

Call for applications for DERF funding of rapid response interventions answering to the following humanitarian crisis:

Title: Severe Drought in Somalia

Country and location(s): Somalia/Somaliland

DERF Funding Modality: Applicants are to apply for the DERF Funding Modality *Rapid Response* as per the DERF Funding Guidelines.

Call window for submission of applications: Applications are received and processed on an ongoing basis from Monday 26th January until 16th February 2026 at 12:00 noon CET.

Funds allocated for this call: The DERF allocates a total of up to **DKK 2 million** for this call. Applicants can apply for **maximum DKK 500.000** each.

Alert title and location(s)	Alert type, source and date	Crisis type	Information on the humanitarian crisis and emergency relief needs	Known DK org. in crisis location(s)	Assessment of DERF relevance
<p>Title: Severe Drought in Somalia</p> <p>Country & locations: Somalia/ Somaliland</p>	<p>Alert Type: Local Alert</p> <p>Alerting Organisation: Rajo Organisation</p> <p>Crisis Start: 23/12/25</p> <p>Sources supplemented with: Operation Update#2, IFRC, 19/12/25</p> <p>East Africa Food Security Alert, FEWS</p>	Slow onset crisis	<p>Background</p> <p>The drought emergency in Somalia continues to escalate, with the country now facing one of the most severe droughts in decades after four consecutive failed rainy seasons (IFRC, 19/12/25). As conditions worsened nationwide, the Federal Government declared a national drought emergency on 10 November 2025. Large numbers of households across the country are now facing <i>Crisis</i> (IPC Phase 3) and <i>Emergency</i> (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, and the situation is expected to deteriorate further in the coming months without urgent, timely action. The WFP most recently asserted that food insecurity is likely to intensify, with up to 4.4 million people projected to face crisis or worse between January and March 2026, including nearly 1 million people in emergency hunger (IPC4), an increase from 620,000 in July 2025 (WFP, 19/1/26). At the same time, an estimated 1.85 million children under the age of five are at risk of severe malnutrition through mid-2026. (IFRC, 19/12/25; OCHA, 21/12/25).</p> <p>Humanitarian impact</p> <p>The unfolding drought is severely undermining local agricultural productivity, less than three years after the historic drought that struck the region from late 2020 to early 2023. FEWS NET estimates 20-25 million people across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya are in need of humanitarian food assistance, with drought being the main driver for 50-55% of those in need, whilst the IOM states that drought accounts for 64% of the displacement of nearly 220,000 people. Multiple areas of Somalia face <i>Emergency</i> (IPC Phase 4) outcomes; in these areas, malnutrition is expected to rise, and a large number of people will face outright starvation (FEWS NET 23/12/2025; IOM 9/12/25).</p> <p>Rainfall during the October–December “Deyr” season was less than 30% of normal in many areas, leaving crops to fail and pastures to wither. Livestock deaths are widespread, and rangelands have been severely degraded. Water sources have dried up or become contaminated, forcing communities to rely on expensive trucked water. Temperatures have soared to between 35°C and 40°C, worsening soil dryness and accelerating water scarcity (FAO/FSNAU/SWALIM, 8/12/25).</p> <p>In northern Somalia/Somaliland, over 185,000 people have been displaced from areas such as Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag, with thousands more leaving Bari, Mudug, and Nugaal in search of water and pasture.</p>	Number of organisations present in-country: 30 Number of organisations with external funding experience (both CSF and DERF grants): 15 Number of organisations present in specific localities: 10	Critical emergency and/or protection needs: Yes Particularly vulnerable groups: Yes Timeliness of potential DERF funded intervention: Yes Significant funding gap exists: Yes DERF funds available: Yes

<p>NET, 23/12/25</p> <p>SitRep #2, UN-OCHA, 21/12/25</p> <p>News Release, WFP, 19/1/26</p> <p>Displace- ment Tracking Matrix, IOM, 9/12/25</p> <p>Early Warning Alert, FAO/FSNAU/ SWALIM 8/12/25</p> <p>Operational Update, UNHCR, November 2025</p>	<p>In Puntland alone, nearly one million people need assistance, including 130,000 in life-threatening situations.</p> <p>Prioritised Emergency Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH, hereunder clean water for drinking and hygiene • Food Security & Livelihoods (FSL), including food & livelihood rehabilitation • Protection, especially of vulnerable people. <p>Other priorities may also arise as the crisis develops. Supported by the most recent credible humanitarian sources applicants are to document how the specific area of intervention is affected by the drought.</p> <p>Vulnerability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households which lost already scarce income due to the drought (lost agricultural production or livelihoods) • Households which before the drought already were vulnerable, such as female headed households, widows, poorest urban or rural households, and those hosting children, pregnant or lactating women, elderly people, as well as people with special needs. • Marginalised communities, such as indigenous and minority communities and people affected by double burdens of conflict/drought. <p>Funding Situation</p> <p>Drought conditions are escalating in Somalia at a time when severe funding cuts have forced humanitarian partners to scale back or even close critical programmes. As of 17 December 2025, the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is only 26 per cent funded with only US\$374.5 million received against a request of \$1.42 billion (OCHA, 21/12/25). Emergency food aid declined sharply from 1.1 million recipients in August to just 350,000 in November 2025 due to funding shortfalls. Health and nutrition services are also under strain, with hundreds of feeding and stabilisation centres at risk of closure.</p> <p>Humanitarian Access</p> <p>Political instability and insecurity continue to increase humanitarian risks across Somalia. Delayed elections, tensions between federal and state authorities, military operations against armed groups, and clan-based violence are driving displacement and restricting humanitarian access. The security situation is therefore highly volatile, particularly in South-Central regions, where Al-Shabaab continues attacks while Somali security forces have intensified military operations. In Mogadishu, persistent urban insecurity is marked by targeted IED attacks, counter-terrorism raids, and violent protests linked to land disputes. At the same time, tensions between Somaliland and the Somali federal government have escalated, including disputes over visas and airspace regulations, creating additional access and operational constraints (UNHCR, November 2025). These challenges are further compounded by the remoteness of many drought-affected communities, significantly limiting humanitarian reach.</p>	<p>Recom- mend: Activate DERF.</p>
--	---	---