

Drought Needs Assessment, Somaliland

December 2015



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ACRONYMS

CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit- Somalia
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
KII	Key informant Interview
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IHART	International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (of ActionAid)
KII	Key Informant interview
LRP	Local Rights Programme (of ActionAid)
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NERAD	National Environmental Research and Disaster Management Authority
OIC-HCO	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Humanitarian Coordination Office
SWALIM	Somalia Water and Land Information Management - Somalia
UTI	Urinary Track Infection
VDC	Village Development Committee
WC	Women Coalition
HH	Household

Contents

Chapters	Particulars	Page
	Acknowledgement	iii
	Key findings and recommendations	iv-v
Chapter I :	Background and Overall Context	1
Chapter II :	The Drought Need Assessment	3
Chapter III :	Assessment Findings - Profile of the respondents	6
Chapter IV :	Assessment Findings - Impact of Drought on Affected Communities: <i>1) Water availability, (2) Farming, 3) Food security, (4) Livestock keeping, (5) Children, (6) Women and (7) Elderly people</i>	9
Chapter V :	Relief Interventions, Coordination, Immediate and Long term needs and Challenges during assessment	24
Chapter VI:	Conclusion	28
	Some Photographs	30
	Endnote	

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Ashangbam Swapan Kr. Singha

Key Findings

- **12300** persons of 2015 HHs(5% HH and 5% population) in the LRP villages are affected in worst form and **108133** persons (of **18021 HHs**) (40% population) affected severely;
- 35-40% families are facing acute water crisis for human and livestock consumption. Additional 50% families will no longer have access water from sources in respective village in next 15 days;
- Available water in water sources is not suitable for human consumption. But, people's awareness on quality/safety of water is limited, so water is explained by availability in quantity, not quality.
- As on date, the food security situation is grim. 89% families do not have food stock. Among the families who do have food stock, 74% are coping by buying food from the markets and others families are receiving support from the community. While most of them do not have income to buy food, price of staple food has almost doubled.
- Poorest families has reduced food intake by reducing number of times and items of food (milk, meat, vegetables), they normally consume. 10% families suffered hunger (suffered without food) during the week before the assessment.
- 35% families take food once a day and 55% families take food twice a day. It has contributed to malnutrition of children, women and elderly persons;
- Starvation and malnutrition have affected more than 50% of children, women and elderly persons;
- 35-40% of livestock died due to scarcity of fodder, pastures and water. The livestock is also facing drought health problems like diarrhoea;
- 78% of the families do not have fodder stock. More than 40% (part family members) have migrated along with their livestock to coastal area in search of water and pastures;
- High incidence of water and personal hygiene and sanitation related diseases is widespread like diarrhoea, urinary tract infection (UTI). The incidence among children and women are even higher.
- Work pressure on children has increased. 48% of children are malnourished and 46% of them are exposed to various health risks;
- Work pressure on women has increased. 50% women are exposed to various health risks;
- Elderly persons have also exposed to health risk;
- Communities coping mechanisms has almost exhausted;
- Government is poorly resourced to address the impact of the disaster and unable to mobilise resources;
- Though the international Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for whole Somalia was only 36 percent funded, there was no allocation of the Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), 2015 in drought hit Maroodi-Jeh and Gabiley regions of Somaliland.
- Though there are plans for intervention, aid agencies are yet come up with clear intervention plan; and
- Coordination among Government and Aid agencies has been weak.

As forecasted, if the impact of El - Nino get extended till 2016 and if the Gu rain fails in next season the situation will deteriorate further to an extreme situation. It will be a massive disaster for the nation, which will call for major relief operation.

Recommendations on immediate needs

The situation calls for urgent relief intervention to reach out to 30-40% of worst affected and most marginalised population till next harvest season. By the end of next two months of remaining population, at least additional 20-25% will require relief support. The interventions will require coordination with Government and other aid agencies for effectiveness, cooperation and technical mutual support.

- The relief requirement includes food, water, fodder, cash and health care (both for human and livestock);
- Awareness programme and trainings on water purification and personal hygiene and increase availability of water treatment chemicals and filtration systems;
- 30-35% most vulnerable families (women headed households, families with elderly persons) desperately need relief support at the earliest to avoid further suffering till next harvest season;
- Preparation for more relief support to new entrants of communities in difficult circumstances (20-25%), who will exhaust their food, water, fodder in next two months;
- Cash for work and support for livelihoods activities in Gu season and infrastructure development for water conservation;
- Advocacy engagements and effective coordination with the Ministries and aid agencies for resource mobilisation and relief delivery to avoid further suffering.

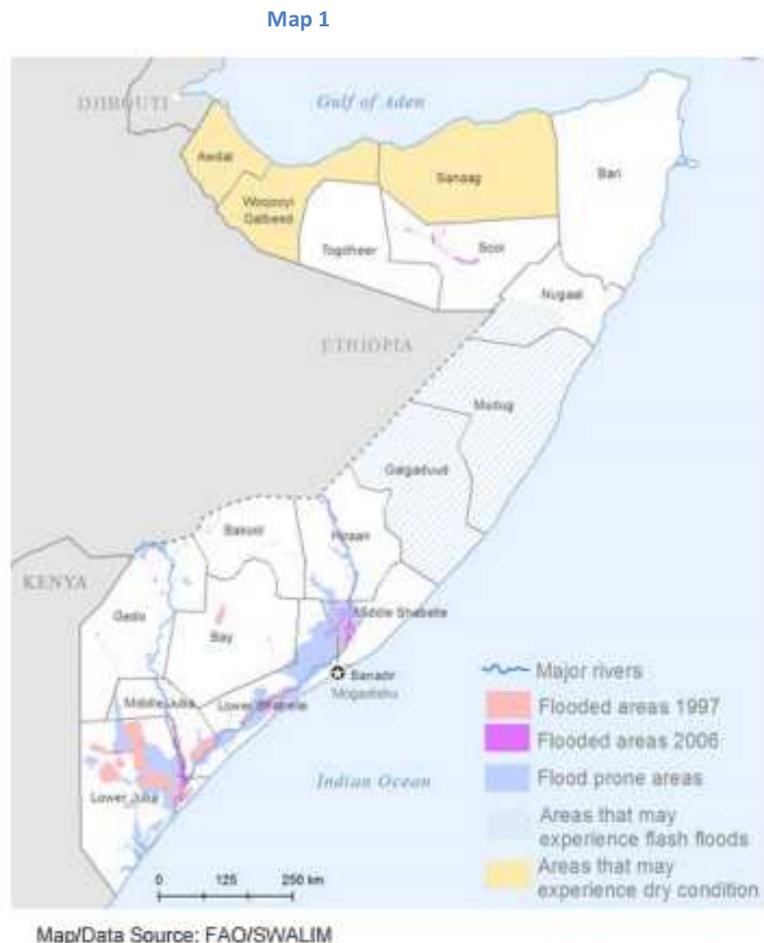
Recommendations on long term needs

- The recommendations on long term needs are in the last chapter. The recommendations given are suggestive and will require further deliberations as time was too short for detail recommendation.

Chapter I: Background and Overall Context

Somaliland is experiencing

a severe drought affecting more than 240,000 people (40,000 households)¹ due to harsh climatic conditions triggered by El-Nino phenomenon. The post-Gu (April-May) season analysis by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)/Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), Somalia, published in October 2015, indicated dry conditions in north western parts of Somaliland and has classified these regions as being in “crisis” and “emergency”². The “areas that may experience dry condition”, predicted (Somalia Water and Land Information Management) by FAO/SWALIM (published in October, 2015), shown in **Map 1**, have been experiencing drought. The situation is triggered by shortfall of rains in Gu seasons in 2014 and 2015.



In 2014, Gu rain was delayed and was erratic, leaving community vulnerable, grazing land dried up and failure of agriculture production in the regions. In 2015, Gu rain was received only in the eastern regions of Somaliland. However, the western regions and coastal areas from Zaila to Sahil didn't have any rains other than spotted rains in coastal areas of Sanaag region. The north western parts of Somaliland did not have any rain. As forecasted, Woqooyi Galbeed and Awdal regions (also known as Maroodi-Jeh and Gabiley region) did not receive Dyer (September-December) rainfall till date, worsening the situation further. The people also experienced high temperatures especially in the coastal area. According to the Rapid Assessment of Somaliland Drought, conducted by Organisation of Islamic Cooperation- Humanitarian Coordination Office (OIC-HCO), the drought has affected six regions namely Awdal, Salal, Maroodijeeh, Gebiley, Hawd and Sahil³. Concerns loom large as there is likely El Nino phenomenon for months in 2016 and predicted severe impact.

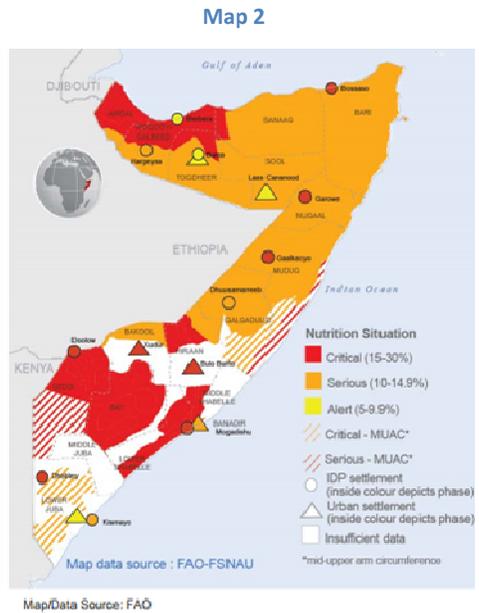
¹Drought in Somaliland- Somalia NGO consortium report, <http://somalianoconsortium.org/docs/key/17/2015/1442426615.pdf>

² Humanitarian Bulletin, Somalia, October 2015, OCHA, http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/pdf_bulletin_today.pdf

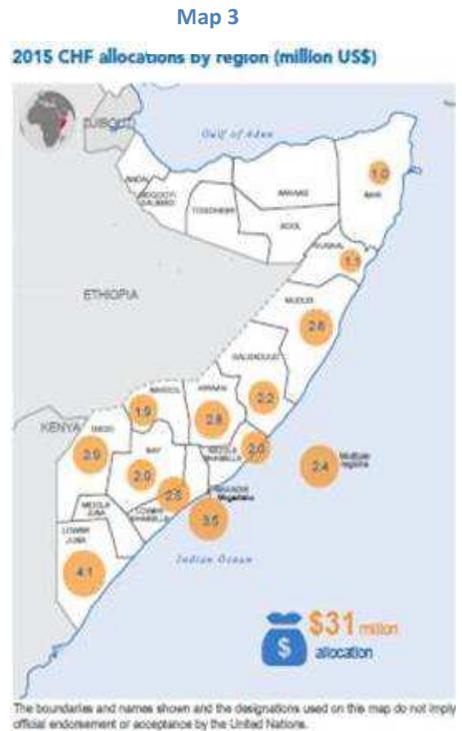
³ Rapid Assessment of Somaliland Drought, OIC-HCO, 23-26 August, 2016, <http://somalianoconsortium.org/docs/key/4/2015/1441597710.pdf>

The communities in the most affected regions - Maroodi-Jeh and Gabileyare agro-pastoralists and pastoralist. These regions are also considered as the food basket of the country. Failure of rainfall in two consecutive Gu seasons resulted acute shortage of water for farming, livestock and human consumption. These triggered shortage of food, fodder, rapidly drying pasture and water. Consequently, malnutrition has increased among the infants, children, elderly persons, women- especially pregnant and lactating mothers.

According to Save the Children, *“malnutrition rates – especially among the children under the age of five – are currently at alarming rates and are likely to increase further”*. **Map 2**, prepared by FAO/SWALIM (published in October 2015) shows nutrition situation. It indicated Maroodi-Jeh and Gabileyare regions are critical. The OIC-HCO reported death of 13 children and elderly people, which is associated with drought related complications. The report also highlighted 35-40% death of livestock – camel, goats, sheep and cattle due to shortage of water and fodder/grass. It has also observed cross-regional migration seeking assistance for food, water and grass. Many villages are vacated by inhabitants due to the drought. The Somalia NGO consortium reported that affected communities have been taking desperate steps to cope with the situation that include skipping meals due to shortage of food and consuming contaminated water.



The Government of Somaliland declared drought on August 10, 2015 and appealed to Governments and organisations to support with food items, water and health services to cater for the affected people. So far Government provided relief materials to the tune of US\$ 150,000. The intervention could support (food items and water) only 3200 households of the 40,000 affected households in the country. This indicates lack of resources with the Government to address the impact and its inability to mobilise resources. Aljazeera reported in October⁴ that *“aid group have distributed rations of flour, sugar, rice and cooking oil and are treating rising malnutrition in the region but support so far is insufficient to meet the needs of the affected people”*. As per the report of Aljazeera, the international Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for whole Somalia was only 36 percent funded. As per the Somalia: Humanitarian Funding Snapshot (30 November 2015)⁵ published by OCHA, 31 million US\$ was allocated in Somalia. However, the 2015 Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) Allocation, shown in **Map 3**, indicate that there was no allocation in drought hit Maroodi-Jeh and Gabileyare regions of Somaliland.



⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/11/somaliland-parched-earth-151130112224968.html>

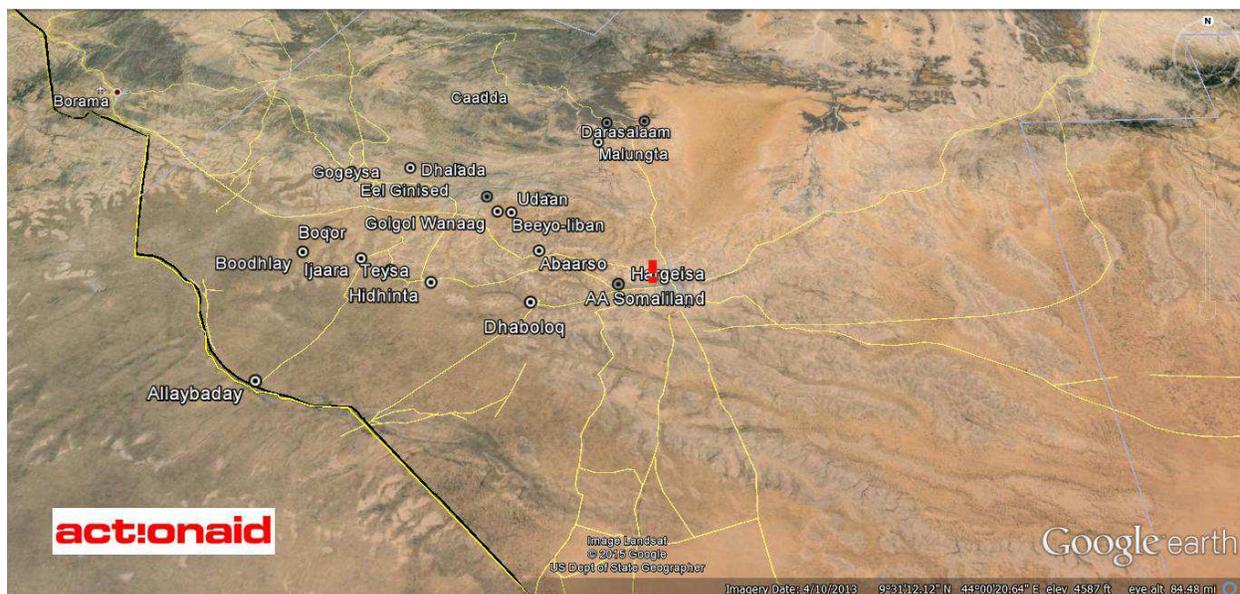
⁵ <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Humanitarian%20Funding%20Snapshot%2C%2030%20November%202015.pdf>

Chapter II: The Drought Need Assessment

With the background and context described in Chapter I, ActionAid Somaliland conducted the Need Assessment of drought affected communities in 3 Local Rights Programme (LRPs) areas of ActionAid, in Marood-jeh and Gabiley regions.

Three LRPs cover 30 communities, shown in **Map 4 below**, in Marood-jeh and Gabiley regions. As per the baseline survey conducted by ActionAid Somaliland in 2012, the total population in 30 communities was estimated 269797 persons (44968 household)ⁱ. These communities are agro-pastoralist. A study conducted by ActionAid Somaliland (AAS) in December 2014 quoted, settlements were established along the dry rivers in the two regions Marood-jeh and Gabiley- and farmers began growing sorghum and maize as subsistence crops. Even today, sorghum and maize remain the principal rain-fed crops grown in this area with very limited inputs mainly in the form of labour and seed. The study also reported that on an average, each household in the area owns 15 sheep, 16 goats, 3 cattle and 1.5 camels. While the minimum may be 0, the maximum number livestock a household own is 130 sheep, 111 goat, 22 cattle, 70 camel, 50 poultry and 4 donkeys⁶.

Map 4: ActionAid Somaliland LRP locations



The objectives of the LRPs are to ensure (i) food security and promote endogenous development through the improvement of agricultural production, the development of new commercialization channels and the promotion of women’s entrepreneurship and (ii) that women break the cycle of exclusion, access to justice, control and own productive resources. These projects have also taken up programmes for disaster risks reduction through livelihoods and water conservation efforts. Since March 2013, ActionAid have constructed 74 shallow wells, 13 sand dams, 14 earth dams and rehabilitated 85 berkads for conservation of water. They have also trained farmers on water management, and have

⁶ Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Production in Maroodijeeh and Gabiley Regions (Somaliland), ActionAid Somaliland, page 12, 24

planted 1200 square meter elephant grass for retaining fertility of the soil; 2400 metre contour lines were constructed. They have also supported 72 water pumps and 7200 metre pipe to communities for irrigating farms. Further 9,000 tillage (tractor hours) supports were provided to 10,970 household to plough their farm lands. The farm support went along with training of 3,300 farmers on agriculture techniques. 54 grassroots women's coalition was part of the development activities and DRR carried out.

The objectives of the assessment are:

- To gather more detailed information on the overall context and situation of affected communities and on the extent and type of the most critical humanitarian needs, both in the immediate and longer term,
- To assess the impact and effectiveness of the emergency response efforts to date through consultations with stakeholders,
- To work with the affected communities to understand the true nature of the disaster, its impact on the communities and its underlying causes; and to understand the needs and biggest concerns of the affected communities in order to develop an appropriate immediate and longer term program response linked to country programme longer term development plans,
- To assess the likelihood of additional future problems or needs,
- To increase coordination and experience sharing between drought/disaster management actors like NERAD and Oxfam in order to ensure coordination and avoid overlap of activities.

The scopes of the assessment are:

- i. Validation of areas with extensive risks and vulnerabilities
- ii. Perceptions on drought , appreciation for drought preparedness – technical and experiential
- iii. Situation and Adaptation strategies
 - a) Availability of water for the communities affected
 - b) The general condition of livestock and crop production after the Karan and Deyr rains failed.
 - c) Food security, nutrition and livelihood, (and health) of the affected communities
 - d) Children, women, boys, disabled persons, elderly, and other vulnerable groups how it affected
 - e) Education
- iv. Current drought strategies / actions and plans–communities, stakeholders (CSOs and duty-bearers)
- v. Institutionalization and mainstreaming efforts – in policies, programs, budget, organizational structures , plans (land use, etc)
- vi. Early Warning Systems
- vii. Cross-cutting issues – gender, protection
- viii. Potentials for capacities

Methodology:

We have used both quantitative and qualitative methodologies of research. Quantitative data was collected through structured questionnaire and qualitative data was generated through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key informant interviews (KIIs).

For quantitative data, 5 villages from among 30 LRP covered villages are identified as sample, based on the prevalence of drought situation (ranging from high to lower impacts). We drew 96 respondents, representing respective **households**ⁱⁱ, as random samples from selected 5 villages for the assessment. To complete data collection and entry simultaneously in 3 days, we used mobile data collection system (ODK Collect) on tablets running Android Operating System. The system generated first round of analysis, which was further analysed through using MS Excel.

To collect qualitative information, FGDs and KIIs are conducted to understand overall situations of in the sampled villages. 4 FGDs (2 with members of women’s coalition and 2 with men group) and 4 community KIIs (2 leaders of women’s coalition and 2 Village Leaders of Village Development Committee are conducted.

To develop understanding of overall context and impacts of the affected communities, secondary information are collected and analysed based on various reports, bulletins prepared by various Government and non-government organisations, especially – OCHA, Somalia NGO Consortium, OIC-HCO and FAO. It was validated by KIIs interview with few key stakeholders that include Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Somaliland, the National Environment Research and Disaster Management Authority (NERAD), Somaliland, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Oxfam, Somaliland.

The data and information collected are triangulated and analyzed to generate a critical analysis of the situation and assess immediate and long term needs of the affected communities in the 3 LRPs. We also captured the risks in the most vulnerable sections communities – women, children, elderly and their specific needs.

Timeline of the study

23-27 Nov	28-30 Nov	30 Nov -2 Dec	3 Dec	4 Dec	7 Dec	10 Dec
- Secondary research	Training of	Data analysis	De-briefing	Report	Submiss	Submis
- Preparation of assessment tools	enumerators	Preparation of	with AA	writing	ion of	sion of
- Pilot test of assessment tools	and data	de-briefing on	Somaliland		draft	Final
- Finalization of tools	collection	finding	team		Report	Report
- Setting up mobile data collection system						

Chapter III: Assessment Findings - Profile of the respondents:

1. Demographic Profile

The sample for the assessment comprises of 96 respondents, out of which 52% are female and 48% are male. Sample captures the age diversity - 31% are 15-35 years, 60% are between 35-65 years, and 9% are above 65.88% are married, 7 % are widowed, 3 % are separated, and 2% are unmarried. A majority of 82% belongs to male headed households, 16% female headed households and 2% children headed household.

2. Livelihoods profile

The communities living in the assessment area are agro-pastoralist. They have multiple livelihoods that include farming, livestock keeping and petty trade. 96% of respondents have farms. The following table shows percentage of households with area of land owned by them.

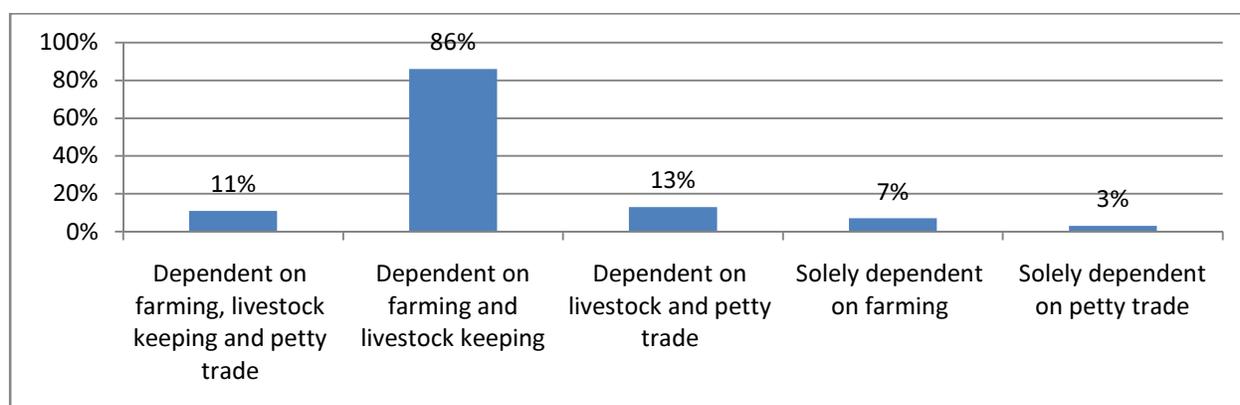
Area of land (<i>5 qoodi = 1 hectare</i>)	<=5 <i>qoodi</i>	>5<=10 <i>qoodi</i>	>10<=15 <i>qoodi</i>	>15<=20 <i>qoodi</i>	>20 <i>qoodi</i>
% of households	22%	31%	20%	11%	16%

Source: Survey data

The respondents said all their farmlands are rain fed land. However, during FGD in Gogolwanag village, though insufficient, especially in such a spell of drought, communities acknowledged having water ponds with plastic sheets to irrigate their farms.

Analysis of the data collected shows that 86% of the respondents/households do both farming and livestock keeping. 11% of the households had all three activities mentioned as their livelihoods. Only 3% of the households are fully dependent on petty trade. The petty trades include *qaad*⁷ stall, tea stall, milk vending, grocery shop, vegetable vending etc. The **Graph 1** in the below shows combinations of the livelihood activities of the respondents/households in the area.

Graph 1: Percentage of HH with combination of livelihoods



⁷ *Qaad*, also known as *Khat*, is a plant whose leaves and stem tips are chewed for their stimulating effect. The after effects are usually insomnia, numbness and lack of concentration.

The farming households cultivate staple foods like sorghum and maize for their own consumption. They store foods in granaries as preparation for difficult times, and sell their food products if and only if they have a surplus, after keeping stock for feeding their livestock during fodder crisis. Only in Gogolwanag village, the farmers also produce cash crops like oranges, guava, papaya, sesame and vegetables like – onion, pepper, tomatoes, cabbage etc.

Among the petty traders, *qaad* retailers in the villages are doing good business even in the distress situation. During FGDs, communities mentioned consumption of *qaad* has not reduced, so the situation has not affected the *qaad* retailers. Since most of the *qaad* retailers also runs tea stalls, their business and income has not suffered. As majority of livestock has been transferred/migrated to coastal region seeking pastures and water, availability of milk reduced. The remaining livestock in the village become weak and produce less milk. So milk vendors are one of the worst affected retail traders. Even in case of grocery shops and vegetable shops the sale has decreased drastically due to reduction of purchasing power of the communities and increased price of most of the food items, including staple foods.



A 70 years old lady from Gogolwanag village has been trading milk for the last 30 years. She used to trade 300 litres of milk per day in Hargesia till 2013, earning 8 US\$ a day. After onset of the drought, her trade suffered and she sells 20-20 liters (4 jerrycans) of milk a day, which earn her 1 US\$ or even less. She said, *“The production of milk has reduced as the livestock are weak, most of livestock migrated. It has been very difficult for my family to survive with 1 US\$ a day.*

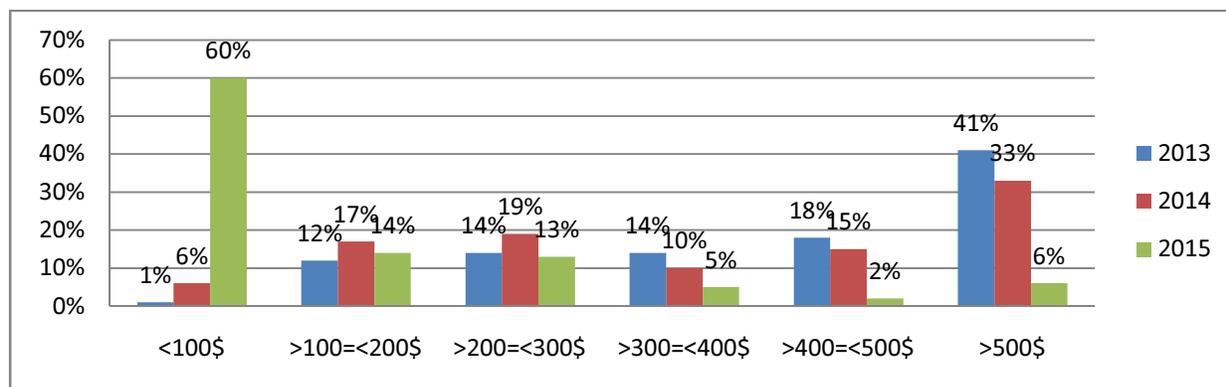
If the situation worsens and more livestock dies, I do not know how I will survive! Those families who supply milk to me are equally suffering as milk used to give daily cash, though small amount. We all need immediate food, water relief for human and livestock”.

3. Income profile

The major sources of income of the community are farming and livestock. The income of the communities has reduced due to crop failure, death of livestock and weak health of livestock. *“Even those livestock, which are surviving are weak and malnourished. There is no buyer for such livestock. We desperately need water and fodder to save our livestock - the core source of income”*, said by Abdulrahman, Village Head of Ijara village. During the FGDs and KII in villages, communities expressed similar opinion on reduction in income. They said drought has not only affected income farmers and livestock keepers, but also of the petty traders as purchasing power of the communities have reduced drastically. The following **Graph 2** shows a trend of falling income of the respondents in 2013-2015. The percentage of respondents in income category of below 100 US\$ increased from 1 to 60 respondents, while respondents in income category of above 500 US\$ reduced from 42 to 6 respondents. However, it is pertinent to mention that question on how income was calculated was raised during a de-briefing meeting with AA Somaliland team. Though it was difficult for the enumerators to assess income of

respondents from all sources, the enumerators made best effort to cross check. This is an area to explore to deepen our understanding on income by developing tools for family calculating income of the communities. However, the assessment gives indication of income trend of the affected communities.

Graph 2: Percentage of HH in income brackets during 2013-2014



4. Any other source of income

When asked about additional sources of income, 34% respondents replied having additional sources of money. Of the respondents, who had other source of money, 36% received remittances from family members working outside the village, 64% received cash relief from NGOs. However, frequency and amount of the money was not asked during the interview. The above mentioned study conducted by AAS reported that “contrary to the assumption that remittances from relatives as source of income was rated insignificant”⁸. During the FGDs, community members told that since there is no social security programme, they do not receive any monetary support, except very limited food and water support as a relief. It is worth mentioning that the Government has to come up with a Relief Manual.

5. Affected population and severity of impact *(endnote ‘’for details)*

Analysis within ActionAid, Somaliland team indicates that 5% is worst affected in 4 LRPs, 40% of the population are severely affected in 8 villages. Remaining 55% of the population in 18 villages are also partly affected. However, their coping capacity will dwindle in the next few months and deteriorate.

Table 1: Affected population and severity of impact

Population	Households	% of affected population	% of affected Households
12300	2050	5	5
108133	18021	40	40
149364	24897	55	55
269797	44968	100	100

Source: survey data

⁸ Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Production in Maroodijeeh and Gabiley Regions (Somaliland), ActionAid Somaliland

Chapter IV: Assessment Findings - Impact of Drought on Affected Communities

The drought has impacted lives and livelihoods of the communities. The assessment looked in sectors of extreme importance for lives and livelihoods of the communities. It emphasises on the impacts on (1) water availability, (2) farming, (3) food security and (4) livestock keeping. We have also assessed impact on the most vulnerable like children, women and elderly people, and have captured how communities are coping in the distress situation. We have assessed if Gu rain fails in 2016 due to impact of El – Nino or land Nino, if extends till 2016, as forecasted.

1. Sources of water and impact on availability of water at the sources

Sources of water, ownership and management:

Human and livestock use the same sources of water in normal times, which include earth dam, sand dams, berkads (underground cistern), shallow well and pond with rubber sheets. In normal times, 48% respondents have to travel less than 2 km; 27% travel 2 to less than 4 km; 12% travel 4 to less than 6 km; and 13% travel 6 Km or more to fetch water. During FGDs we are told that while earth dam, sand dam, shallow well are owned communally, majority of the berkads and pond with rubber sheets are owned by individual households. NGOs, including Concern World Wide, ActionAid and FAO supported communities to construct earth dams, sand dams, shallow wells, berkads and pond with rubber sheets for the communities. Though there is no water committee in the villages for management of water sources and uses, the Village Development Committee (VDC) assume the role whenever required. But women are hardly given opportunity to take part in discussions and management of the water sources as told by Abdulrahman, Village Head of Ijara village.

The drought has created an acute shortage of water in the area. During group discussion, communities expressed that they use multiple sources as coping mechanism as water scarcity has been a recurrent issue. Analysis of the data collected from household survey shows that 46% respondents access water from earth dams, 25% from berkads, 12% from pond with rubber sheets, 10% from shallow wells and 7% from sand dams. During field visits shallow well was found only in Gogolwanag village. Mr. Abdul-Rashid Arab Jama, the Village Head said that shallow well is a reliable source of water for the village. However, he was not sure -how long communities can access water from the source?

Availability of water at the sources for human consumption:

79% of the respondents said water is currently available at sources in respective villages. Our observation is that only about 30-35% HH are accessing water from the existing sources and the water available are contaminated and not suitable for human consumption. This is also confirmed by the **Graph 3**, in which 34% respondents commented that there is no water that they can access from sources for human consumption. It implies though water is available, water may not be safe for consumption.

About the quality of water at the sources in respective villages, 54% of the respondent thinks the water is safe for drinking. We are told during sharing meeting in ActionAid Somaliland that people's awareness on quality/safety of water is limited, so water is explained by availability in quantity, not quality. But those who feel water is not safe, 33% said the water is contaminated as it is being used by human and livestock. It has bad odour (25%), muddy coloured (23%) and bad taste (29%) (**Add on is more than 100% as the respondent might have choice more than one reason**). It contradicts with the outcomes of

the FGDs and KIIs conducted and observations during the field visit as water in all sources seems contaminated and not fit for human consumption, except in very few berkads.

Only those who cannot afford to buy water continue to consume water available at the sources, except in case of Gogolwanag village, where communities are still accessing water from a shallow well, which seems safe. During FGDs and KIIs, communities briefed about the available sources of water and status of water availability as shown in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Information collected through FGD and KII on water source and water availability at sources

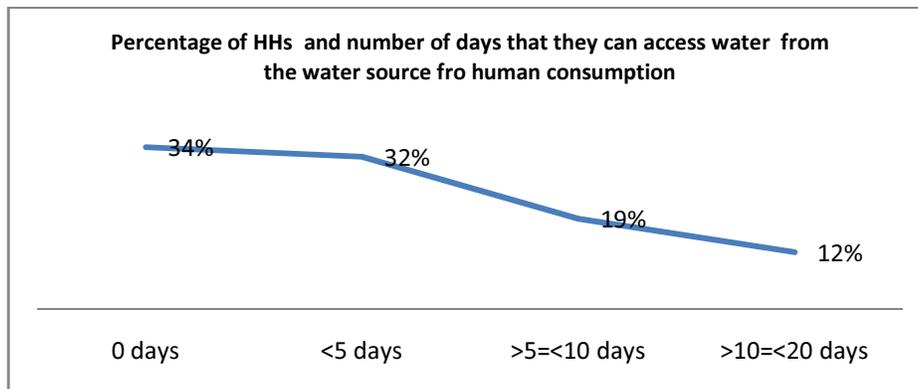
Village	Drinking water sources/water availability	Shallow well	Earth dam	Berkads	Remarks
Hidhinta	Number		10	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available water in the berkads is contaminated and stinks. The colour of water was green. Poorest families continue to consume this water - Families who can afford buy water supplied by tankers from Arabsiyo, 15 km. from the village, at 70 US\$ per tanker.
	Water availability as on date		0	10	
Abaarso	Number		4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 berkads are privately owned and water is available in those 2 berkads
	Water availability as on date		0	2	
Ijara	Number		15	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water are bought and supplied by tankers from Gabiley at 80 US\$ per tanker - Available water in the village can hardly sustain for 2/3 weeks for those who are using water from berkads.
	Water availability as on date		0	8	
Bodhlay	Number	11	No information	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available water in the earth dam is contaminated and muddy. It is consumed by both human and livestock. Poorest families continue to consume the water. - Better off families store water in ponds with rubber sheets by carrying water from the earth dams by a tanker. - Water available can sustain hardly for a week, for whoever is using. - Get water from Borehole located in Boqor village or Gabiley, 8 km. from the village, the transported by water tanker at 80 US\$.
	Water availability as on date	2	No information	No information	
Gogolwanag	Number	1	No information	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently, water for human consumption and livestock is available at the source. However, not sure of how long the source will sustain.
	Water availability as on date	1	No information	No information	

Source: Survey data

When it comes to water availability in the source, the respondents shared their concerns and expressed that water at the source will not last for long. **Graph 3** below shows percentage of households which can

access water from their respective village sources. 34% respondents do not have water at the source. 32% respondents can access water from the source for 5 days, 19% can access for less than 10 days but less than 5 days and 12% can access for less than 20 days but more than 10 days.

Graph 3: Access to Water for human in the affected villages

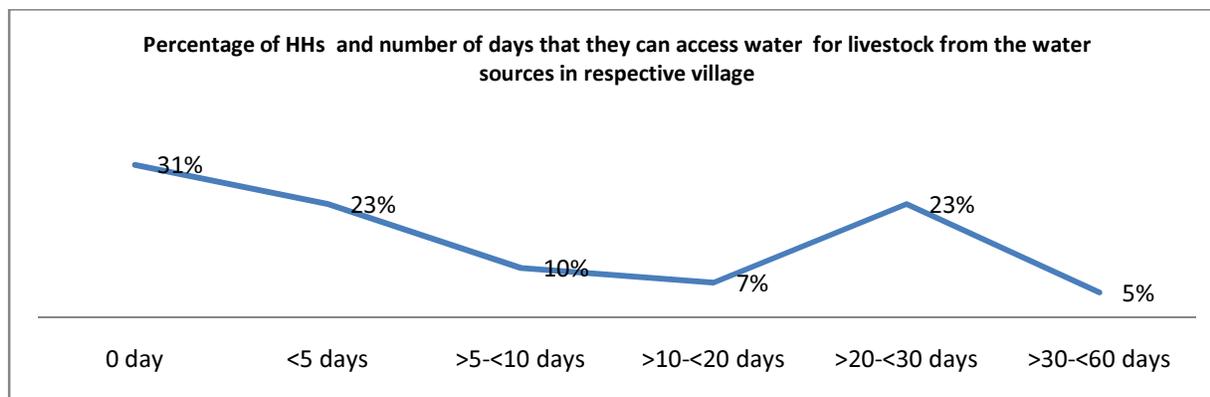


Source: Survey Data

Availability of water for livestock:

Currently, 31% respondents said that the water at sources has exhausted for feeding livestock and 69% expressed there are water available at the sources in the respective villages. Among those who responded, water is available in the villages, 23% respondents had opined that the stock of water in the village can sustain less than 5 days, 10% said it will last for 10 days, 7% said it will last for 20 days. The **Graph 4** below shows percentage of households that can avail water from various village sources for range of number of days.

Graph 4: Access to Water for livestock in the affected villages



Source: Survey data

Coping mechanisms to access water for human consumption and livestock:

66% respondents buy water from within or outside the village both for human and livestock consumption. The data also show that 3% respondents, who do not own livestock and dependent on petty trade, do not buy water for livestock.

Coping water requirements for human consumption: Respondents who cannot access water from within the villages due to water shortage are coping through multiple means. 24% buy water supplied by water tanker, 41% fetch water from neighbouring villages and 35% fetch it from any other sources. During FGDs and KII in the villages, the respondents expressed that the consumption of water has reduced and women in the family take additional role of rationing water. 100% respondents said they are compromising with drinking and cooking needs, 76% reduced water use on washing and cleaning, 59% on hygiene needs because of water scarcity (*add on is more than 100% as the respondent might have reduced consumption of water in more than one uses*). Women Coalition members in FGDs in Hidhinta and Abaarso expressed that reduction in water consumption has impacted on hygiene and sanitation practices of the affected people, especially women and children. It has contributed to water and sanitation related health problems like diarrhoea, skin diseases, urinary tract infection (UTI).



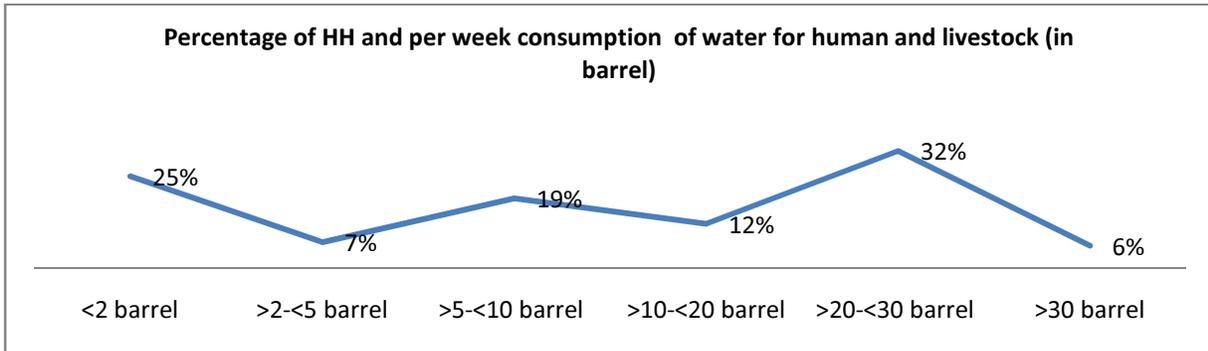
Ms. Zeinab Ahmed, a 43 years old widow, lives with 6 children in Hidhinta village. She is an active member of village women coalition. Currently, she owns 15 goat/sheep and 2 cattle as 10 goat/sheep and 3 cattle died in 2015. Investing 108 US\$ on tractor hours, she sow seeds in her 5 *qoodi* farmland in 2015, but the crop did not grow due to water deficit. Her family has been surviving on community support. She buy water from berkads at 500 SSh (0.07 US\$) per jerrican of 20 litres and family members continue to consume contaminated water. She said, “the available water in the village will last for another week. I know that the quality of water is not good as it is green and smells badly. I have no option but to use the water as I cannot afford to buy safe water supplied by water tanker”.

Coping water requirements for livestock: 21% respondents buy water supplied by water tanker, 38% fetches water from neighbouring village and 41% hunt water from any other sources. This is indicated during FGDs and KII that communities are migrating from villages to coastal areas in search of water and pasture. During FGDs and KII, communities in Hidhinta Village, 40% of HHs from Gogolwanag village and 40% households (*part of the household members, mostly men and some boys*) migrated to the coastal area (Guben). During discussion, communities said since the coastal region had rainfall this year, water is available and there were regeneration of pastures. As the situation now is getting worse, everyday new households are migrating to the coastal region.

Currently, the weekly water consumption of the respondents for human and livestock are as shown in the **Graph 5** (*a barrel contains 200 litres of water*). While asked about per person consumption of water, we could not access specific answer. However, in normal times, the basic water requirements may be below 4-6 litres per day⁹ in Somaliland. General guess is that current per person consumption of water less than 3 litres per day.

⁹Rural Water Supply Assessment report, 2007, Somalia Water and Land Information Management/Fao, <http://www.mballi.info/doc464.htm>

Graph 5: weekly water consumption in the assessed area



Source: Survey data

Shortage of water has resulted in price increases of water at the villages. During FGDs and KIIs, it was revealed that the current rate of water per tanker (**50 barrel =10,000 litres**) ranged from 70-80 US\$. So, the average price of per jerrycan (containing 20 litres) is 0.15 US\$. 10-12 families share the cost of water supplied by tankers, an individual family cannot afford. Depending on nearness to the sources, the affected villages buy water from Gabiley, Boqor and Abarsiyo etc. However, the minimum distance from villages is around 10 km.

2. Impact on Farming

The failure of Gu season rainfall in 2014 and 2015 has impacted on crop production in its worst form. Though farmer could harvest some farm products in 2014, there was no production or very nominal production in 2015. 90% respondents said there was zero grains/cereals harvested in 2015 due to shortage of rains in the area. Mere 10% said they have done farming with the support of aid from the NGOs as evident in Gogolwanag village. By 'aid' community indicated the support provided for construction of pond with plastic sheets for water conservation. However, since water was too less in those ponds, it was not sufficient for the farms. During FGDs and interviews with key informants, the farmers narrated that they prepared land for farming in 2015 but the seeds failed to germinate for lack of water.

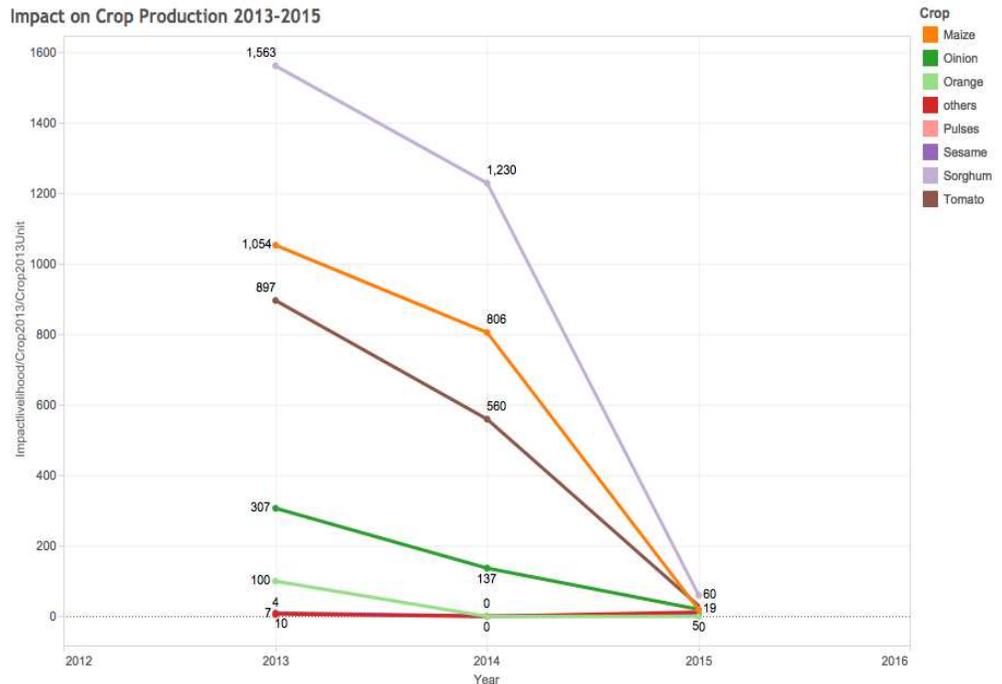


Mr. Abdul-Rashid Arab Jama, Village Head and a member of VDC in Gogolwanag village, described, *“the staple crops like sorghum and maize failed and cash crops like orange, vegetables could not mature due to water deficit. The standing cash crops like orange, vegetables are not matured and drying in my village. More than 100 families are living in starvation and children are suffering malnutrition”*.

Production trend 2013-15:

74% respondents of household survey said there has been reduction of production in last 3 years. Analysis of the data of the household survey shows that there was a reduction of production of all crops – staple crops like sorghum (in sack), millet (in sacks), maize (in sack), pulses (in sack), groundnuts (in sacks), sesame (in sacks) and cash crops like cabbage (in kg), tomato (in kg.), watermelon (in pieces), orange (in sacks). The **Graph 6** on the right

Graph 6: Trend of farm production in the last 3 years



Source: Survey data

hand side shows reduction in total production in three consecutive years (2013, 2014 and 2015) of some major crops in the area.

Causes of the reduction in production: The major causes of the reduction in production cited by the respondents include deficiency of rainfall in 2014 and 2015 and consequent water scarcity for farming, pest attack, lack of money and lack of man power. The principal reason identified by 70% of respondents is inadequate rainfall and consequent water deficit for farming. 17% of the respondents said pest attack is another cause of crop failure. 39% and 23% of the respondents said lack of money and lack of person power are also responsible for low productivity. Mr. Ahmed Abdi, a farmer of Gogolwanag village said, *“Failure of rains for two consecutive years is solely responsible for this desperate situation, while other reasons are supplementary”*.

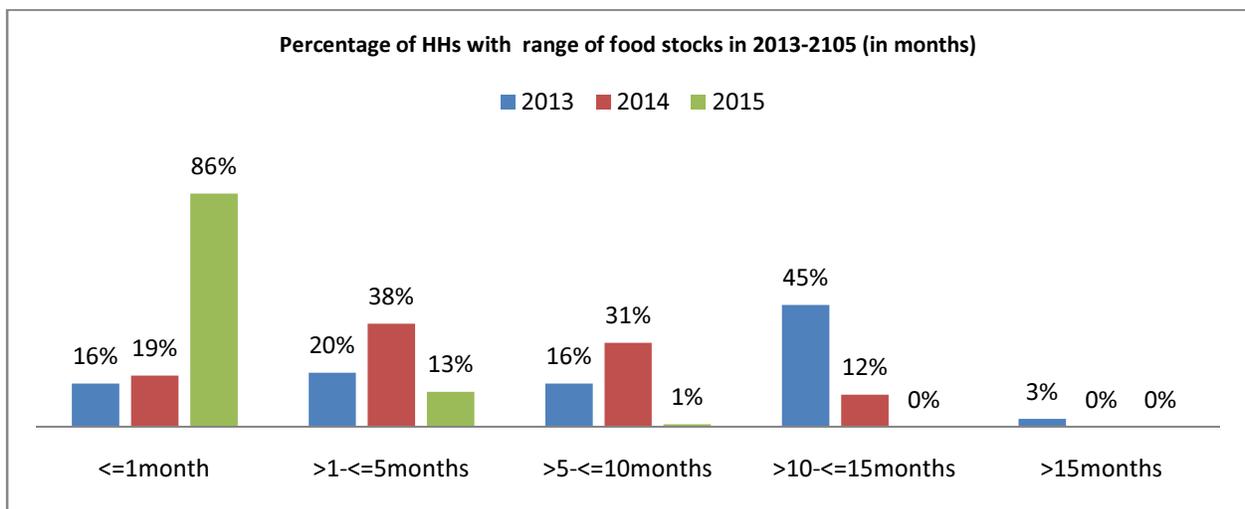
Cost of farming: The respondents also are of the view that the cost of farming has increased over last 3 years. The kind of inputs on which expenditures are increasing include - tillage (tractor hour), seeds, labour cost, fertilisers, and irrigation. 54% of respondents expressed that the maximum expenditure incurred is on tillage (tractor hour). 30% and 20% of the respondent have shared opinion that expenditures on seeds and fertilisers and pesticides respectively are increasing. 21% and 5% respondent acknowledged that expenditures on the labour and irrigation has also drastically increased. During FGDs and KII, the communities validated the fact that there is increased cost of tillage (tractor hours) from 9 US\$ in 2013 to 12 US\$ 2015. They also expressed concern about non-availability of seeds. Since they could not harvest this year and even their stocks of seed are consumed, communities do not have seeds for the next farming season.

3. Impact on Food security

The failure of crops has severely impacted on the food and income security of the affected families. Generally, sources of food of the respondents are multiple. 65% respondents shared that their source of food is own production and 68% procure food from the market. Other sources of food include - gifts from extended family, support from community members and food aid. Only 5-8% respondents access food from these sources.

Analysis of data shows that the percentage of households which had stock of food for more than 10 months was 48% in 2013, which declined to 12% in 2014 and none in 2015. The following **Graph 7** and **Graph 8** shows food stocks in last 3 consecutive years and break up of food stock situation in 2015. The majority of respondents could sustain till date due to food stocks of 2014 with very minimal products in 2015.

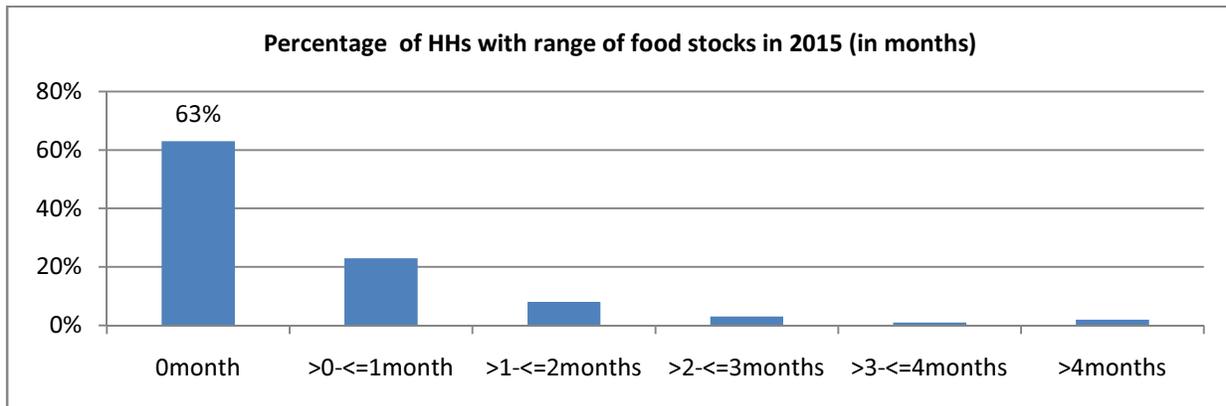
Graph 7: Trend of food stocks at households in the affected area in 2013-2015



Source: Survey Data

The **Graphs 8** show that 63% respondents did not have food stock in 2015 due to crop failure. During FGDs and KII, communities said more than 90% of families did not harvest, so they do not have food reserve. They said, those who had stocks are left over of 2014 storage, could sustain till date and even supported food deficit families in respective community. In Hidhinta village, the communities said more than 100 households do not have any food and are dependent on community contribution and by December, more than 80% of the families will not have any more food stock. As per the household survey, currently 89% of the respondents said they have exhausted stocks.

Graph 8: Access to Food in the drought affected area



Source: Survey Data

Coping mechanisms to access food: Households which do not have food stock are coping through multiple means. 74% respondents buy food from markets, 15% get support from community members, 7% received food/money from relatives, 1% respondent received food aid from NGOs and 1% respondent received food aid from Government.

The crop failure and food scarcity have led to increase prices of staple food. 71% respondents said there has been increase in prices of food products. It is also evident from discussion during FGDs/KIIs that communities have reported trend of price rise of staple food items as shown below in **Table 3**. The most important concern is that 75% respondents said they do not have savings or source of income to sustain their families as income from milk and livestock has reduced.

Table 3: Trend of Price Rise of staple food (2013-15)

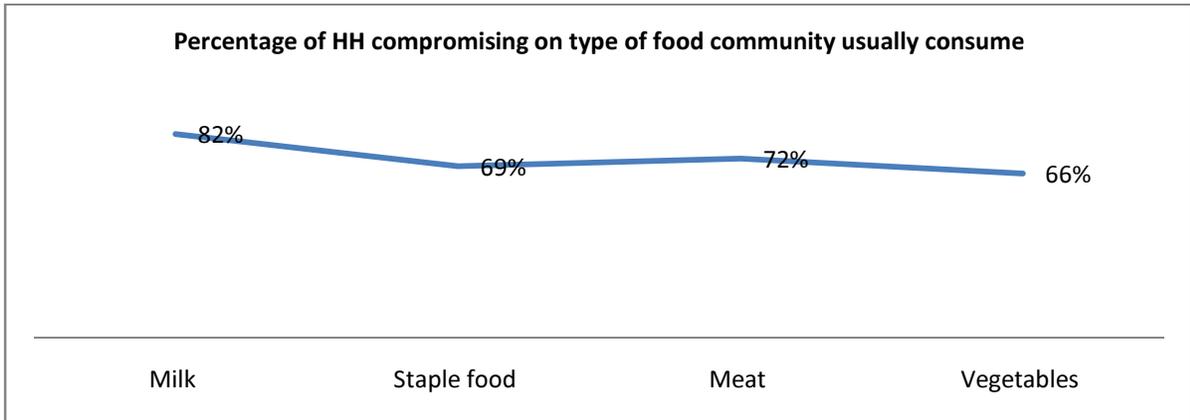
Items	Price in 2013 (in US\$)	Price in 2014 (in US\$)	Price in 2015 (in US\$)
Sorghum per kg.	0.20	0.24	0.40
Maize per kg.	0.27	0.33	0.53

Source: Survey data

The food insecurity and starvation situation is also reflected in results of a household survey. 90% of the respondents said that the food intake of their family members has reduced. 35% of the respondents take food once a day and 55% take food twice a day, while only 10% better off family consume food thrice a day, like normal years.

It is important to note that 10% respondents suffered hunger (suffered without food) during the week before the day of assessment. Most of the families are also compromising with type of food they usually consume. The following **Graph 9** shows percentage of household compromising with different types of food they usually consume. More than 66% of the respondents are compromising with milk, meat, vegetables and staple food. It has affected and has severe nutritional implications of the affected communities, especially among children, lactating and pregnant women, and elderly persons.

Graph 9: Daily Food consumption in the drought affected area

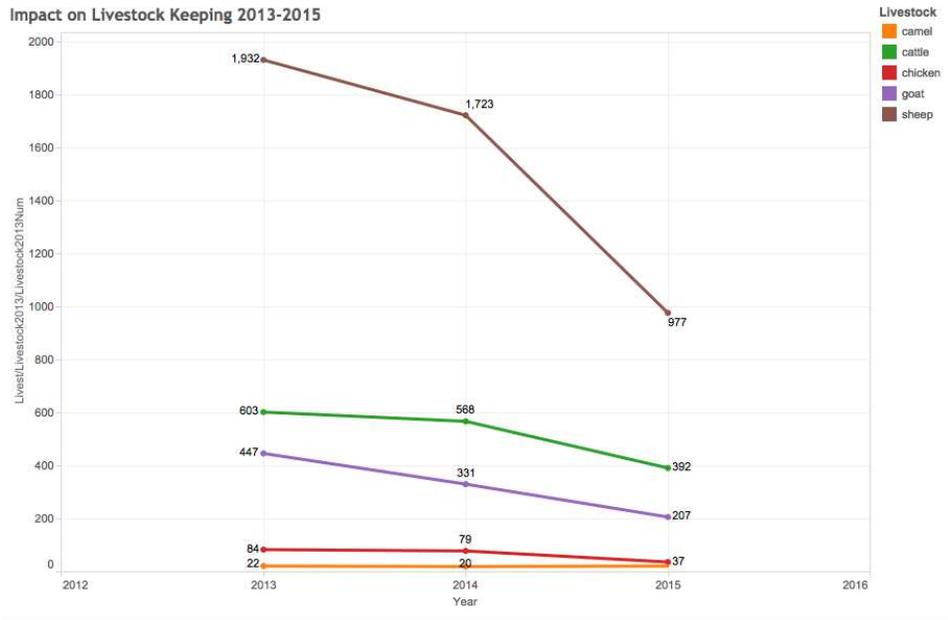


Source: Survey Data

4. Impact on livestock keeping:

As mentioned in section on livelihoods of communities, livestock keeping goes along with farming. 86% of the respondents acknowledged that they have both activities as their livelihoods. During FGDs and KIIs, communities expressed that livestock are the most important assets and source of income of the families and livestock function as insurance in needs and distress. The community made observation that the drought has impacted severely on their livestock as there has been a drastic reduction in livestock population in the area. The **Graph 10** shows drastic reduction of livestock populations (in total) in the area.

Graph 10: number of livestock lost over the years - Source: Survey data

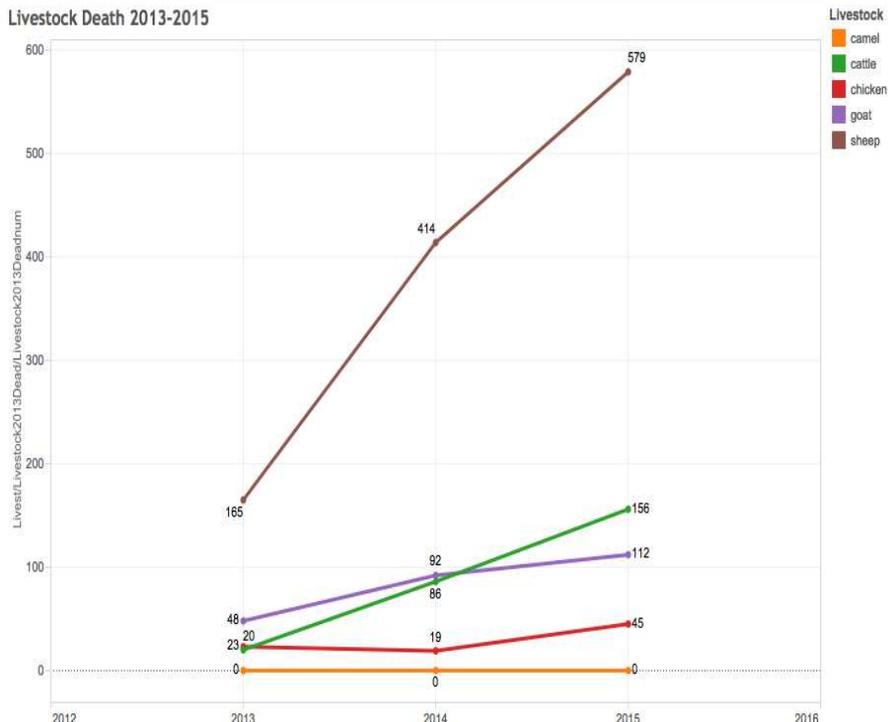


Source: Survey Data

On the other hand, there was no reported case of camel death during the household survey, during an interview with KII and transect walk conducted during the field visit, we came across and reported carcass of camel in Ijara village.

However, it is very negligible compared to the number of deaths in sheep and goat. More than 1000 and 700 livestock died in Ijara and Gogolwanag villages respectively in 2015. According to the village heads of respective villages, the population of livestock has reduced almost by half as indicated in **Graph 11** on the right side of this page.

Graph 11: number of livestock lost over the years - Source: Survey data

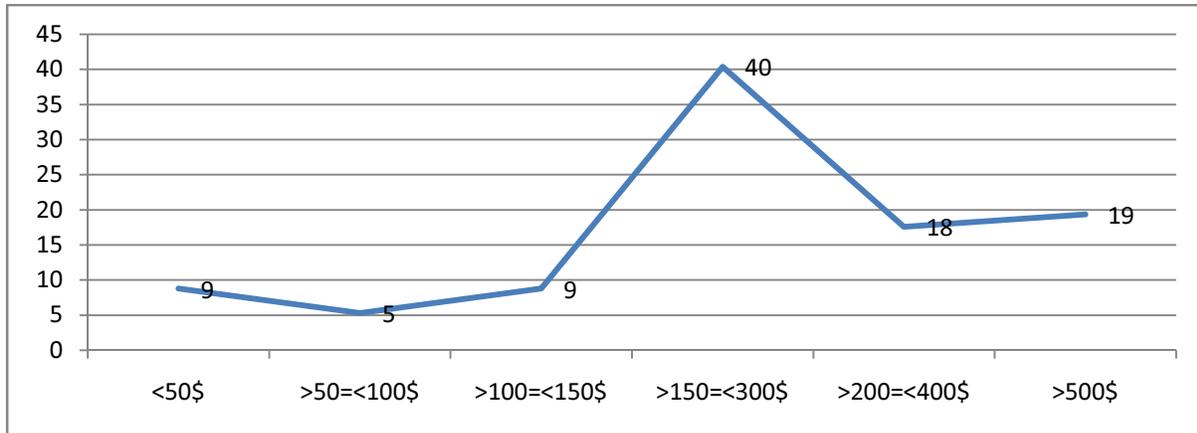


Ms. Raho Abdi, 30 years, lives with her husband and 8 children in Hidhinta village. In 2015, her family did not have any harvest. Her family survived with food stock from 2014 production, which lasted for 4 months in 2015. Her family had 70 goat and 10 cattle in 2014. More than half of them died and currently her family has 20 goats and 5 cattle. She told that all the livestock are malnourished and weak and her husband has migrated to Guben with remaining livestock. We do not have money to buy food and fodder. Nobody is willing to buy emaciated livestock. She said, "I do not know how to feed my children! Where will I get water as I do not have money to buy it from Arabsiyo. My family is in dire need of food and water relief".

Causes of death of the livestock: The respondents have given cause of death of the livestock. 69% and 36% respondents mentioned deficits of fodder and lack of pastures for grazing respectively, are two major reasons, along with 48% respondents highlighting water deficit as major cause. 24% respondents mentioned that disease attack caused death of livestock, while 2% said there are cases of natural death. During the FGDs and KII, community members have deliberations confirmed that deficits of fodder and pastures and water deficit are the sole causes of high death rate of livestock, while diseases are outcomes of drought. The communities identified PPR (Peste Des Petits Ruminants), tickborne, respiratory, helminthiasis and dysentery diseases among the livestock. They also expressed concerns about no or limited access to veterinary care.

Currently, 78% of the respondents did not have fodder stock. They are coping through multiple means. 61% respondents said they buy fodder and 28% travel long distance for herding. Remaining 10% receive fodder support from relatives and community members. Due to failure of crops and failure of regeneration of pastures the price has increased and the total expenditure in 2015 on fodder has increased. The **Graph 12** shows percentage of HHs with range of expenditure in 2015. It shows 40% respondents spent between 150 to 300 US Dollar on fodder and 37% spent more than 300 US Dollar.

Graph12: Costs on fodder in 2015 for livestock survival

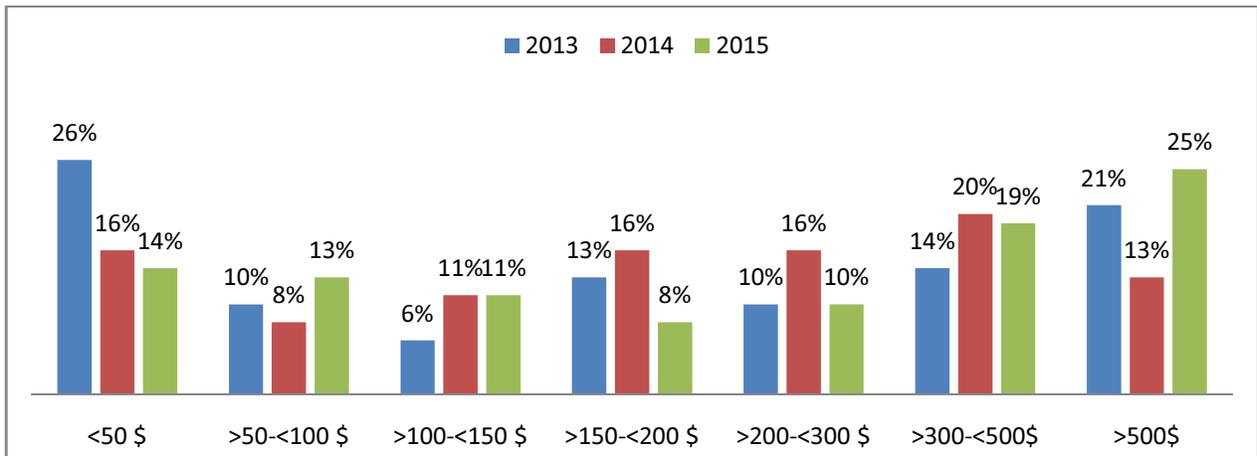


Source: Survey Data

Coping mechanism to access fodder: While majority of livestock keepers purchase fodder, many livestock keepers are travelling long distance for herding. 61% respondents said that they have been buying fodder. 28% respondents travel/migrate to long distance for herding. As mentioned above, the affected families, mostly the poorest and vulnerable are migrating to coastal areas for pasture and water. According to the communities, during FGDs/KIIs conducted, they have to pay to the landowners, who own the pasture land.

Cost of livestock keeping: While the communities suffered major losses due to high number of livestock death, they are equally experiencing pressure of increased expenditure on livestock keeping in last 3 years. 73% respondents acknowledged increased expenditure on livestock keeping. The type of expenditure includes cost for purchasing fodder, water and animal health care. 65% respondents indicated higher expenditure on purchasing fodder, 43% pointed out higher expenditure on water and 33% on animal health care. It was confirmed by community during FGDs and KIIs and described that there is no or limited facility for animal health care and cost is comparatively less. But the cost on fodder and water has increased due to drought. During the FGD conducted in Hidhintia and information shared by KII in Gogolwanag and Ijara, they shared the price of fodder per camel load increased from US\$ 20 in 2014 to US\$ 50 in 2015. In addition, communities are currently incurring US\$ 15 to transport from Arabsiyo. In Gogolwanag, the farmers had surplus fodder in 2013. The **Graph 13** below shows trend of expenditure on livestock keeping. It shows 44% respondents spend more than 300 US\$ in 2015 (as on November 2015).

Graph 13: Trend of Expenditure on Livestock keeping 2013-14



Source: Survey Data

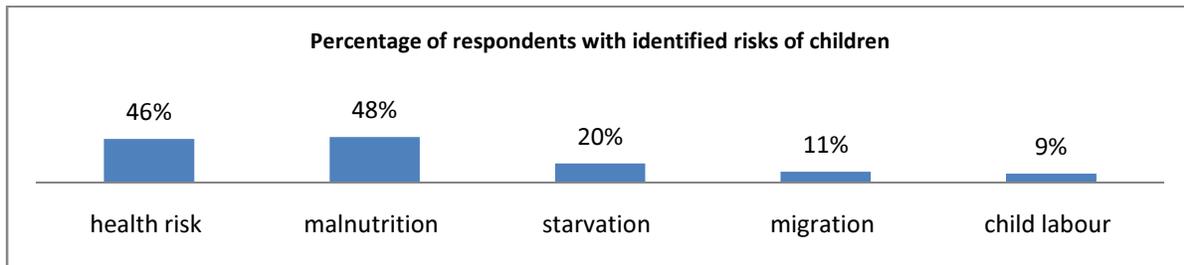
5. Impact on children

Work pressure on Children: The current situation has impacted children in multiple fronts. During FGDs and KIIs conducted in the villages, community expressed in agreement that work pressure on children has increased. They said that children spend more hours than normal time to fetch water, spend more hours than normal time to herd the livestock and spend more hours than normal time in household chore works. While boy child spends more time in taking care of the livestock in herding, girl children take more time fetching water and other household chores. During FGDs communities said children spend on an average 3 hours more in the above mentioned activities than the normal years.

Education of children: It has impacted education of children - 5% of boy and 6% of girl children of the respondent's family dropped out or not attending classes regularly. In most of villages, community members during FGDs have expressed that while family members are migrating along with the livestock, it is generally the male members, leaving behind women and children at home. The children who dropped out of school are those who migrated with parents in search of pastures and water or those who are spending more time in the works mentioned above. In Gogolwanag village, the community members said there must be no/less number of dropped out children as WFP runs feeding programme in the school.

Conceived risks to children: 48% and 46% of the respondents have identified malnutrition and health risks respectively. 20% respondents and 11% respondents identified starvation and migration respectively. Starvation being contributing factor to malnutrition, the major concern is food insecurity and its health consequences on the children. Child labour is considered as risks to children by 9%.

Graph 14: Percentage of respondents with identified risks of children



Source: Survey Data

Health issues of children: 33% of the respondent observed that children health is deteriorating. 68% of them indicated multiple health problems among their children. 36% of the respondents observed skin diseases among their children, 20% respondents observed diarrhoea, 7% measles, 4% observed urinary tract infections (UTI), and 34% informed others ailments. During FGDs in Hidhinta and Abaarso, community also mentioned cold and coughs among children. Community in Hidhinta mentioned that more than 10 infants/children died in 2015- this requires further probing. They said this may be due to malnutrition of mother and infants. They also said absence of health care facilities is a major cause of such death. The nearest health centre is Gabiley town, which is also not fully equipped to handle a critical health case and falls short of medicine. Communities have to buy medicine as there is no enough medicines available in health centre. Poor families cannot afford to buy medicine. Hidhinta village does not even have a trained traditional birth attendant (TBA). In Gogolwanag village, community informed having a trained traditional birth attendant. In Abaarso, community in FGDs expressed that there are more than 50% children with symptoms of malnutrition- swollen abdomen, dry skin, etc.

6. Impact on women:

Work Pressure: During FGDs and KIIs conducted in the villages, community expressed that work pressure on women has increased in the drought situation. 79% of the respondents have also observed in agreement of this fact. Women have to spend more time in search of water and have to travel long distance for grazing livestock and searching fodder. During FGD in Hidhinta, members of Women Coalition, said 30% of women – who are the poorest have to travel 2-3 hours to fetch water on donkey (which can carry 4/6 jerrycans, one jarrycan containing 20 litres) - 3 times a week. Women also have to do additional work as men (10%) have migrated to cities/towns for work and nearly 40% of male members have travelled to coastal area in search of pastures and water. Communities also expressed that water rationing in the family become additional responsibility of women in the families.

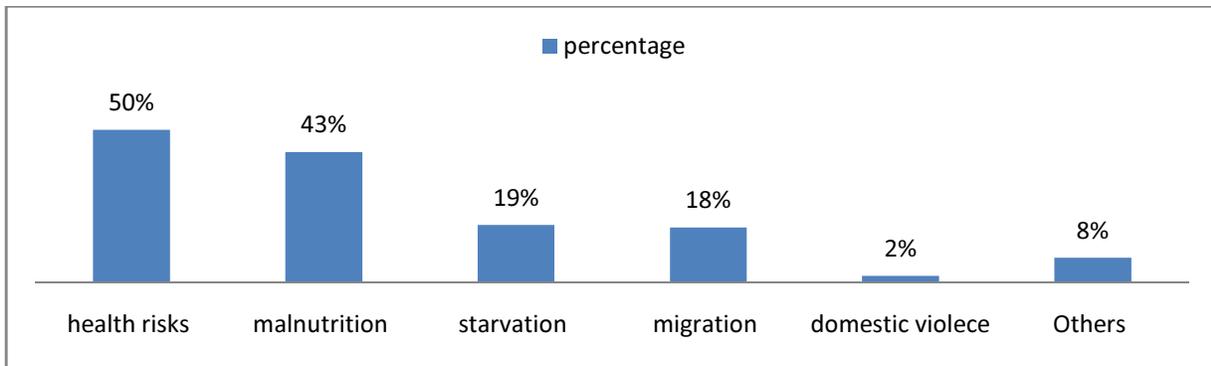


Ms. Shamis Samatar Ahmed, Chairman of Abaarso Women Coalition said, *“Women suffer in this distress. They are overloaded with work as they take maximum burden of managing the family. We are always worried about what to feed our children and other family members. Only a mother knows the pain that a mother goes through when they see their children in hunger and starvation. So we overwork to perform our responsibilities. But, we are exhausted. We need immidaite relief support from Government and aid agencies”.*

Psychological impact: During FGDs conducted with women groups in Abaarso and Hidhinta villages, women expressed that women are also psychologically burdened. While family income has drastically reduced and there is no stock of food to feed family members, women share more burdens to run the family. Tension within family emerges on sharing of work and responsibilities and distribution of available money among different uses. Chewing *qaad* by male members of the family and high expenditure on *qaad* is one of the major sources of tension in the family.

Conceived risks to women: Respondent informed that women face multiple risks in the situation shown in **Graph 15** below. 50% respondents and 43% respondents have identified health risks and malnutrition respectively. 19% and 18% respondents identified starvation and migration respectively. Starvation being contributing factor to malnutrition, the major concern is starvation and its health consequences on women too. During FGDs, the members of Women Coalition in Abaarso and Hidhinta villages said, though the case of domestic violence has not increased, due to patriarchal norms of the society women continue to suffer, especially in such distress situation. They said while there is less number of domestic violence and formal divorce, cases of neglect by husbands and separation are very high in the villages.

Graph 15: Identified risks for women in the drought affected area



Source: Survey data

Health concerns: Regarding health condition of women, 39% of the respondents also feel that women’s health is deteriorating due to drought situation. Among those who identified health problems have said women have been facing multiple problems. 27% respondents observed urinary tract infection (UTI), 9% observed skin diseases, 6% and 5% observed diarrhoea and measles respectively. In Hidhinta and Abaarso, members of women’s coalition said that maternal health is also a concern as the male members got migrated to care livestock, leaving no cash in the family. They also said that 50% women are malnutrition. In Abaarso, members of Women’s Coalition said at least 6/7 out of 10 women (60-70%) has UTI and 50% of women are malnourished. Women Coalition and members of community during FGDs have expressed that the nearest health centres are at Gabiley and Hargesia. On an average, the closest health centre is at a distance of 20 km. Villager in Bodhley expressed that the health centre at Gabiley, which are near to their villages does not have adequate medicine. In most cases, we have to buy from private pharmacies. The poorest in the community cannot afford such medicine.

7. Impact on Elderly people

There were discussions carried out during the FGDs on issues pertaining to the elderly people among the affected communities. Some of the concerns raised in Hidhinta and Abaarso are deterioration of health due insufficient food intake and reduced number of persons to care. Since 40% able members of the family have migrated for caring livestock, care of the elderly has reduced. Non-accessibility to health care has worsened the situation of the elderly and ailing persons.

If Gu rain fails in 2016

As forecasted if the impact of El - Nino get extended till 2016, and the Gu rain fails, the situation will get worst. In such a case 48% respondents said that they have to migrate to cope, 31% responded that they look forward support from the government and 21% responded that they do not know how they will cope with projected situation!

Chapter V: Relief Interventions, Coordination, Immediate and Long term needs and Challenges during Assessment

Relief intervention so far:

Though the situation started worsening from early quarter of 2015, the Government declared drought in August 2015. There has been very little support delivered in the assessed villages. Only 13% respondents/ households had received some relief materials. However, most of the relief materials were provided by the village community (36% of the respondents) and extended families (46% of the respondents). 15% respondents have also acknowledged receiving some relief materials from NGOs. During FGDs in Ijara village, Village Development Committee informed that OIC supported the village with 100 sacks of food comprising of rice, sugar, oil in May 2015. Communities in Ijara and Gogolwanag also acknowledged that they have received food relief from the Government in August 2015. They informed that the amount of relief was too little compared to needs. The VDC and Women Coalition could hardly distribute around 30 and 10 most vulnerable families in Ijara and Gogolwanag villages respectively.

During the meeting with Mr. Musa Awale, Director of NERAD, he confirmed that Government distributed food aid to 3,200 families in August 2015. The amount spent during the relief operation was 150,000 US\$. He agreed to the fact that need on the ground is much more than what has been done. This indicates lack of resources of the Government to address the precarious condition of the affected peoples and its inability to mobilise resources.

Coordination:

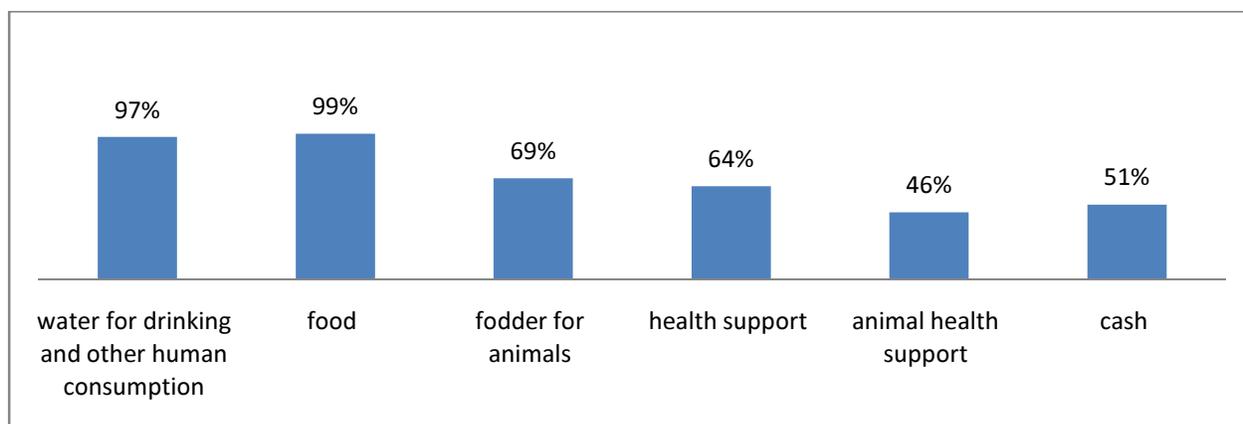
All stakeholders, consulted during the assessment period, have admitted that the coordination has been weak. There is very little effort of aid agencies to coordinate among themselves, except in occasional cases. So, aid agencies don't know each other's area of operation and the kind of work in detail. In such case there are possibilities of duplicating the effort. The aid agencies look forward at relevant Ministries and NERAD to take the role of coordination. But, coordination even among the different Ministries like Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock and NERAD seems weak. This was reflected during our conversation with Mr. Abdirashid Omar Osman at the Ministry of Agriculture and Director of NERAD.

NERAD organised a coordination meeting in which aid agencies were invited. Those aid agencies which attended were requested to inform respective intervention plans. The Director of NERAD said, *"So far no agency has informed any concrete plan and could not organise follow up meeting yet"*. Though the Ministry of Agriculture invited aid agencies for a coordination meeting twice in the month of November 2015, no agency turned up to the meeting. According to Dario Cipolia of FAO, *"I agree that there has been weak coordination between Government and aid agencies. We need an effective coordination mechanism for effective relief and development interventions. However, to be more effective, it is the role of the line Ministry. So we look forward to the Ministry"*.

Immediate needs:

The situation calls for immediate emergency intervention. The requirement includes food, water, fodder and health care – both for human and livestock and cash. 97% of the respondents have sought food and water and 69% sought fodder for livestock. 64% and 46% respondents sought human and animal health care support. During FGDs and KII conducted, all the participants and key informants sought support from Government and aid agencies to provide the affected communities with water, food and fodder. There is also need for special intervention for nutrition support for children, lactating and pregnant mothers. From the discussions, there is a need to promote safe personal hygiene practices to reduce UTI and skin diseases. Raho Saeed-Chairman of Women Coalition in Hidhinta Village, said, “*on behalf of the villagers we are sending appeals to the Government and aid agencies to provide immediate food, water and fodder support to save human and livestock*”.

Graph 16: Percentage of respondents on immediate needs



Source: Survey Data

During interviews with other different stakeholders like Oxfam, NERAD, Ministry of Agriculture, they shared similar view that this situation yells immediate intervention, especially in Gabiley region on the sectors that are highlighted above by the communities. But, the Authority and aid agencies seem more focused on food, water, fodder and cash. Though the stakeholders are concerned about death of livestock and increasing weakness of the livestock, no plan of intervention was highlighted by any of the agencies met. (*This may be due to the fact that we could not access plan of Ministry of Livestock*). It is interesting to note that Oxfam has been implementing a multi-country programme in Somaliland and Ethiopia in the border areas of Maroodi-Jeh region. The programme advocates for providing ‘Green Card’ to pastoralist of the both counties to enable to access pastures to both sides when livestock are in distress due to drought. However, this has been the practice of pastoralist communities in the porous border for ages.

The aid Agencies are preparing for some intervention. FAO is proposing for cash for work intervention. According to Dario Cipolia of FAO, “*Cash for work intervention will give the affected communities space to buy their basic needs and through the activities the communities will create earth dam and other water storage infrastructure for water conservation in future*”.

Long term needs:

The long term needs of the affected communities were discussed with during FGDs and KII. The key areas of long term intervention, which can be integrated into AA Somaliland's long term work:

Reflection and learning:

- Reflection and learning from the current drought situation to prepare comprehensive DRR plans in consultations with all stakeholders. This will require learning from communities' experiences and technical and non-technical collaboration with the Ministries and other aid agencies.

Water sector:

- According to available data, the annual rainfall is around 500 millimetres in Somaliland. According to the FAO, this amount of rainfall sufficient for the country, if conserved properly. However, Somaliland lacks watershed-management plan. Communities could be encouraged for developing watershed management plan under a Government led comprehensive watershed management plan of the area/region. It has to go along with environment and forest protection and promotion plan as rain contributes to high soil erosion, including top fertile soil erosion.
- We can consider advocating for an effective Water Policy to execute water conservation programmes and management of water resources under the Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources.
- There is little information available on Hydrogeology to identify the best locations for the establishment of boreholes and shallow hole. There is a need for establishment for boreholes and shallow well to address frequent water shortages during the dry season¹⁰. But in the long run the emphasis should be more on watershed management and rainwater harvesting, considering the fact that there are reports revealing many of the shallow wells drying up.
- It calls for promotion of rainwater harvesting and conservation of water for all uses. Existing water sources like berkads, earth dam, sad dam and ponds with plastic sheets need de-silting. Construction of more such sources needs to be encouraged. We should advocate for water as rights of the communities.
- Advocate to introduce governmental programs geared towards climate change adaptation.

Agriculture sector and food security and livestock sector:

- Somaliland imports 90% of its food requirements. While we need to work on food security, we are also required to look forward the question of food sovereignty. This calls for increasing production capacity and diversification of indigenous crops. It calls for infrastructure developments like irrigation facilities; multiple cropping in 2 seasons, seed conservation and production of drought resistance seeds, support with tractor hours, organic manures and incorporation of legumes into the cropping system etc.
- Promotion of community food bank and individual granaries as part of DRR programme
- Promote the cultivation of drought tolerant fodder species for improved livestock feeding and productivity and advocate for a comprehensive plan for grazing area development and veterinary care.

¹⁰<http://www.mbali.info/doc464.htm>

- Long term nutrition programme for children, women, especially pregnant and lactating mother and advocate for Government policies towards nutrition security.

Health sector

- Advocate for establishment more Health Centres, appointment of more health workers, increase availability of low cost medicine and Health outreach programmes.

Challenges during the assessment

The assessment was conducted from the November 23 to December 2, 2015. In developing understanding overall scenario, tools for the assessment and data entry and analysis systems, it took 5 days. The actual field work in the sample villages was carried out on November 28-30. We could conduct only 2 hours training for the enumerators on November 28. We could interact with other stakeholders on the December 1-2. Within this time constraints, it was challenging for me and the team to accomplish tasks without errors. Since the time taken to train for the enumerators, errors might have caused due to conceptual un-clarity e.g. income of the family. We also found inconsistency or missing data in some cases. There were also cases of data entry error in the field. However, the information collected through FGDs was of much help in filling the gaps and putting forward quality aspects the data and information collected.

Data collection and entry was done simultaneously through ODK Collect. While it helped us in collecting and analysing the data in such a short time frame, it also had its own limitations. We could not create provision for open ended answers or more options to reply due to time frame. So there was less chance to further probing the answers given by respondents and lack quality aspects of the data collected.

Last but not least, the consultant's own understanding about the communities and the area was limited. He learnt along as the exercises that were carried out during the assessment.

Chapter VI: Conclusion

- **12300** persons of 2015 HHs(5% HH and 5% population) in the LRP villages are affected in worst form and **108133** persons (of **18021 HHs**) (40% population) affected severely;
- Water has become very scarce and costlier. 35-40% families are facing acute water crisis for human and livestock consumption as water at sources dried. Additional 50% families will exhaust water available in respective villages in next 15 days;
- Available water in water sources is not suitable for human consumption. But, people's awareness on quality/safety of water is limited, so water is explained by availability in quantity, not quality;
- 25-30% families, who can afford are buying water from outside the village like Gabiley, Arabsiyo, Boqor and other sources. 41% families travel around 20 km thrice a week to fetch water on Donkey;
- The food security situation is grim. 89% families do not have food stock. Among the families who do have food stock, 74% are coping by buying food from the markets and others are receiving support from the community. While most of them do not have income for buying food, price of staple foods has almost doubled;
- Poorest families have reduced food intake by reducing number of times and items of food (milk, meat, vegetables) they usually consume. 10% families suffered hunger (suffered without food) during the week before the assessment. It has increased malnutrition among children, women and elderly persons;
- 35-40% of livestock died due to scarcity of fodder, pastures and water. The livestock is also facing drought health problems like diarrhoea;
- 78% of the families do not have fodder stock. More than 40% (partly family members) have migrated along with their livestock to coastal area in search of water and pastures;
- High incidence of water and personal hygiene and sanitation related diseases is widespread like diarrhoea, urinary tract infection (UTI). The incidence among children and women are even higher;
- Starvation and malnutrition and health problems have affected more than 50% of children, women and elderly persons;
- Work pressure on children has increased. 48% of children are malnourished and 46% of them are exposed to various health risks;
- Work pressure on women has increased. 50% women are exposed to various health risks.
- Communities coping mechanisms have almost exhausted.
- Government is poorly resourced to address the impact of the disaster and unable to mobilise resources;
- There was no allocation of the Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), 2015 in drought hit Maroodi-Jeh and Gabiley regions of Somaliland.
- Though there are plans for intervention, aid agencies are yet to come up with a clear intervention plan; and
- Coordination among Government and Aid agencies has been weak.

The situation calls for immediate relief intervention to reach out to 30-40% of worst affected and most marginalised population till next harvest season. By the end of the next two months remaining population, means at least additional 20-25%, will require relief support. The intervention require for coordination with Government and other aid agencies for effectiveness, cooperation and technical mutual support.

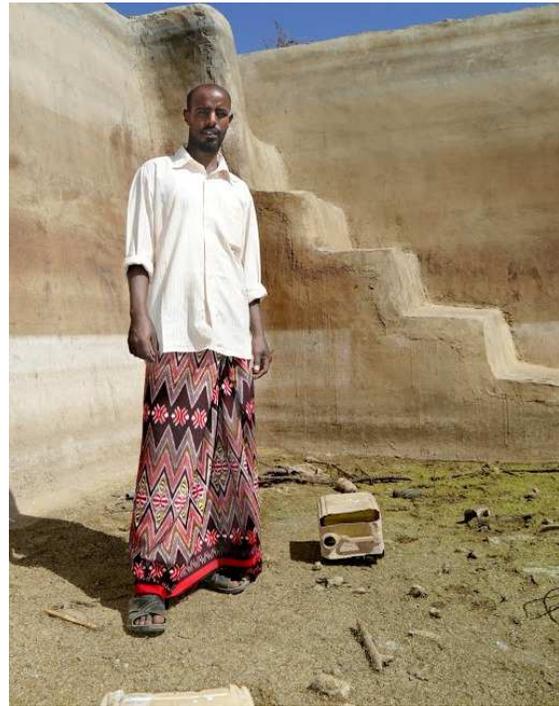
As forecasted if the impact of El - Nino get extended till 2016 and if the Gu rain fails in next season, the situation will deteriorate further to the extreme situation. It will be a massive disaster for the nation, which calls for major preparation.

The long run intervention has to be integrated with LRP work. The recommendations on long term needs mentioned above in Chapter V. The recommendations given are suggestive and would require further deliberations as time was too short for detail recommendation.

Some Photographs



Dried Earth Dam in Ijara



A man standing in a dried Berkads in Hidhinta



A women showing carcass of her livestock in Ijara



Dried Tomato plants in Gogolwanag



Dried pond with plastic sheets in Gogolwanag



Available water in berkads in Ijara

Demography, categorisation and severity of the drought in the affected villages using ActionAid Disaster alert levels.

No	Villages	Impact of drought	LRP	Population	Female	Male	House Holds
1	Abaarso (Sampled)	Chronic condition-dire for food & water	LRP2	3200	1760	1440	533
2	Haraf	Chronic condition-dire for food & water	LRP2	2500	1375	1125	417
3	Teysa	Emergency situation	LRP2	3600	1375	1125	3600
4	Hidhnta (Sampled)	Emergency situation	LRP2	3000	1800	1200	500
5	Dhabolaq	Chronic condition- in dire need of food & water. However the village has water in the shallow wells.	LRP2	951	523	428	158
6	Allaybaday	Slightly better than Hidhinta	LRP2	36000	19800	16200	6000
7	Ijara (Sampled)	Slightly better than Hidhinta	LRP2	1200	660	540	200
8	Wajale	Shares same condition with Ijara	LRP1	50000	27500	22500	8333
9	Kalabaydh	Shares Same condition with Ijara	LRP1	18000	9900	8100	3000
10	Gogolwanag (Sampled)	This is one of the drought affected villages. No food and fodder are available for human and livestock, irrigation crops shrunk. But there is water for livestock and human.	LRP3	431	237	194	72
11	Beeyo-liban	Shares similar situation with Gogolwang	LRP3	451	248	203	75
12	Gogeysa	Shares similar situation with gogolwang	LRP3	1100	605	495	183
13	Bodhlay (Sampled)	They have some sort of water and food	LRP2	1800	990	810	300
14	Boqor	This village is ok as they have Borehole and harvested some grains in 2015 similar status with Bodhlay	LRP2	0	-	-	-
15	Arro-tulka	Shares Similar status with Boqor	LRP1	351	193	158	58
16	Gabiley	Gabiley is ok, because there is water and food as they harvested good amount of grains in 2015 and comparatively better off.	LRP1	110540	49,743	60797	18,423
17	Elbahay	There is water and food as they harvested some grains in 2015	LRP1	351	193	158	58

18	Galoolay	Farmers harvested good in 2015 as received more rains	LRP1	450	248	202	75
	Agamsaha	This is an irrigated farmland, so that they have water from shallow wells and generate income from cash crops such as Salad, Tomato, Onion, Cabbage extra.	LRP1	400	220	180	67
19	Arabsiyo	Shares Similar with Agamsaha	LRP1	30000	16500	13500	5000
20	Huluuq	Shares Similar situation with Agamsa and Arabsiyo	LRP1	480	264	216	80
21	Biyo-Ma'an	Is an irrigated farming land, share similar status with Agamsa&Arabsiyo	LRP3	351	193	158	58
22	Udan	Is an irrigated farmland - less affected	LRP3	460	253	207	77
23	Elginiseed	Completely irrigation farmland - no stress	LRP3	350	193	157	58
24	Dhalada	Irrigated farmland -no stress	LRP3	420	231	189	70
25	Horuhadlay	Irrigated farmland -no stress	LRP3	650	358	292	108
26	Malugta	Irrigated farmland -no stress	LRP3	0	-	-	-
27	Cada	Irrigated farmland -no stress	LRP3	431	237	194	72
28	Darasalam	Irrigated farmland -no stress	LRP3	330	114	216	60
29	Agabar	Irrigated farmland -no stress	LRP3	2000	1100	900	333
30							
		Total		269797	136813	131884	44968

1. **Green** means the situation is normal. 2. **Yellow** -the situation is not that severe and the response is delivered by a member/country programme alone with support from IHART. 3. **Orange**-Means the disaster/drought is impactful and therefore, IHART provides significant support to the country programme. 4. **Red** The situation gets severe and the emergence response becomes the number one priority for the entire organisation and IHART plays a coordination level.

ii Villages Wise number of Household (HH):

Sample Villages	Total HH	Men	Women	Population	Sample HH
Abaarso	533	1440	1760	3200	16
Bodhlay	300	810	990	1800	16
Ijara	200	540	660	1200	30
Hidhnta	500	1200	1800	3000	16
Gogolwanag	72	194	237	431	18
Total	1605	4184	5447	9631	96

The HH and population data of Hidhnta is from FGD, while other data is from LRP base line survey 2012, AA Somaliland