

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

|                                    |                                    |
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| <b>Bilagsnr.:</b>                  | <b>976</b>                         |
| Land:                              | Somalia                            |
| Kilde:                             | Actionaid International Somaliland |
| Titel:                             | Drought: Impact and Needs          |
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# ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL SOMALILAND

ActionAid is a federation working together to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. We are guided by our feminist and human rights based approach and principles as we seek to shift and transform power to ensure that every person can enjoy a life of dignity and free from oppression. We prioritise the leadership of women and young people, especially those living in poverty and exclusion in order to challenge economic and social justice, which are at the foundations of inequality and poverty.

ActionAid's programmes are grounded in our humanitarian signature (women & youth leadership, shifting the power, accountability to affected populations and resilience and sustainability) and human rights based approach, as well as CHS and Do No Harm standards.

## DROUGHT: IMPACT AND NEEDS



### Food Insecurity:

Approximately, 1.66 million people in Somaliland, one third of the total population, face food insecurity and malnutrition, with women and children worst affected. Of those, 213k are facing catastrophic hunger and starvation, and the numbers are expected to increase without humanitarian interventions. According to IPC, between October and January, all of Somaliland except a small central region will be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The **aim is to stop the regions from slipping into IPC 5 and famine.**

The war on Ukraine has also had a major impact on Somaliland's access to food and water due to rising inflation. This has exacerbated the drought's effects, causing

fuel and **food prices to skyrocket**, for example a 163% increase for a loaf of bread and as much as 260% for cooking oil. Women and children's nutrition is particularly impacted as lactating mothers are struggling to get adequate nutrients to produce milk for their babies, and access to nutrient programmes was only 12% in assessed communities.

Food for communities, including child nutrition programmes, is an urgent need, especially in the Eastern pastoralist regions. ActionAid aims to support 180,000 households in Somaliland with in-kind food or cash to alleviate their food insecurity and reduce reported negative coping strategies.

## Water Scarcity:

After a fifth consecutive rainy season, water shortages continue to be severe. This has directly impacted the health of livestock as there is no water or pasture. This has led to over **3 million livestock deaths** (OCHA) across Somalia/Somaliland. Inadequate rainfall has also meant a severe shortage of fodder for livestock, with a 100% reduction in production. The lack of livestock also impacts other markets such as dairy, grocery and other garment and petty trades, ruining livelihoods. It isn't just livestock suffering from water shortages, as **harvests continue to fail**. Some farmers report not having a successful crop since 2020.

Whilst water infrastructure is existent in some areas, the source is often

unmaintained, unsafe and requires **travelling long distances** to collect, putting women and girls at increase risk of harm. Berkads, the primary source, and used by both people and animals, dry up quickly, which has led to **increased migration**. Over 20% of people in Salahley, Burao and Bali-Gubadle migrated, often over 50km.

Due to the water scarcity, water trucking is necessary for community and livestock survival. Water infrastructure should also be rehabilitated and constructed and water management committees established to help sustain water sources. Fodder distributions should also be considered for livestock health and maintaining livelihoods.



## Sexual & Gender-Based Violence:

The drought has further increased women and girls vulnerability, especially to GBV. With the worsening of the drought, **early marriage has significantly increased** - 36% and 26% increases in Toghdheer and Maroodijeex regions were reported in February 2022 for example (MESAF). We only see such practices multiplying without urgent interventions.

**SGBV has increased** by an average of 25% nationwide (MESAF), especially vulnerable women and girls. Abuses mainly occurred while migrating and collecting water or firewood. 48% of women in Lasanod reported feeling unsafe when going to the toilet due to men loitering. One respondent

reports rape is most common. **Perpetrators generally go unpunished** due to community attitudes towards SGBV and the **lack of access to legal services**. FGM is reported in all districts highlighting its continued prevalence across the country.

There is a critical need for additional resources to continue improving protection mechanisms, particularly in IDP camps. Community mobilisation on GBV and FGM and the appropriate referral mechanisms is necessary, as well as creating women's safe spaces. ActionAid has been incorporating these activities into all its programmes, as well as providing dignity kits to preserve the dignity of women and girls, alongside cash for livelihood support to increase resilience.

## Health and WASH:

Health facilities are unable to provide for women and those who are dealing with severe health conditions. Rural areas, especially, often have **no available medicines**, drugs, or health professionals, leaving people in those areas extremely under-supported. Women are the nucleus of the communities. They are mothers who look after the health of the entire family. In pastoral areas, they are responsible for rearing, milking, slaughtering, and taking care of the livestock, particularly goats and sheep in Somaliland. So, if women are unable to access resources, it is not only them but the entire community that will suffer.

Where good hygiene practices had been improving, the drought has caused a

regression. Any available water is reserved for drinking and cooking, **increasing the risk of disease** such as diarrhoea and cholera. This is also exacerbated by the limited access to safe toilets. 95% of women said that they **do not have access to toilets** and were practising open defecation. Available toilet facilities, 10 for 400 households in Burao camp, are hugely insufficient.

Increased awareness of the importance of good hygiene practices and waste management is necessary, alongside water trucking, to reduce the risk of disease, especially in IDP camps. Community infrastructure should also be improved including health services and access to latrines for women and girls.



**"NOW THE WORLD IS ENDING"**

**AMINA YUSUF, AGED 90, WHO HAS LIVED THROUGH 12 DROUGHTS**

## Education:

**40% of children are missing school** (MESAF) due to either migrating away from their school; school closures because of a lack of food, water and teachers; families no longer able to afford fees; or children now caring for infants and livestock, collecting water or performing domestic work. All functioning AA assessed schools did **not have operational feeding programmes**. To tackle the issue, pastoralist education programmes should be reviewed and adapted to keep children in education, alongside interventions targeting the root cause of school dropouts. School feeding programmes should also be established to maintain child nutrition and encourage participation.

## Future Outlook:

The fifth consecutive season of drought is expected to result in widespread livestock deaths and a poor-to-failed harvest in January, leading to insurmountable shortfalls in household food and income (FEWSNET). Communities still face alarming emergency situations so even if rains come, food aid and other basic needs will remain critical, as livelihood assets such as livestock have been lost and agricultural production recovers. There will be a large need for resilience building and income diversification alongside basic needs. Multi-purpose cash will support in communities to meet their immediate needs and build resilience to future stresses.

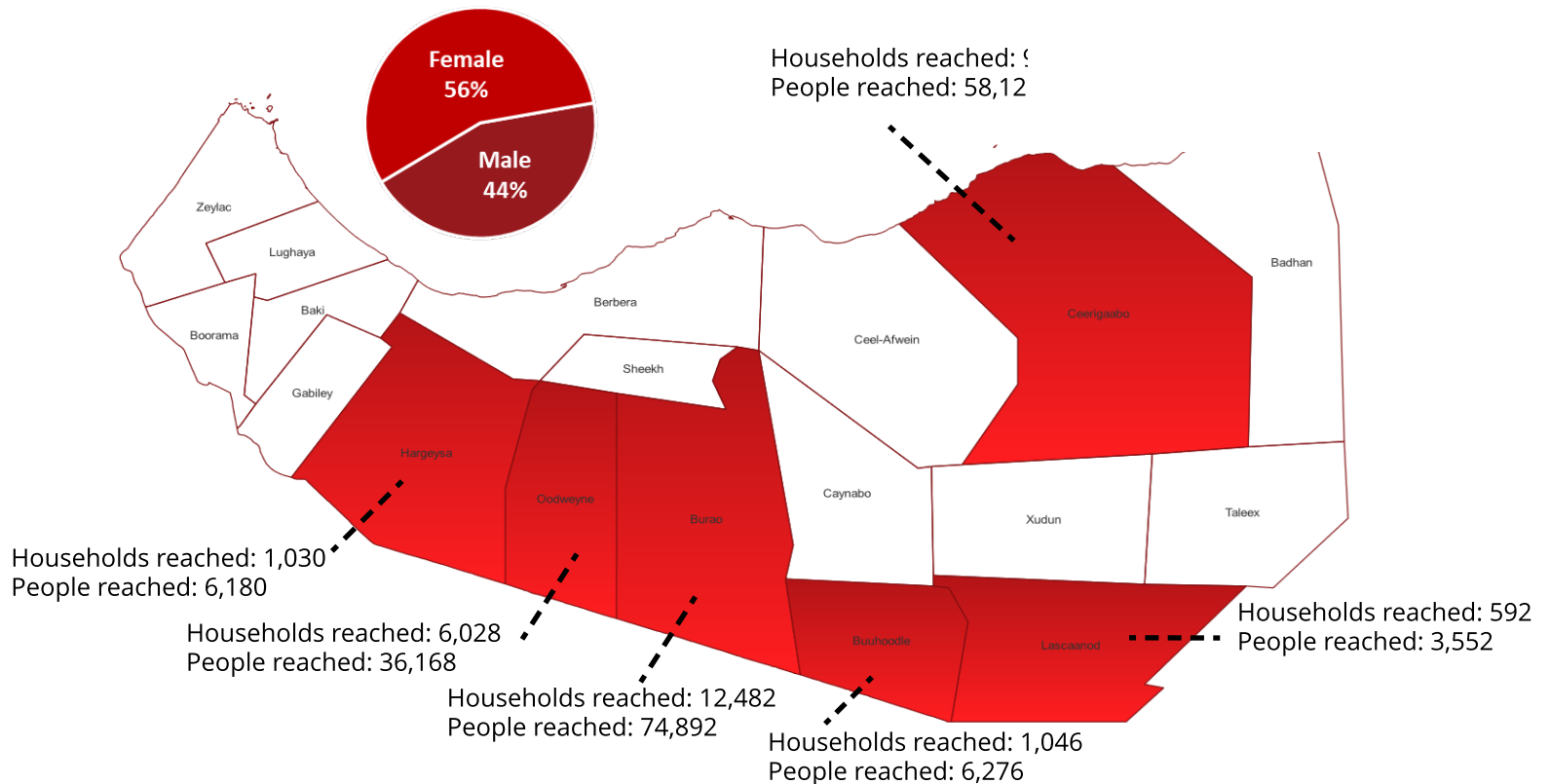
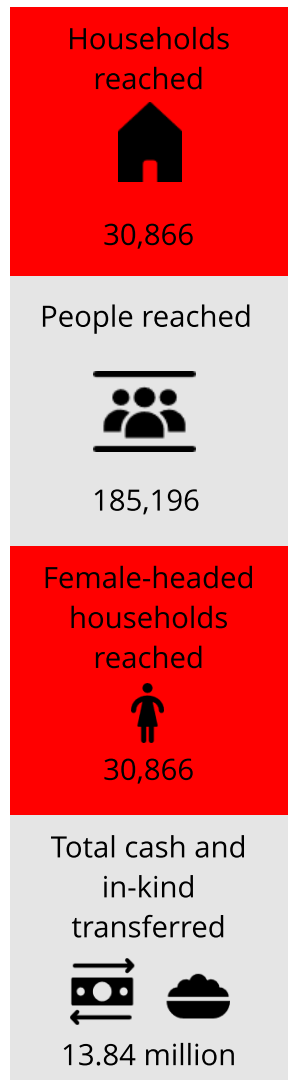
# ACTIONAID'S RESPONSE

The drought in East Africa is an ActionAid 'Red Alert' emergency and a federation-wide priority. ActionAid have been responding to the humanitarian crisis since 2021. The below infographics provide an overview of AA's response in 2022.

ActionAid Somaliland's response priorities are:

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- **Women-Led Community-Based Protection & Girls' Education:** Our approach involves providing cash grants to families to keep girls in school, or for women to start businesses; creation of women's safe spaces; training and capacity building of women to claim their rights; awareness raising and community dialogues on FGM and SGBV; referral pathways, establishment of women's coalitions and cooperatives; psychosocial support; and dignity kit distributions
- **Humanitarian Response & Resilience:** Our women-led interventions include multi-purpose cash, in-kind food supplies and NFIs if the markets are not functioning or accessible, construction of greenhouses and solar systems, agricultural inputs, rehabilitation and construction of classrooms and water infrastructure, and livelihood support including income diversification options, cash grants and agroecology training.



Thanks to our major donors for supporting ActionAid's Multisectoral Humanitarian Response



# ACTIONAID'S RESPONSE



ActionAid's protection activities have reached 27,180 rightsholders in 2022

## Gender-Based Violence

### Safe Spaces

Established 24 safe spaces for GBV referrals, awareness raising and PSS



### Referrals to:

Legal services: 60 women & girls  
Health services: 20  
PSS: 300



### 85 Women's Coalitions

Conducted GBV awareness raising to 10,000 people



### Dignity Kits

850 dignity kits for women and girls



## Women Empowerment

### Women's Revolving Fund

Among 930 women



### Women's Cooperative of a group of 20 women



### Self-Help Group of 930 women



### Rights and Feminist Leadership

Men and women have the knowledge and skills to claim their rights



## Policy and Advocacy

### Policy



- Advocating for Sexual Offences Bill
- Funding anti-FGM Somaliland policy
- Somaliland anti-FGM law (in progress)

### Advocacy & Coordination Platforms



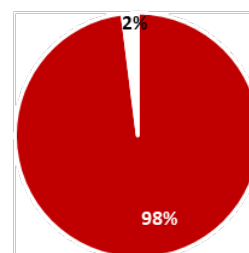
- Somaliland Gender Working Group
  - GBV Working Group
- Child Protection Working Group
  - Somalia Protection Cluster

## Female Genital Mutilation

- Community conversations with 3,000 community members.
- 3,000 youths participated in FGM Youth forum clubs.
- Trained 200 community stakeholders such as clan elites and Islamic scholars.
- Trained 50 community committees on SHEA and safeguarding.



Total people reached with FGM awareness raising  
15,000 people



FGM is prevalent among 98% of women of reproductive age

■ FGM Prevalence  
□ Zero Tolerance

Our community-based strategy stems from our understanding that shifts in gender relations and how girls and women are valued is central to challenging social norms and conventions that hold FGM in place. For collective abandonment, there is a need for local ownership and leadership, social change mobilisation and the diffusion of wider change. Our activities, including the ALM-FGM project are guided by this strategy.

There are 20 safe spaces established in Gabiley and one safe space in each of the Eastern regions in red on the right

