

Somalia Drought

November 2022

Operational plan and funding requirements

The drought in Somalia has left nearly half of the population facing crisis-level food insecurity and over 300,000 people at risk of catastrophic hunger. In August 2022, the ETC conducted an assessment mission that identified critical gaps in communications means to enable humanitarians to operate more effectively and safely in the field. The ETC was activated in September 2022 to provide services to fill these gaps.



SECURITY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES in 9 common operational areas



DATA CONNECTIVITY services in 3 humanitarian hubs and 5 camps



INTER-AGENCY COMMON FEEDBACK MECHANISM planned to enhance accountability to the affected population



US\$750,000 URGENTLY REQUIRED to implement **CRITICAL UPGRADES** to security communications infrastructure

US\$2 MILLION OVERALL REQUIREMENT to provide services for 6 months



Security Communications

Humanitarians work in insecure areas throughout Somalia where mobile telephone networks are prone to sudden outages. To stay safe while assisting affected communities in hard-to-reach areas, responders need to have back-up means of communications to reach colleagues and security operations centres (SOC) at all times. The assessment mission identified a need to upgrade and expand the radio security communications infrastructure for United Nations and non-governmental organisation (NGO) staff in the country. To ensure the continued functionality of the interagency VHF radio network, the ETC will work in collaboration with the United Nations Department for Safety and Security (UNDSS) to upgrade the SOCs and their communications infrastructure in six locations and expand the radio network to three new common operational areas.

Connectivity for Humanitarians

The recent influx of humanitarians in support of the scale-up of the drought response has brought with it an increased need for data connectivity services. The ETC Coordinator participated in a series of joint missions led by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to assess three potential new humanitarian hub locations where the ETC plans to provide a primary internet link as well as back-up satellite connectivity solutions. The ETC is also planning to set up internet hotspots in up to five camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) to support humanitarian activities such as beneficiary registration.



Common Feedback Mechanism

To enhance the accountability of the humanitarian community to the affected population, the ETC plans to support the establishment of an inter-agency common feedback mechanism (CFM). By providing a single channel for two-way communications between the affected community and humanitarian organisations, the CFM will facilitate communities' access to information about the assistance available to them and will empower them to register their feedback and complaints. The information received through the CFM can also enhance decision making by putting affected communities and their needs and preferences at the centre of the humanitarian response.

Funding Requirements

Since its activation on 18 September, the ETC has not yet received any funding to implement its planned services. **US\$750,000** is urgently required to implement critical upgrades to the radio security communications infrastructure and expand the services to three additional locations over an initial period of three months. In order to deliver all its planned services, including connectivity for humanitarians and the CFM, the ETC requires a total of **US\$2 million** for an initial period of six months.

Somalia.ETC@wfp.org | www.etcluster.org/emergency/somalia-drought