

Recovery and Response for Drought in Somalia

Final Report

The 2017 funding from Emergency Development Response to Crisis and Recovery (EDRCR) by UNDP came when the country was in the grip of a devastating drought consequent to the failure of two consecutive rainfalls. Areas in Somaliland in the east, Puntland in the west and South West State/ Bay were particularly hard hit, with large scale deaths of livestock, drying up of water sources and destruction of the livelihoods. People migrated in large numbers towards the urban centres and to the areas where there were rumours of water availability. The already conflict affected and chronically stressed country was at the brink of descending into a famine-like situation, projected to be more grave than the previous such disaster in 2011. Women, children, elderly and weak were especially vulnerable; with reported incidents of GBV in unprotected IDP camps and whilst they're in search of food and water. Forced displacement in search of food and water is separating families as most men stay back to secure existing cattle and property whilst women move with children increasing their vulnerability.

The humanitarian community initiated a relief response in close coordination with and under the leadership of the Federal Government of Somalia and the regional governments comprising of life saving measures for the most vulnerable sections of the affected population. While the bulk of life threatening challenges still loom large over most of the population, sporadic rains have, in some areas, have triggered voluntary and spontaneous efforts towards returns to the places of origin and regeneration of livelihoods. The nascent federal and state governments expressed the lack of capacity for coordinating the myriad of actors and managing the impact and response information as a major impediment in their efforts to meaningfully lead the effort. UNDP Somalia CO filled part of this capacity gap by supporting the relevant governmental agencies and closely working with partners like IOM.

EDRCR allocations were channelled through Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) in Puntland, National Environmental Research and Disaster Management Agency (NERAD) in Somaliland and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in South West, Hirshablele, Galmudug and Jubaland States of Somalia.

Progress by the Implementing Partners

Puntland State Humanitarian Affairs and Disasters Management Agency (HADMA): HADMA is responsible to coordinate and manage all humanitarian activities and emergency responses in Puntland. Its mandate includes the monitoring and coordination of humanitarian assistance programs. In April 2017, Drought Operation Coordination Centre (DOCC) was established in Garowe with UNDP assistance. HADMA and UNOCHA were provided support through DOCC to bring together national and international organisations to monitor the drought situation in Puntland and co-ordinate humanitarian and early recovery activities. The capacities provided to DOCC helped in timely response to reach out to the drought affected population. The coordination mechanism established through DOCC has been institutionalised at the state level under the direct supervision of the Vice President of Puntland. Main activities conducted with the support of UNDP are:

- HADMA opened two sub-offices in Galkacyo and Bosaso to monitor and coordinate drought response at regional level. The Galkacyo office coordinated humanitarian and early recovery interventions in Mudug, Ayn Regions while Bossaso office coordinated Bari and Sanaag Regions.
- HADMA and UNOCHA conducted number of coordination meetings in the DOCC Garowe. At the peak of drought response, three meetings were convened every week at DOCC. The two sub-offices sent reports to the main DOCC to update humanitarian issues in respective areas.
- HADMA conducted monitoring and field assessment missions and identified gaps and needs of the communities affected by the drought.
- Technical experts designed a response matrix that was regularly updated for all humanitarian partners working in Puntland.
- DOCC and HADMA were provided with the computers and communications support to collate data. GPS were also provided for the field teams to help in map out both the movement of drought affected population and locations covered by humanitarian and development organisations.
- Trainings were conducted of field and office staff of HADMA and other line ministries on disaster management, early warnings, climate change vulnerability assessment and drought response strategies. A team of volunteers has also been established across 37 districts of Puntland.
- HADMA consolidated appeals for humanitarian and early recovery works and shared with the UN System, NGO Consortium, donors, Puntland Government and Federal Government of Somalia.
- An inter-ministerial coordination group was formed with the secretariat support of HADMA. the members of the coordination group include: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Puntland State Water and Energy Agency and Ministry of Livestock.
- As part of the early recovery package implemented with funding from UNDP, HADMA rehabilitated five berkedes in Nugal and Mudug regions, improved water access, supported the return of the displaced population and distributed food and non-food items in Meygag and Dacarre villages.
- A fully operations data center for early warnings has been established in HADMA.
- Drought reports, technical studies and needs assessments were prepared to gauge the severity and effectiveness of drought response.
- Needs for 2018 are being established in coordination with humanitarian and development organisations.
- Mapped out drought hot spots in November 2017. This information is regularly updated

Somaliland – National Environment Research and Disaster Management Agency (NERAD)¹: NERAD is an autonomous public institution of the Government of Somaliland, empowered by legislation as the official

¹ NERAD has recently been renamed as NADFOR (National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority)

lead government institution with responsibility for disaster management and coordination in Somaliland. Main activities conducted by NERAD with support of UNDP are:

- Awareness campaign was conducted across Somaliland using electronic media on severity of drought and support mechanisms being used by the government and international partners for drought affected population.
- Drought vulnerability assessments were conducted in four regions of Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer and Sahil. These assessments presented data on the affected population, their movement trends and immediate needs to avoid losses.
- A team of volunteers comprising university students were trained in collecting field data and compiling in UNOCHA designed matrix with the purpose of better coordination of drought response.
- To promote awareness on climate change and response strategies, NERAD conducted several panel discussions participated by key related government officials (Direct Generals of line ministers, elders, poets), the discussion included challenges, solutions and future outlook on disasters and the discussions were aired on private TVs, the topic under discussion were on early preparedness and management of disasters specially on developing drought strategies as well as how to create effective coordination, monitoring, assessment situation using indicators.
- Improved water access interventions were designed and implemented through the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment and Rural Development as part of early recovery package. A total of 73 water sources were improved and 5 water reservoirs/earth dams are under completion.
- The existing Disaster Management Plans for Somaliland were updated in consultation with the line ministries and departments. 50 participants took part in the revision of plans. These plans cover all regions of Somaliland and have important elements of contingency planning and response.
- Operational and equipment support was provided to the drought operational centers in four regions of Somaliland. Field data was collected and collated for drought monitoring and decision making by the government drought response committee working under the direct supervision of the President of Somaliland.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM): IOM aimed to address the capacity gap within government agencies in Somalia through the provision of technical support in the areas of drought response coordination and information management. Through the contribution of UNDP, IOM improved emergency coordination structures in Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Jubaland and South West States of Federal Somalia by building upon greater synergies and cooperation between government institutions and humanitarian partners. Additionally, the project enhanced the capacity of disaster management-mandated institutions at the Federal and Member States level including the Ministry of Interior – Jubaland State of Somalia; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management – South West State of Somalia; Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disability – Galmudug State of Somalia; Ministry of Interior-Hirshabelle State of Somalia.

Main achievements under the joint initiative of UNDP and IOM are:

- A total of four Drought Response Coordinators (DRC) and four Information Management Officers (IMO), were deployed in the four states (one per state). The newly appointed staff completed orientations organized by IOM in partnership with UNDP and OCHA. In addition, they also completed introductory courses on displacement management through Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM), humanitarian and governmental coordination structures and, early recovery principals and ideas.
- Technical support was provided to regional Drought Response Committees, district administrations and to authorities from relevant disaster management institutions in Galmudug, Jubaland, South West and Hirshabelle State. To improve the overall drought response, the integration of staff into the existing coordination structures in each of the four states was pivotal in building greater synergies and cooperation between government institutions and humanitarian partners.
- From 01 to 04 August 2017, UNDP, IOM and OCHA led a series of workshops for the drought committees, seconded staff and partners working in CCCM. These events included: CCCM Training; Workshop on Gatekeepers/informal displacement sites; Early Recovery and Assessments; and, Training of Trainers on adult learning methods and training techniques.
- Together with the Government, conducted a rapid situation assessment to identify which government entities were responsible for drought response. Various bodies were established to facilitate drought response at the regional level, although with clear deficits in the capacity to carry out this mandate. The assessment identified a need to strengthen existing information sharing pathways rather than developing new coordination tools. As a result, IOM shifted its focus to strengthening the capacity of existing coordination bodies to ensure they serve as valid information sharing platforms. With this new aim in place, professionals on the ground have provided substantial technical support to entities² mandated to respond to the drought.
- To ensure regional drought committees and local administrations are able to actively engage in the drought response, DRCs deployed under this project supported the authorities in the four states by regularly convening stakeholder meetings with government agencies, humanitarian partners and donors. Mailing lists were developed by the team and regularly updated to ensure

² **South West:** The Commission for Refugee and IDPS and the Drought Response Committee (DRC) were established and initially fell under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior. The recent establishment of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management has now inherited their management.

Hirshabelle: The State Level DRC which serves as the Regional State Representative of the "National Drought Response Committee" at the Federal Level falls under the overall direction of the Ministry of Interior.

Jubaland: The DRC is established under the lead of the Ministry of Interior. Furthermore, Jubaland Refugee and Internally Displace Agency (JRIA) are involved in matters specifically concerning IDPs and returnees' affairs but not necessarily dealing with disaster management. JRIA also reports to the office of the Ministry of Interior. UN OCHA led monthly coordination forums as well as Cluster and Inter-clusters meetings.

Galmudug: The DRC is established under the lead of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disability. The capacity of the Ministry to implement its mandate needs improvement due to the lack of functional office staff and equipment. In addition, a transition period has been observed due to the Officer in Charge recently being appointed following the departure of the Minister in May.

relevant stakeholders were invited to the different forums. DRCs attended all meetings to encourage further engagement with the national drought committee and federal line ministries, thus working towards the establishment of a well-informed network of communication and information sharing among key stakeholders. Additionally, the team ensured timely circulation of meeting minutes and followed up on respective action points. IOM internally monitored the uninterrupted flow of information by collecting weekly progress reports on the coordination efforts on the ground.

- Field visits to Beletweyne, Doolow, Belethawa, Galkayo, Afgooye and Dhobley were organized to facilitate collection of data and information. The field visits allowed the teams to further support state level Government institutions to respond and advocate more effectively for the needs of those affected by the drought. The findings from each field visits were regularly shared by the team in relevant forums thus allowing for comprehensive discussions on ongoing interventions which led to the identification of gaps and duplication of interventions. The same findings were discussed bilaterally with Government officials.
- Following the assessment, identified the needs for the utilization of existing Information Management (IM) products as well as supporting the CCCM Cluster in the production of new tools. These included: Detailed Site Assessment (DSA), CCCM actors service mapping tool, Movement Trend Tracking (MTT), IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) and information dissemination through local news networks to ensure the acquisition and circulation of reliable data. Systems were established to facilitate ongoing data collection and contribution to the products. A weekly reporting template was developed for field team staff to collect consistent information on activities and abovementioned target information. Data collected during field visits aimed at supporting coordination and information sharing practices.

Financial Summary of EDRCR Contributions

Based on the Somalia Crisis Board meeting held on 27 February 2017, EDRCR funds of USD 500,000 were approved from UNDP's Emergency Funding Window for "Response and Recovery for the Drought in Somalia". As of 12 February 2018, the total utilisation against these funds is USD 495,047.