

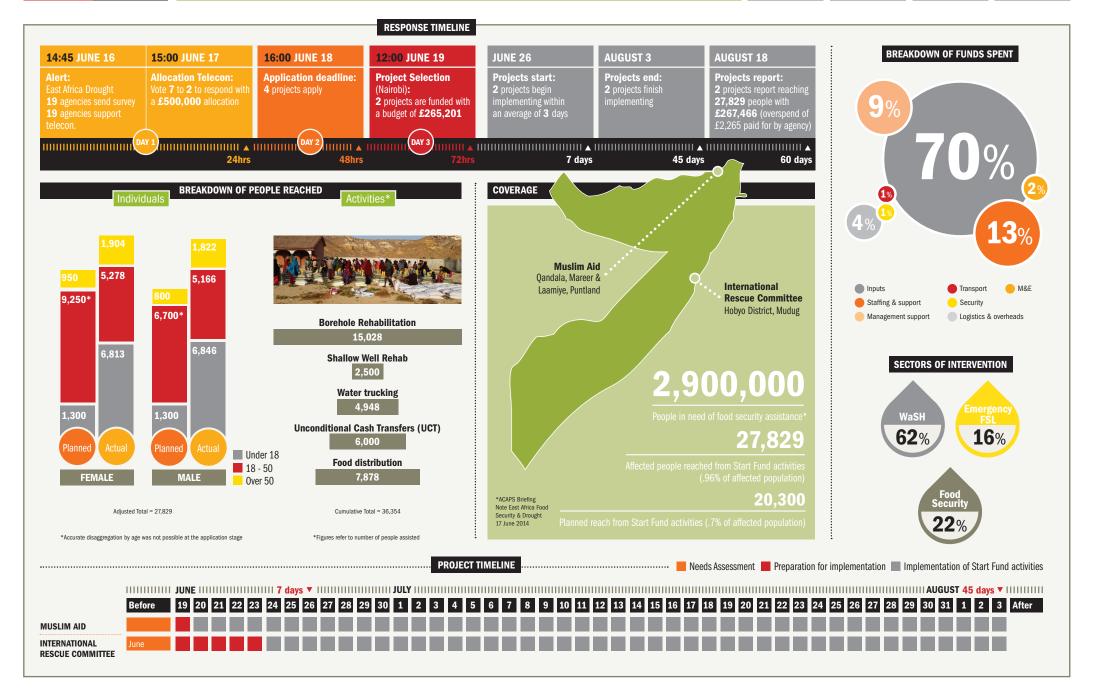
# **SOMALIA DROUGHT & FOOD INSECURITY:** June 16 - August 18 2014

**69** hours

FUNDS SPENT £267.466

PEOPLE REACHED (adjusted total - individuals 27.829

PEOPLE REACHED (cumulative total - activities) 36.354





## **SOMALIA DROUGHT & FOOD INSECURITY:** June 16 - August 18 2014







Ş	Pre-Start Fund
ESPO	During Start Fun
DITIONAL R	Post-Start Fund
8	Dataila of

additional response

DFID; ECHO (2,250,000 USD ≈ £1,360,000)

Providing for scale-up of activities started through the Start Fund for continuing the drought response





For drought affected people in

Puntland - Somalia

Implementing Partner	Implemented through sister organisation
Existing presence	Pre-existing programmes
Procurement	In country
Activities	<ul> <li>900 households in Bander-Beyla, Focaar, Mareer/Laamiya, Qandala</li> </ul>

 1,000 households received 100 USD in unconditional cash transfers to support their livelihoods

Direct implementation

Pre-existing programmes

In country

- 3 strategic boreholes were rehabilitated in 3 villages in Hobyo District, Mudug
- 5 shallow wells were rehabilitated in 2 villages in Hobyo District, each one directly used by 500 people



#### Additional Information

Follow-up activities are using the Start Fund's learning budget to evaluate the impact of aid delivery on the communities and estimate beneficiary satisfaction.

& Baarmadobe received

food baskets containing

50 kg flour, 50 kg rice,

25 kg sugar, 2.5 kg milk

833 households received

water through water

trucking system

powder and 3.33 kg pulses

6 litres cooking oil,

(lentils)

This programme focused on mitigating resource-based conflict resulting from migration of pastoralists across clan borders due to unbalanced water scarcity. While many pastoralists had already moved their livestock by the time the intervention started, quickly providing water resources kept the remaining pastoralists from leaving as well, and short-term cash support helped the families whose main livelihood assets had already left. Follow up learning activities are evaluating the impact of aid on pastoralist migration patterns in the region.

## **Intervention Summary:**

Already by June, erratic and delayed rains in the Horn of Africa had left an estimated 2.9 million people in need of food security assistance in Somalia alone. The below average rainfall from the October to December Deyr rains and the delayed April to June Gu rains is leading to two consecutive crop failures. Lack of pasture land and water have put vulnerable populations at high risk of not being able to meet their basic needs or maintain their livelihoods.

Agencies responded with Start Fund grants to provide emergency food and water assistance in Puntland and Mudug, reaching nearly 1% of the affected population with £267,466. For the first time, the project selection decisions were decentralised to the regional level (Nairobi). Agencies on the ground coordinated closely with international organisations and local authorities to avoid duplication and design better implementation.

The projects were implemented directly by staff in areas where the agencies had a pre-existing presence. Both projects integrated WaSH and food security activities. Not only did they focus on meeting the immediate needs of the targeted populations but also on reducing negative coping strategies.

Improving access to water sources for targeted communities was essential both to mitigate resource-based conflict between clans resulting from pastoralist migration and to decrease the impact of dwindling assets. WaSH activities involved rehabilitating boreholes and shallow wells and water trucking to remote areas. To address food insecurity, short term unconditional cash transfers in Mudug allowed households to purchase food and avoid selling off profitable assets. Food aid was distributed to villages in Puntland to cover basic nutritional needs. In both the food distributions and the cash transfers, the communities participated in selecting the aid recipients.

About 70% of budgets were spent on inputs, and projects reached 33% more people than planned. Affected communities were already in receipt of assistance by 26 June, only 7 days after receiving funding. Agencies also sourced about £1.36 million from other donors. This will reach 142,000 people at a similar rate, five times the footprint of the Start-funded projects themselves, for ongoing emergency response activities.

### Lessons from the Response:

Coordinating with local authorities ensured that food aid reached the targeted households.

- To reach remote locations, the transport convoys risked being looted by communities along the route. Staff
  coordinated with local authorities to manage expectations while passing these villages.
- Engaging with community leaders while loading, unloading and distributing aid helped prevent theft of food for selling in local markets.

Shifting decision-making to regional actors improved the process of selecting projects for the response.

- Project selection decisions at the London level differed significantly to those made at the Nairobi level. Nairobi committee members brought more intimate knowledge of the Somalia context that supported choosing the most relevant and best-placed projects.
- This local knowledge filled in information gaps on the briefing notes that are used in the process of selecting projects.
- One agency added protein (pulses) to its food baskets following recommendations from the regional selection committee.

Giving ownership about project implementation decisions to local people improved the quality of the responses but needed facilitation.

- Community feedback when deciding borehole locations resulted in savings that were re-invested to rehabilitate an additional borehole, allowing a neighbouring village to benefit as well.
- Women were not included when communities were asked to form elder committees to select the recipients
  for aid. This has led one agency to begin consultations with the communities about involving women in
  decision-making for future responses.