

## Impact of Drought on Protection in Somalia

Reporting period: 01 January 2021 – 31 October 2022

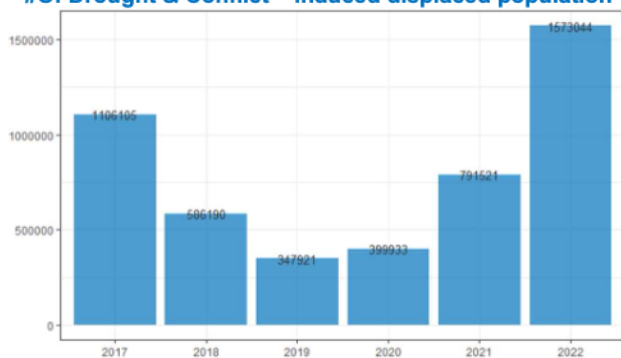
- Drought and conflict have caused **2.4 million** displacements of Somali women, children and men since the start of 2021. Drought is attributed to **1.3 million** displacements of people in search of food, livelihoods and water, with **1.1 million** due to conflict. Many displacements have been to urban areas, **43 per cent** between districts and **57 per cent** inter-district.<sup>1</sup>

### IDP Movement by Causes

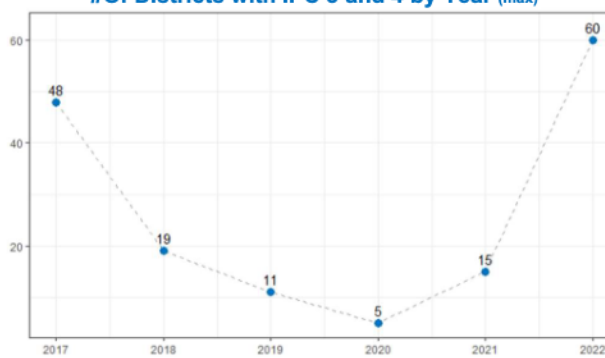


- The number of drought- and conflict-induced displacements reported so far in 2022 have surpassed the last highest number recorded in 2017, the peak of the previous drought, which also coincides with the highest number of districts with IPC 3 & 4 since 2017 (**60** in 2022 compared to **48** in 2017).<sup>2</sup>

#Of Drought & Conflict – induced displaced population



#Of Districts with IPC 3 and 4 by Year (max)



This shows a direct **correlation** between drought, subsequent food scarcity, and displacement, and suggests that displacement will increase as the drought and food scarcity worsens.

- Somali women, children, and men are already facing serious threats to their physical safety and other life-threatening protection risks. The worsening drought and subsequent food scarcity risk are increasing these threats and risks whilst exacerbating existing ones. This is against a backdrop of increasing humanitarian needs, access and security constraints, rapid urbanization, and structural issues that lead to the exclusion of minority groups.
- Since January 2021, nearly **848,000** Somalis reported drought induced displacements in search of food and water to districts that witnessed **11,000** reported protection violations during their displacement, in districts such as Afgooye and Banadir. Most of those displaced are women and children. Women have been the most affected, with **43 per cent** of these violations relating to sexual gender based violence (SGBV) whilst other types of violence, detention, killing and manslaughter incidents have involved significantly higher numbers of males.<sup>3</sup>
- As also reported by the Protection Cluster in 2017 during the peak of the last drought,<sup>4</sup> protection analysis continues to show that internal displacement in Somalia is a key driver of humanitarian and protection needs. Protection remains critical for the most vulnerable groups, especially women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and minority communities, requiring protection prevention and response activities, while food, shelter, and livelihoods have been identified as priority needs.

<sup>1</sup> PRMN (<http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>) – Displacement Matrix for reporting period

<sup>2</sup> <https://results.ipc.fsnao.org/so/> & <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/somalia-acute-food-insecurity-country-data>

<sup>3</sup> PRMN (<http://prmn-somalia.unhcr.org/>) – Displacement & Protection violation for the reporting period – Joint Analysis

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/old/assets/files/alerts/gpc\\_briefing-note\\_four-famines.pdf](https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/old/assets/files/alerts/gpc_briefing-note_four-famines.pdf)



## Recommendations

1. The HCT and donors to resource an integrated protection package into the multi-sector drought response, comprising of tailored, specialised protection services by geographical area. Community-based approaches in particular will be more successful with multi-year and flexible funding.
2. Protection actors to systematically verify findings in regular consultations with Minority, Women and Disability rights organizations, and ensure resourcing for such organizations to conduct assessment, verification, and data collection exercises.
3. The risks for persons with disabilities are heightened in situations of armed conflict and drought. All sectors must resource for and collect disaggregated data on sex, age, and disability.
4. Protection actors to map Minority, Women, and Disability rights organizations areas of coverage and level of community diversity in their areas of operation.
5. Protection actors to ensure that protection data is inclusive and accessible, keeping in mind the specific needs of persons with disabilities.
6. Prioritise initiatives that seek to reduce or mitigate the effects of detention for vulnerable individuals and marginalized groups.
7. Protection actors to develop area-specific key messages and advocacy points related to the protection risks outlined in this paper and ensure these issues are tabled at sub-national coordination meetings.
8. Sexual and Gender Based Violence violations for women and girls are rising yet they remain underreported. Local partners should ensure gaps or duplication in GBV and child protection are flagged at local coordination forums and to the Protection Cluster.
9. Request state and local authorities to prioritize the protection of civilians and to ensure the unimpeded movement of civilians and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) access through State-controlled areas without restriction.
10. Protection actors to ensure that the findings of the report are used for advocacy and engagement with the relevant authorities to address the protection risks faced by the affected communities.
11. Protection actors to support the capacity of minority-led organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities to participate in and contribute to protection-related programming.

The PRMN is a UNHCR-led project which identifies and reports on displacements as well as protection risks and incidents underlying such population movements. On behalf of UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), 38 local partners in the field in Somalia (South Central regions, Puntland and Somaliland) undertake data gathering (primarily through interviews with affected communities and key informants) and monitoring at strategic locations.

To request further details on displacement, please contact [SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG](mailto:SOMMOPMN@UNHCR.ORG)

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