

Humanitarian Common Feedback Project

May 2017

for Accountability to Affected People & Communication with Communities in Somalia for Prevention of Famine

The humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating and there is renewed risk of famine in 2017, only six years after a devastating famine in 2011 led to the death of more than a quarter million people, half of them children. Over 6.2 million people are estimated to be in need of assistance, more than half of the population of Somalia. Disease outbreaks are affecting most of the country and more than 620,000 people have been displaced from their homes due to drought since November 2016, including 5,000 who have crossed into neighboring Ethiopia and Kenya.

As part of collective efforts to better understand needs and concerns of Somalis affected by the drought, and enhance communication with communities, OCHA and humanitarian partners have worked to launch a Community Feedback Project (CFP). The project is intended to support the wider humanitarian system to respond better and more efficiently to needs of affected people as part of efforts to prevent famine.

"I am calling from a place located far from Abudwak, Galgaduud. Brothers and sisters, we are suffering from the drought so do whatever you can to reach us."

Jama Hussein

Photo: OCHA Somalia

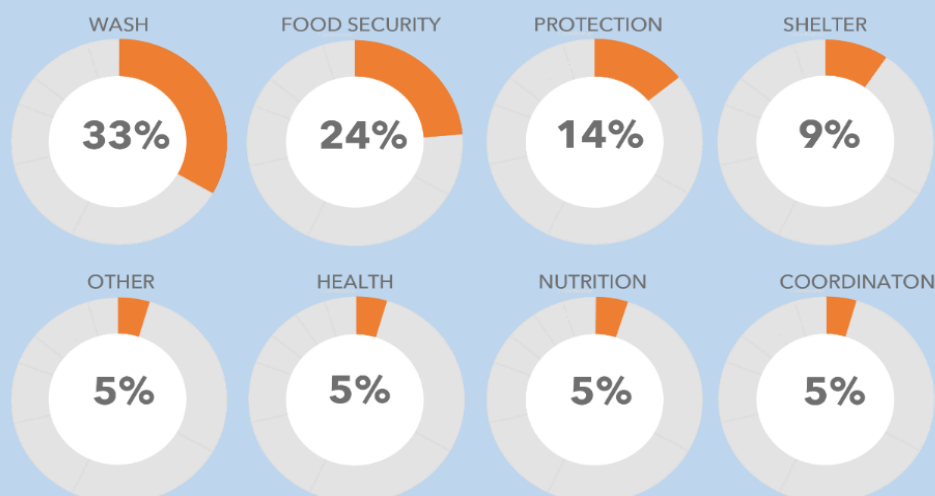


Working with humanitarian partners, the Community Feedback Project (CFP) is collecting, collating and analyzing feedback from multiple platforms to identify key themes and issues being raised by communities, particularly related to the ongoing drought in Somalia. This first monthly issue of the CFP report brings together information from more than 1,200 people collected through helpdesks at distribution points, community meetings, focus group discussions, suggestion boxes, post distribution monitoring surveys, SMSs, hotlines, radio broadcasts mainly in Baidoa, Dollow, Galgaduud, Mogadishu and Lower Shabelle. Entities who have contributed feedback include mostly local NGOs such as NAPAD, HARD, WACRADO, IYRDA, as well as the Ministry of Health of South West State, World Vision, Adeso, NRC, DRC, UNICEF and Radio Ergo. Humanitarian partners who wish to contribute to the collective feedback mechanism are invited to contact: Rita Maingi (maingir@un.org) or Tapiwa Gomo (gomo@un.org).

Communities have their say

- About 33 per cent of respondents reached through the feedback mechanism since March raised concerns about **lack of water**, saying that the only water they could access was contaminated.
- On Health and **Acute Watery Diarrhoea** (AWD), key issues raised by communities indicated misconceptions about the disease, including how AWD is contracted and how to avoid contamination. People are, for example, worried that the disease is spreading at food distribution points in areas like Wajid.
- Some 24 per cent of the people shared concerns about **food security** aspects, including requests for more food distributions, perceived delays in cash transfers, high food prices and the need for more support to agriculture.
- Newly displaced people who are arriving in Baidoa, Bay Region, also raised concern that organizations were not enlisting them for assistance or if they were, it was **taking too long**, leaving them vulnerable. Others mentioned that their **clans** were not being targeted for distributions. Other views from communities include perceptions of **corruption by** local NGOs, concerns about **child protection** and **repeated assessments** from organizations that yield no immediate results.
- Newly displaced people arriving in Baidoa also noted that if they do not receive any assistance in the coming days, they may continue their journey to Mogadishu where they think they will get assistance

Priority needs expressed by communities since March



What are humanitarian partners doing to respond to these requests?

- **A broad range of actors have stepped up efforts to reduce human suffering and prevent another famine.** Local Somali communities are often providing the first line of response, supported by local and federal authorities, business leaders, national and international humanitarian partners and charities, with an unprecedented mobilization of resources from Governments, charities, youth-led social media campaigns, general public and Somali diaspora-led campaigns around the world.
- **Millions of Somalis have been reached since January with safe water, food and medical assistance, as well as shelter, protection, education and sanitation support.** Since the beginning of the year temporary or permanent access to water has been provided to 1.5 million people and 600,000 people have benefitted from hygiene promotion activities in the framework of the response to the AWD/cholera outbreak. Cash and vouchers are being offered to more than 1.4 million of the 3 million most vulnerable people in emergency and crisis per month. A significant scale-up of nutrition services has taken place, with 332,000 children and women treated in March alone, hereof 69,000 children under five who were severely malnourished and far more vulnerable than any other group.
- **To stem the large-scale outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea/Cholera, joint rapid response teams with expertise in health, water, sanitation and nutrition are deployed in some of the most hard-to-reach areas, supporting local responders in treating the sick and preventing further spreading of the disease.** To strengthen communication and awareness on prevention of AWD/Cholera, the Health Cluster has also gone on air on Radio Ergo to talk about AWD prevention and management and dispel rumours on how AWD is contracted. The Health Cluster also issues weekly updates by radio about the ongoing response, giving locations of the cholera treatment centres to help communities decide where to seek help.
- **The sub-Cluster for Gender Based Violence led by the Somali NGO Save Somali Women and Children and by UNFPA is also stepping up communication efforts** using radio to deliver key messages on how and where to get assistance when one encounters abuse. The messages also highlight the religious stance on gender based violence that it is not acceptable. A weekly drama series is being developed to pass more messages.



"I would like to talk about the rights of children. The rights of our children are not protected and something needs to be done."

Yahye Hassan Gelle in Mogadishu, Banadir Region (Photo: Giles Clarke/Getty/OCHA)