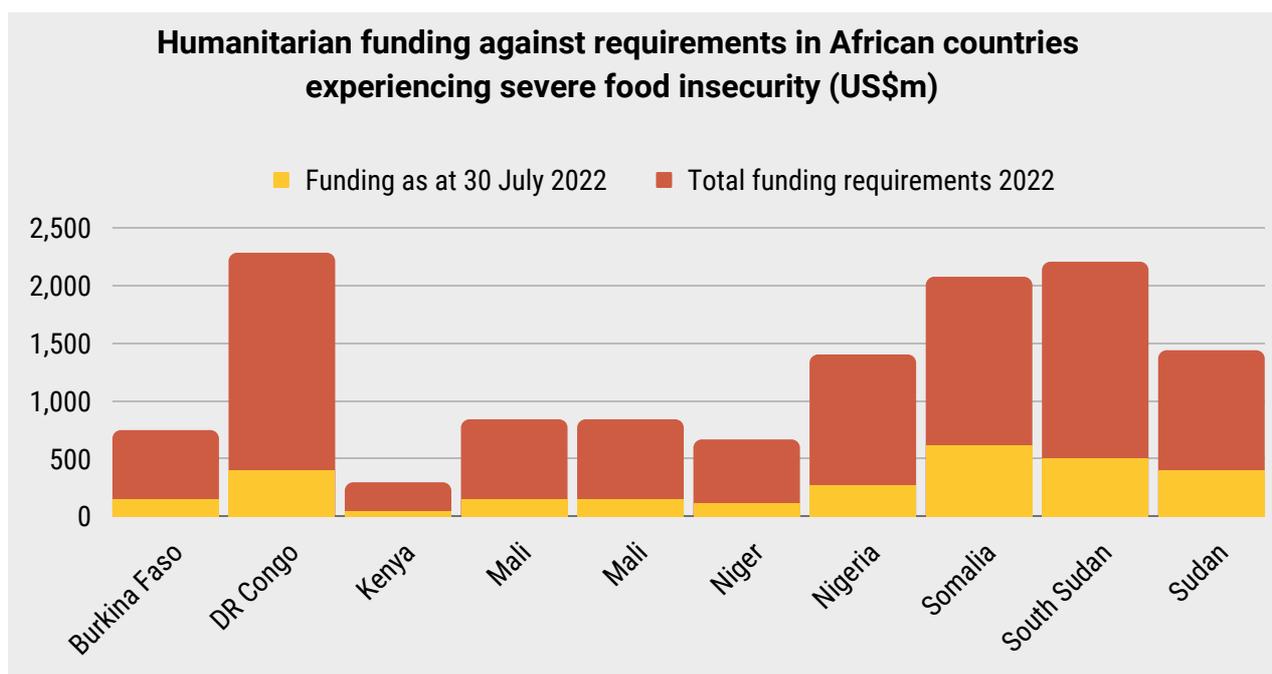
Numbers of people forced to flee in African countries where NRC currently works As at December 2021



Source: UNHCR, IDMC

The 2022 Humanitarian Response Plans for Sudan and South Sudan detail 10.89 million and 7.7 million people in need of emergency food security and livelihoods assistance respectively, alongside an astonishing 27 million in need of food-related assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In among the region's conflict-affected countries, Uganda continues to host close to 1.6 million refugees - the highest number of any country in Africa - including more than 77,000 people to have arrived during 2022. While Uganda experiences relatively small pockets of drought across arid and semi-arid regions, cross-border displacement caused by conflict and climatic shocks ultimately represents the primary driver of food insecurity, leaving Uganda's refugee population at disproportionate risk.

Across the Gulf of Aden, 19 million people in Yemen are projected to be facing food shortages by the end of 2022, the man-made product of eight years of war and insufficient international attention to humanitarian needs, roughly equalled by the 18 million people in Africa's Sahel region currently experiencing severe food insecurity and a massive shortfall in humanitarian funding to respond to it. By May 2022, the UN projected that 7.7 million children under five across Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger would be suffering from malnutrition without a significant injection of funding.



Source: Financial Tracking Service. Ethiopia omitted owing to lack of data at time of publication

Against this backdrop of overwhelming humanitarian need, drought in the Horn of Africa now represents an urgent humanitarian crisis in a slew of others necessitating concerted global attention. The need for an immediate international response to mitigate creeping humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia must therefore come with a broader commitment to addressing the current impact and longer-term drivers of food insecurity across the region, including conflict, political instability, climate change and the factors driving disaster displacement.

NRC DROUGHT RESPONSE

Foundations and approaches



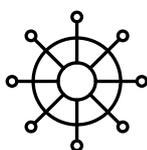
Emergency action

The current drought constitutes an immense and immediate humanitarian crisis for displacement-affected communities and must be treated as a global emergency. The drought response represents a priority for NRC; we will mobilise internal resources to improve our capacity to respond.



Non-duplication

NRC's response will operate within existing country-specific coordination mechanisms, including existing Humanitarian Response Plans, cluster systems, government-led working groups and with the Cash Working Group in each country. NRC's internal coordination at the regional level is intended for the purposes of sharing information and practice. It should not duplicate or complicate existing coordination or planning systems. Wherever relevant, NRC will advocate for multi-sectoral, interagency needs assessments and coordinate with other actors to enable the most appropriate response.



Multi-sectoral action

"Drought presents multiple threats to lives and livelihoods – it is not uniquely a 'food security' issue." (ALNAP, 2011). Applying lessons from humanitarian action in drought-related emergencies, NRC's response will canvas all relevant core competency areas where our response, or partnerships with others, can add value.



Use of cash and markets

Where commodities are available and affordable, a cash-based response, the use of vouchers, or a response combining cash and voucher with in-kind assistance is preferred to stimulate local markets and enables a multiplier effect, including in hard-to-reach areas. Where cash interventions are used, NRC will draw on research undertaken by the CALP Network and continue to verify that cash is reaching people who most need it, and particularly those most marginalised from access to other humanitarian services.



Local collaboration

With precedence to humanitarian principles, our response will collaborate purposefully with local organisations, local authorities and customary leaders, and engage with non-state armed groups (to the extent it is possible to do so) and the private sector to unlock access, promote ownership, reduce risks and stimulate local solutions.

Somalia

The scale of drought-related displacement in Somalia through the first half of 2022, measured in particular against the relatively low rate of conflict-related displacement (670,000 people and 129,000 people respectively), speaks not only to the drastic impact of four failed rains on the capacity of pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and farming communities but to the unavailability of sufficient humanitarian capacity to assist them within their home areas. NRC's June survey of 1,630 households representing 14,161 people in five of Somalia's worst hit regions - Banaadir, Bay, Lower Juba, Gedo and Galgaduud - two-thirds reported having lost more than half of their livestock, 67 per cent reported having no access to water and just under half of respondents did not believe they would be able to return to their homes. By June, Somalia's internally displaced population was dispersed across more than 3,400 camps and informal settlements, many with no security of tenure, leaving them at high risk of resource-related conflict, eviction and re-displacement. Through 2022 alone, an increased demand for land has seen a corresponding increase in forcible evictions, including the destruction of an estimated USD 2.1 million in community and humanitarian assets, consistent with a dramatically increased risk of other protection violations for people looking to urgently mitigate gaps in basic resources: family separation - including from children and the elderly, child recruitment, child marriage and sexual and gender based violence.



While the overwhelming bulk of the humanitarian response is focused on the urban areas to which pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and farming communities flee for assistance, the exclusive or majority provision of drought assistance in these areas risks contributing even further to displacement. To the full extent possible, implementing humanitarian organisations and donors must work together to share risks that enable a better understanding of and response to the needs of affected people in their home areas, thereby seeking to prevent harrowing, extremely high-risk journeys, reduce the pressure on overwhelmed urban centres, and to minimise the protection risks for people arriving to them.

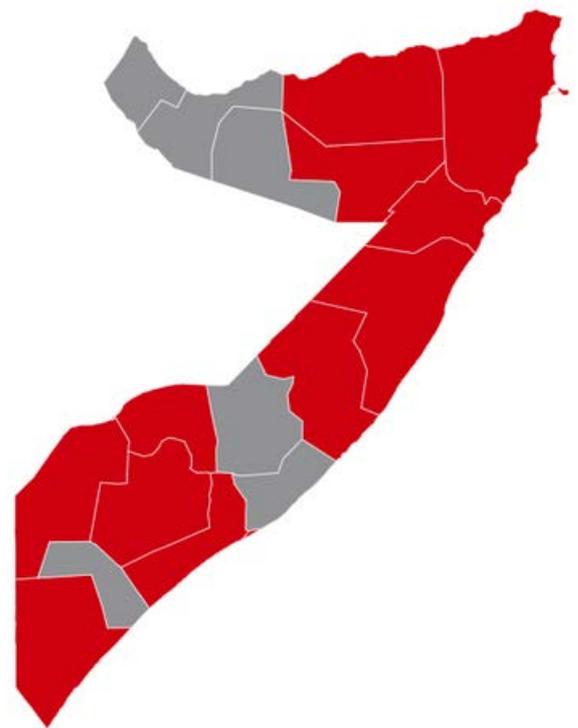
In the context of a no-regrets cash response, NRC acknowledges verification of people receiving assistance as those in greatest need to be among the most important and most challenging elements of the response, and will draw on global expertise in working in hard-to-reach areas to bolster our own response and that of our humanitarian partners.

NRC operational footprint

NRC Somalia operates across four area offices to deliver assistance to displacement-affected populations, with current priority to the country's worst-affected drought areas of South Central (Banaadir, Bay and Bakool), and Jubaland (Dollow, Afamadow, Kismayu and Luuq). Northern parts of South Central (Galmudug) and Puntland (Garowe, Galkayo and Bossaso) represent secondary priorities, followed thirdly by the Sool - Sanaag corridor.

Together with UNHCR, NRC also co-leads the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), a UNHCR-led project implemented in partnership with NRC which reports on displacements, and the protection risks and incidents underlying such movements in Somalia. Internal displacement data used in this document is drawn from the PRMN dashboard.

NRC's global strategy 2022-2025 sets out an objective to maintain our commitment to providing and enabling humanitarian assistance for hard-to-reach populations, including (but not limited to) those in hard-to-reach locations. With funding from ECHO and FCDO, NRC has now delivered cash assistance to 1,600 households across seven villages in areas without previous access to humanitarian assistance. Initiatives to extend assistance in hard-to-reach areas represent a key component of NRC's drought response.



Somalia: Response framework

	Response interventions	People targeted*	Funding requirements (USD)
<p>Result Area 1: Disaster- and displacement-affected households have access to cash with which they are able to meet their basic needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of multi-purpose cash grants to enable access to food and immediate non-food needs over 3-4 months • Provision of fodder vouchers to pastoralist and agro-pastoralists in drought (and desert locust-affected) areas, enabling sustained dependence on existing livelihoods 	570,000	27.6 million
<p>Result Area 2: Water access and environmental sanitation are improved through the rapid provision of water and improved water infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and expansion of existing water sources via construction of water storage facilities, distribution, solar energy systems and drilling of new boreholes; • Provision of water vouchers • Distribution of water treatment chemicals, emergency water bladders and hygiene kits • Construction of emergency communal latrines • Hygiene promotion campaigns, including settlement cleaning • Integrated support to schools in drought-affected location to increase retention and reduce risk of drop out • Work in partnership with existing water providers to extend their services 	90,000	2.5 million
<p>Result Area 3: People displaced by drought have access to safe, dignified shelter, and are protected from housing, land and property-related violations for the duration of their displacement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) via cash / voucher systems • Delivery and distribution of cash or vouchers for NFIs, or in-kind as required • Negotiating for improved tenure arrangements, access to alternative lands, and/or facilitating dignified relocations. • Eviction response services (preventive and remedial) • Provision of accurate, credible, timely and reliable information • Provision of legal aid services to increase access to justice • Advocacy and coordination, including support to local authorities and the HLP AoR 	200,000	2.9 million

Somalia: Response framework

	Response interventions	People targeted	Funding requirements (USD)
Result Area 4: Girls and boys in disaster-affected areas have access to education for the duration of their displacement and pathways to continue beyond it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of education fee subsidies or cash for education to enable sustained attendance • Establishment and delivery of emergency and non-formal education in displacement sites • School grants to enable scale up for increased participation 	50,000	5 million
Result Area 5: People affected by drought are able to sufficiently sustain or recover livelihoods and make informed choices about their futures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of improved agricultural inputs, training and tractor tillage hours for farmers affected by drought • Provisions of vocational training and livelihood means for drought-affected youth • Extended provision of multi-purpose cash for people seeking to rebuild livelihoods after drought • Provision of information and other integrated protection services for returning populations • Supporting establishment and revival of drought-resilient small scale businesses 	9,500	5.1 million
	TOTAL	919,500*	43.1 million

*Target figures cover the period from July 2022- June 2023; they do not include 428,000 people reached with drought-related assistance through 2022 to date.

NRC's drought response to date

This iteration of NRC's HoA drought response plan builds on our Somalia Drought Response Plan from earlier this year.

Between January and June 2022, **NRC reached 428,000 individuals with drought response**, including 220,000 people provided with **food assistance**, 63,000 with **water, sanitation and hygiene support**, 86,000 with **information, counselling and legal assistance**, 37,000 with **shelter** and 63,000 children assisted with **education**.

Kenya

Though largely overshadowed by the scale of humanitarian crises in neighbouring countries, the impact of drought looms large in Kenya, where close to 15 million people living across affected Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) regions navigate towards a possible fifth failed rains. The length of the current drought, and limited recovery time since that of 2016-2017, has depleted assets and worn through traditional drought management and coping strategies. 27 per cent of the drought-affected population now face acute food insecurity, 1.1 million already classified as experiencing emergency levels of hunger (IPC 4 or above).

In line with NRC's response policy, our presence in Kenya has traditionally concentrated on humanitarian support to new and protracted displacement-affected populations and - to a lesser degree - the neighbouring communities whose resources they share. Under current drought conditions however, the latter groups present with disproportionate levels of vulnerability. Where longstanding, institutionalised and coordinated systems of humanitarian assistance will buffer refugee communities from the worst consequences of drought, host populations in Garissa and Turkana, as well as other pastoralist groups across all affected counties, are left with extremely limited access to basic services and few avenues for support.

NRC's drought response in Kenya seeks to contribute to existing humanitarian efforts in the country, extending our ongoing response to hundreds of thousands of refugees, to affected Kenyans across host communities and, if necessary, areas beyond them. Notably, NRC also stands ready to respond in the case of new influxes of refugees seeking protection and assistance from conflict, drought and food insecurity in Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Dadaab received some 130,000 people fleeing famine in Somalia during 2011-12. Though this pattern of forced migration was not repeated during the drought of 2016-17, UNHCR is anticipating as many as 55,000 arrivals over the coming months.

Local collaboration

NRC's response to drought in Kenya recognises the overall leadership and coordination of drought efforts by the Kenyan government's National Drought Management Authority, and the collective responsibility of agencies to contribute to strengthening the existing Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) single registry through which drought-affected people are identified, registered and prioritised for cash response. Within this framework, NRC will work with national partner organisations to effectively verify and monitor a predominantly cash-based response to households in host communities, and provide small amounts of support to county governments to otherwise address emergency gaps including relating to infrastructure and coordination. In line with these efforts, with local partners and government agencies individuals that are eligible to obtain cash assistance should be supported to acquire legal identity documentation (identity cards), a pre-requisite for opening bank accounts or registering mobile money accounts through which cash assistance is channelled. To widen beneficiary reach and assistance, access to information on essential services is key as most arid and semi-arid areas are sparsely populated and in hard-to-reach areas.

Kenya: Response framework

	Response interventions	People targeted	Funding requirements (USD)
<p>Result Area 1: Drought-affected people in Kenya's ASAL countries have access to cash with which they are able to meet their basic needs and recover livelihoods beyond the current drought</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose cash transfers to highly vulnerable , drought-affected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households in Garissa and Turkana counties Mobile cash transfers to drought-affected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households displaced within or at highest risk of displacement in other ASAL counties Financial support to county authorities to undertake cash coordination at the county level (Garissa) 	1,500	1.5 million
<p>Result Area 2: Refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab have improved access to emergency food aid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose cash transfers to highly vulnerable refugee families with protection concerns 	1,500	500,000
<p>Result Area 3: Water access and environmental sanitation are improved through repairs to high-volume water infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash grants to enable the Kakuma county government to rehabilitate and / or expand existing water sources Distribution of water treatment chemicals, emergency water bladders and hygiene kits to refugees and host communities, using cash modalities where possible 	50,000	150,000
<p>Result Area 4: Girls and boys in drought-affected areas have support that enables continued school attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of education fee subsidies or cash for education and school grants to enable sustained attendance 	10,000	500,000

Kenya: Response framework

	Response interventions	People targeted	Funding requirements (USD)
Result Area 5: People affected by drought are able to sufficiently sustain or recover livelihoods and make informed choices about their futures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisions of core, technical skills training, and livelihood support for drought-affected youth Extended provision of multi-purpose cash for people and businesses seeking to rebuild livelihoods after drought 	1,200	800,000
Result Area 6: People affected by drought have access to legal legal assistance and access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased access to legal documentation (identity cards) for populations affected by drought to allow them access drought-related assistance Provision of information on access to essential services towards widened reach and improved access to protection services 	5,000	100,000
	TOTAL	69,200	3.55 million

Safe and Inclusive Programming

Safe and Inclusive Programming (SIP) is the terminology that NRC uses to describe the cross-cutting humanitarian imperative of protection mainstreaming. NRC's SIP approaches compel all NRC staff to incorporate and apply basic protection principles and promote meaningful access, safety, and dignity in humanitarian aid, as highlighted in our Programme Policy and several other internal guidelines directed at safeguarding the people we assist. NRC has developed 11 Minimum Standards, elaborated into Action Plans for each country office based on the following four elements set out by the IASC Protection Policy and the Global Protection Cluster:

1. Safety, dignity and avoid causing harm
2. Meaningful access
3. Accountability
4. Participation and empowerment

Ethiopia

Armed conflict remains the primary driver of displacement and humanitarian need in Ethiopia, where the worsening drought is adding to a dire humanitarian outlook, including for 820,000 refugees and 5.5 million internally displaced people.

Coming up to two years since the beginning of the conflict in Tigray, tens of thousands have sought protection in neighbouring countries, hundreds of thousands have been displaced within the northern regions of Afar and Amhara, and millions across the country's northern regions now require urgent food assistance. Conflict-related displacements and related humanitarian needs remain a primary concern for NRC and represent the first priority for NRC's humanitarian response.

Throughout the rest of the country, a combination of flooding, locust infestation, localised conflict and dramatic inflation has eroded the coping capacities of millions of people, propelling new waves of displacement and exposing millions of people to the most adverse consequences of drought. Across the Somali, Oromia and SNNP regions of the countries, pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities have already lost an estimated three million livestock and 300,000 report leaving home areas in search of resources and assistance. Despite the outlook within Ethiopia, all five refugee camps in Ethiopia's Dollo Ado *woreda* (district) have recorded a steady increase in people arriving from Somalia through 2022; with average daily arrivals of more than 140 through the second half of May. No equivalent drought-related cross-border displacements have been recorded from Ethiopia into Somalia or Kenya, but an upswing in conflict incidents and generalised violence in the Oromia region, in particular, threaten to drive ongoing displacements, necessitating ongoing monitoring and response preparedness.

Among the three countries worst affected by drought in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia presents with the most complexities, the greatest number of competing priorities and the most challenging response environment for humanitarian actors, necessitating extra attention to matters of assessment, coordination and principled response.



Ethiopia

NRC operations and response capacity

NRC has been operating in Ethiopia since 2011, during which time Ethiopia has hosted sizeable refugee populations from neighbouring countries along with high numbers of internally displaced people fleeing localised armed conflict and climatic shocks.

In 2020, NRC identified Ethiopia as the world's eighth most neglected displacement crisis, citing limited media coverage, insufficient funding and low levels of political will to address humanitarian needs for 2.7 million internally displaced people and 900,000 refugees. In the same year, NRC's operational footprint spanned seven of Ethiopia's 11 regions and one of two city administrations, engaging in the range of 300 staff.

In 2021, NRC's programme implementation faced various challenges, including internal and external instability and uncertainties that affected the timeliness and reach of our response. Five months of suspension, July through to December 2021, significantly affected NRC's overall operational capacity in Ethiopia. Since resuming operations in early January 2022, NRC has made substantial efforts to re-establish programming, assess funding coverage, and provide quality oversight to activities. In the first 3 months of 2022, NRC Ethiopia was able to assist 57,000 individuals with emergency response activities. As of July 2022, NRC has restarted and is growing our Area Offices in Jijiga (Somali region) and Asossa (Benishangul-Gumuz Region), Shire (Tigray region), built up our operational base and mobile Emergency Response Team in Addis Ababa, and is striving to restart activities in Shire.



Food security outlook

- Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes, at a minimum, are widespread in Tigray.
- Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes exist across southern and southeastern areas; risk of more extreme outcomes
- Forecasts suggest food security conditions will not improve until 2023 at the earliest.
- Large-scale food and livelihood assistance, as well as nutrition and WASH services, urgently needed

Source: FEWS NET, 27 May 2022

Ethiopia: response framework

As NRC Ethiopia undertakes to fully re-establish and staff our operations across Ethiopia, we will continue to assess humanitarian needs and prioritise resources accordingly, with reference to the following phased response framework.

We are engaging with the cluster system and undertaking assessments to understand where we can add most value to the drought response, with consideration to competing priorities across the country. NRC will produce a revised response plan by October containing drought-specific target numbers and funding requirements.

	Response interventions
<p>Result Area 1: Drought- and displacement-affected people in Ethiopia have access to 3 rounds of cash with which they are able to meet their basic needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile cash transfers to highly vulnerable , drought-affected pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households in drought
<p>Result Area 2: Water access and environmental sanitation are improved through repairs to high-volume water infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and expansion of existing water sources via construction of water storage facilities, distribution, solar energy systems and drilling of new boreholes; • Provision of water vouchers • Distribution of water treatment chemicals, emergency water bladders and hygiene kits
<p>Result Area 3: Girls and boys in drought-affected areas have support that enables continued school attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of education fee subsidies or cash for education to enable sustained attendance • School grants to enable scale up for increased participation
<p>Result Area 4: People displaced by drought have access to safe, dignified emergency shelter and non-food items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) in kind or via cash / voucher systems • Delivery and distribution of cash or vouchers for NFIs, or in-kind as required

BRCiS: Resilience and Recovery in Somalia

Alongside a significant scale-up in humanitarian programming, drought-affected communities in Somalia must have access to longer-term assistance that enables post-drought recovery and improves the capacity to resist the worst impact of similar events in future.

In the past four years, the NRC-led Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortium has supported 423 communities in 34 districts of Somalia, a total of approximately 2 million people, to build enhanced social capital and improved basic services and infrastructure.

There is a growing body of evidence to indicate that these communities are better positioned to cope with the impact of the drought, and in some cases to host others seeking to do the same. Prior to the the DFiD / FCDO-funded BRCiS 2 programme, almost a quarter of community members reported not having anyone to turn to if they needed help, while a similar number stated that were unwilling to help others. Within two years of the project, these figures were halved. In the same communities, BRCiS partners installed 127 pieces of water infrastructure (i.e. solar-powered boreholes), 87% of which remained operational in March 2022, with the remaining 13 per cent of - mostly surface water catchments - running dry because of lack of rain, leaving communities better able to manage through drought conditions.

Qualitative evidence from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) on climate-resilience shows communities that had anticipated drought issues as a result of resilience projects have better capacity to host vulnerable people than less-prepared communities. As of March 2022, an analysis of ten districts supported with multi-purpose cash and emergency water assistance funding following longer-term BRCiS interventions were found to be hosting an average of 70 families each, more than triple the average of twenty found to have left.

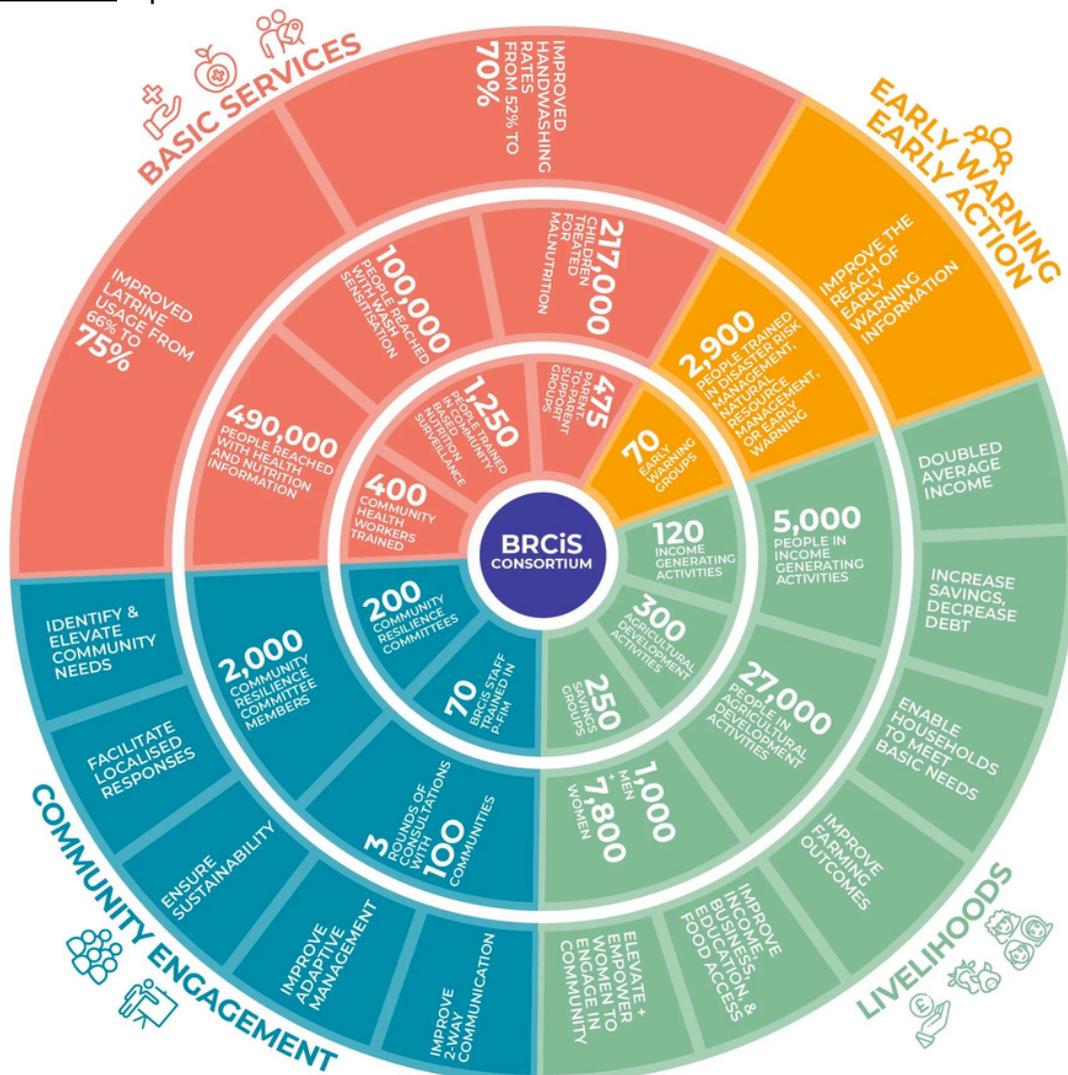


BRCiS: Resilience and Recovery in Somalia

As response to drought moves from immediate, life-saving approaches to one geared at recovery, longer-term cohesion and improved preparedness capacity for similar shocks in future, the BRCiS consortium of NRC and eight partner organisations - ACF, Candlelight, Cesvi, Concern, Gredo, the IRC, Kaalo and Save the Children - is well positioned to offer relevant multi-sectoral resilience programming.

BRCiS' drought response approach leverages this resilience, builds on its established networks of community resilience committees, community health workers, saving groups and producer cooperatives to deliver an integrated and innovative response.

While responding to the immediate consequences of the current drought, BRCiS interventions build the capacity of communities to move through phases of recovery and prepare for future shocks, including in Somalia's hard-to-reach areas. BRCiS has immediate absorption capacity of up to **USD 20 million**, and requires sustainable, long-term funding to build sustainable long-term outcomes, building on those captured in the intervention wheel below and elaborated in the *Between a Shock and a Hard Place* report.



RESPONSE OVERVIEW

	Result Area	People targeted	Funding required US\$mill
Somalia	Result Area 1: Disaster- and displacement-affected households have access to cash with which they are able to meet their basic needs	919,500	43.1
	Result Area 2: Water access and environmental sanitation are improved through the rapid provision of water and improved water infrastructure		
	Result Area 3: People displaced by drought have access to safe, dignified shelter, and are protected from housing, land and property-related violations for the duration of their displacement		
	Result Area 4: Girls and boys in disaster-affected areas have access to education for the duration of their displacement and pathways to continue beyond it		
	Result Area 5: People affected by drought are able to sufficiently sustain or recover livelihoods and make informed choices about their futures		
Kenya	Result Area 1: Drought-affected people in Kenya's ASAL countries have access to cash with which they are able to meet their basic needs and recover livelihoods beyond the current drought	69,200	3.55
	Result Area 2: Refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab have improved access to emergency food aid		
	Result Area 3: Water access and environmental sanitation are improved through repairs to high-volume water infrastructure		
	Result Area 4: Girls and boys in drought-affected areas have support that enables continued school attendance		
	Result Area 5: People affected by drought are able to sufficiently sustain or recover livelihoods and make informed choices about their futures		
	Result Area 6: People affected by drought have access to legal legal assistance and access to information		
Ethiopia	Result Area 1: Drought- and displacement-affected people in Ethiopia have access to 3 rounds of cash with which they are able to meet their basic needs		
	Result Area 2: Water access and environmental sanitation are improved through repairs to high-volume water infrastructure		
	Result Area 3: Girls and boys in drought-affected areas have support that enables continued school attendance		
	Result Area 4: Result Area 4: People displaced by drought have access to safe, dignified emergency shelter and non-food items		
	TOTAL (preliminary - pending Ethiopia revision)	988,200	46.65