

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

IASC PRINCIPALS AD HOC MEETING

SUMMARY RECORD AND ACTION POINTS

11 August 2022

Introduction

Mr. Martin Griffiths, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and Chair of the IASC, convened an ad hoc IASC Principals meeting to discuss the situation in Somalia. He expressed his alarm over the sobering drought situation in Somalia, which had surpassed the 2010-11 and 2016-17 droughts in terms of duration and severity. Four consecutive failed rainy seasons have affected over 7 million people with over 1 million displaced, and as the next rainy season is projected to also underperform, humanitarian needs will continue increasing well into 2023. Hunger levels continued to rise with children affected the most.

The ERC sought the agreement of the IASC to declare IASC system-wide emergency activation procedures (Scale-Up) for Somalia. He urged IASC members to consider their capacity in country, particularly focusing on strengthening sub-national capacity and delivery. It was important to both scale up and work with humanitarian partners best placed to deliver assistance to affected people. In this vein, he noted the importance of getting funds to front line responders at scale and urgently. He informed of ongoing discussions to alleviate constraints and improve humanitarians' ability to access hard to reach areas.

The ERC also noted the importance of increasing collective advocacy on the crisis. He would be visiting Somalia at the end of the month and will be in New York afterwards pressing for more action and donor support during the General Assembly week. Regarding funding, the ERC noted that, although funds were being received later than expected, the Somalia response was now relatively well-funded, even though the needs would continue to grow in months ahead. He urged members to keep pressing for contributions as the crisis showed no sign of abating for months ahead. He would soon announce a CERF allocation to contribute to the response to send the message to donors that we still need their support. With current levels of funding, he noted it was imperative that the humanitarian system is able to live up to expectations and deliver at scale.

Discussion

IASC members echoed the ERC's grave concern on the seriousness of the situation and expressed their full support to declare the IASC system-wide emergency activation for Somalia. Principals expressed that they were already scaling up their activities, reorienting response towards famine prevention and prioritizing interventions targeted

at the most vulnerable populations in areas of highest need. Members also expressed the importance of focusing on Somalia but also the wider region, including Kenya and Ethiopia in light of the deteriorating situation there.

The Integrated Food Security Phase (IPC) Classification confirmed pockets of catastrophic food insecurity (Phase 5) affecting more than 230,000 people with some 7.1 million people acutely food insecure. While hunger is on the rise, in worst-affected areas, a third of all livestock have perished, decimating livelihoods. If crop and livestock production failed, commodity prices continued to rise, and the scale-up of humanitarian assistance was not sustained or increased, there was a reasonable chance that Somalia would face famine soon. Consequently, women and children continued to bear the brunt, constituting over 80 per cent of those people displaced by drought, with severely malnourished children more at risk of dying of infectious diseases. The situation was a multi-dimensional crisis, including in particular a protection, health and nutrition crisis.

Members overwhelmingly agreed that a key priority was to enhance capacity at the subnational level, including by frontloading early funding, increased operational presence through localization and timely scale up of humanitarian assistance to avert famine. They also noted the need to continue to mobilize more resources, particularly for protection, health and, nutrition, as the situation was likely to continue deteriorating. It was also important to keep the response to gender-based violence (GBV) and protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH) at the forefront of the response as IASC members scaled-up their activities. Similarly, there was a critical need to learn lessons from previous “IASC Scale-Up” interventions to ensure sustained investments in resilience, early warning, and a focus on durable solutions to ensure those affected by crises can adapt and thrive into the future. The need to focus equally on a human rights-based approach was also highlighted.

Members also noted the need to focus on field capacity and enabling an integrated and cohesive response. Members would continue to explore innovative approaches to reach inaccessible areas and augment their capacities in the region to respond to the increased demands, including by capitalizing on capacities of NGOs that already exists at the frontline. They also noted the importance of continuing work with the Somali government on addressing structural issues, such as land rights and displacement.

The ERC recapped the follow-up actions outlined below and recalled the importance of focusing on both life-saving interventions and durable solutions, including focusing more on protection, GBV, and PSEAH. He stressed the importance of collective messaging and advocacy and noted the need to develop capacity in this regard in the IASC. He added that he would reconvene IASC Principals in three weeks to sustain the response momentum and also consider the wider region.

Follow-up Actions

1. Declare system-wide emergency activation procedures (IASC Scale-Up) in Somalia effective immediately. **[IASC Members]**

2. Strengthen efforts, capacities and resources to address Protection, Gender-Based Violence, and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the initial phase of the response and report back on progress in these areas. **[IASC Members]**
3. Focus on reinforcing sub-national capacity and delivery, including by getting funds fast and at scale to front line responders. **[IASC Members]**
4. Coordinate with the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement on integrating a solutions approach to the response. **[OCHA]**
5. Galvanize efforts and attention to the Somalia response by developing a 1-year advocacy plan for Somalia. **[OCHA]**
6. Strengthen advocacy capacity within the IASC to support IASC's efforts to develop and implement advocacy plans for key crises. **[IASC secretariat with the support of OCHA]**
7. Reconvene IASC Principals to discuss progress in Somalia and Horn of Africa in 3-4 weeks. **[IASC secretariat]**

List of participants:

1. Mr. Martin Griffiths, Chair and **Emergency Relief Coordinator**
2. Mr. Laurent Thomas Deputy Director-General, **FAO**
3. Mr. Ignacio Packer, Executive Director, **ICVA**
4. Mr. Sam Worthington, President and Chief Executive Officer, **InterAction**
5. Ms. Janti Soeripto, President and Chief Executive Officer, **Save the Children United States**
6. Mr. Pierre Kremer, Deputy Regional Director for Africa, **IFRC**
7. Ms. Ugochi Florence Daniels, Deputy Director General for Operations, **IOM**
8. Ms. Joyce Msuya, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relied Coordinator, **OCHA**
9. Mr. Francesco Motta, Officer-in-Charge, Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, **OHCHR**
10. Mr. Andrew Morley, Chair of **SCHR** (President and Chief Executive Officer, World Vision International)
11. Ms. Sofia Sprechmann Sineiro, Vice Chair of **SCHR** (Secretary General of CARE International)
12. Ms. Mr. Sam Rizk, Officer-in-Charge, Crisis Bureau, **UNDP**
13. Mr. Ib Petersen, Deputy Executive Director, **UNFPA**
14. Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for the Refugees, **UNHCR**
15. Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
16. Ms. Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, Programme & Policy Development Department, **WFP**
17. Dr. Mike J. Ryan, Executive Director, Health Emergencies Programme, **WHO**
18. Ms. Mervat Shelbaya, Head, **IASC secretariat**