KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE: DROUGHT#2

3rd Feb 2017: The latest findings from a countrywide seasonal assessment conducted in December 2016 indicate that over 2.9 million people face Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 and 4) across Somalia through June 2017. This represents more than two-fold increase compared to six months ago. Additionally, more than 3.3 million people are classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity across Somalia to over 6.2 million. In a worst-case scenario where the April-June Gu season performs even poorer than currently forecast, purchasing power declines to levels seen in 2010/2011, and humanitarian assistance is unable to reach populations in need, Famine (IPC Phase 5) would be expected. Urgent humanitarian assistance is needed to support over 2.9 million people who face acute food security Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phases 3 & 4). Scaling up life-saving humanitarian assistance urgently and providing livelihood protection support are equally important in slowing the tide of drought/hunger related displacement (FSNAU, 2nd February 2017).

EDUCATION SITUATION

Currently 378,741 children (165,739 girls) are enrolled in schools in drought affected areas. 30% of these children are in immediate risk of dropping – 113,622 children. This is an increase of more than 20,000 children since December alone. In addition, it is estimated that up to 50,400 school going children will be displaced due to the drought if the situation deteriorates to 2011 levels.

Student absenteeism is increasing in schools in areas affected by drought, as families rely on negative coping strategies including enlisting children to search for water resources. In Puntland 20,000 children have already dropped out due to the worsening drought. Rising food and water prices have cut into the incentives for teachers provided by parents and communities, resulting in teachers not showing up in schools, thus further jeopardizing children’s education. In Puntland 70% of school children do not have access to safe drinking water and 80% do not have access to food provision. In Somaliland 41% of school children do not have access to safe water and 77% have no access to food provision. In Central and Southern regions an estimated 90% of schools do not have access to safe drinking water.

EDUCATION RESPONSE STRATEGY

Lessons learnt from the 2011 famine show that many of the deaths of children caused by the drought could have been prevented if children had access to life-saving services at safe and protected schools that ensured children remained in school and surrounding communities were supported through reach out activities extending from school facilities. Safe learning environments and access to education are critical to ensuring that children displaced by or affected by drought are better able to cope, survive and recover from drought impacts and contribute to longer term peaceful development of Somalia. An existing community structure like the school serves as a unique entry point for other lifesaving services, including access to safe drinking, food, AWD/cholera prevention, and protection mechanisms reaching one of the most vulnerable groups – children.

The 1st priority for the Education Cluster is to support children where they live and ensure they can stay in school through provision of community-based school feeding and water in the schools, AWD/Cholera prevention and hygiene promotion, and the provision of appropriate teaching/learning materials.

The 2nd priority for the Education Cluster is to support children where they move to and ensure they can continue their education. Displacement due to the drought is increasing the pressure on the existing education facilities especially in urban areas. In addition to the life-saving assistance (food, water, AWD/Cholera prevention), establishment of temporary learning spaces, and provision of teaching/learning materials are required to ensure continued access to education, protection and survival.

EDUCATION =
Keep children alive + Protection + Future

Somalia Education Cluster Coordinator:
Sara Skovgaard, sskovgaard@unicef.org
Phone: +254-792745812

Photo: Save the Children Somalia

Somalia Education in Emergencies Working Group:
Muktar Ali Ahmed, Muktar.ali@savethechildren.org

Puntland Education in Emergencies Working Group:
Fatuma Ali Hassan, fahassan@unicef.org

Fatuma Ali Hassan,
fahassan@unicef.org

Photo: Save the Children Somalia
WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Failure to respond to the prevention of famine will put the lives of tens of thousands of children at risk. Failure to ensure children can stay in school and support those who are currently out of school will not only jeopardize their lives, but also their future. In the 2011 famine, an estimated 90% of the children who dropped out of school never returned. Children and youth who do not continue their learning are at great risk of joining the cohorts of out of school children and adolescents putting them at risk of harmful practices, especially child marriage, possible child labor and recruitment by armed groups. Conversely, a well-planned, adequately funded, effectively coordinated education response to prevention of famine will contribute to the realization of the right to life, education and a future.

ON-GOING EDUCATION RESPONSE

Education Cluster partners are already responding to the situation with priority 1 activities through reprogramming and private funding.

3,356 children in 16 primary schools are currently being supported with water provision and 7,600 children in 16 schools were reached in January with hygiene promotion to prevent children from AWD/Cholera.

Through CERF and SHF allocations in December 2016 and January 2017 partners are preparing to reach an additional 34,000 children with water and AWD/Cholera prevention and hygiene promotion, and 21,000 children will in addition be reached with food, teaching/learning materials (TLM) and teachers will be reached with emergency incentives in Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, Bari, Nugaal, Bay, Bakool, Galgaduud, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba and Gedo.

GAP IN EDUCATION RESPONSE

The Education Cluster has 70 national and international partners ready to respond all across Somalia. The main barrier for an effective response is insufficient funding and lack of donor prioritization of education in emergency.

For partners to reach the 92,622 school children in immediate risk of dropping out with priority 1 life-saving assistance from March to July 2017 additional USD 9,2 million is needed.

For partners to reach the 50,400 school going children who are in immediate risk of displacement due to the drought with priority 1 and 2 life-saving assistance from March to July 2017 USD 7,6 million is needed.

In total additional USD 17 million is needed to retain children in schools during the drought.

CALL FOR ACTION!

The Education Cluster strongly encourages donors and partners to take this opportunity to save the lives of thousands of children and give them a chance for a better future by:

- Funding Education partners to enable a prompt response in prevention of famine
- Prioritizing an integrated response across clusters and include schools and school children as a specific target group in WASH, Health, Food Security and Nutrition response projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>In the pipeline</th>
<th>Reached</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>3,356</td>
<td>113,622</td>
<td>76,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>113,622</td>
<td>92,622</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWD/ prevention</td>
<td>34,000</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>113,622</td>
<td>72,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLM</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>113,622</td>
<td>92,622</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD: Due to the severity of the situation the Education Cluster is piloting community based emergency school feeding. This community-based modality for provision of emergency support to the most vulnerable children will increase community resilience and is being determined in collaboration between the partners, the school management and the Community Education Committees.

WATER: Provision of water to schools is done in accordance with WASH Cluster standards. Partners are installing water storage at the school, providing water through water trucking or vouchers depending on the best modality for the specific location and Community Education Committees are trained in management of resources to ensure broader lifesaving impacts of education-related intervention and conflict mitigation to avoid conflict over access to resources.