



**PUNTLAND STATE OF SOMALIA
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

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Garowe

Date March 09, 2021

To: All National and International Humanitarian Partners
Cc: Office of the President
FGS, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management.

As all of you are aware, Puntland as it is with some other parts of Somalia is experiencing drought conditions and critical water shortage as a result of poor or failed past two consecutive seasons. In mid-November 2020, the Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) alerted humanitarian partners about a water crisis situation transpiring in many areas of Puntland due to insufficient rains during the Deyr season in 2020. Similarly, the FAO/SWALIM rain forecast in November 2020 indicated great concern in Puntland and other places in Somalia, and warned that conditions could deteriorate further towards a drought situation as the expected Gu' rains of 2021 are delayed and forecasted to be poor or below average. As of December 2020, the risk of the deterioration of drought in the coming months (early 2021) is considered to be very high. The extreme water crisis and the likelihood of drought was further reinforced by the outcome of Puntland Drought Risk Assessment (DRA) jointly undertaken by HADMA and humanitarian partners in January 2021. Puntland DRA final findings indicated that 81% of all communities assessed reported that the majority of their community members had reduced water intake due to water shortages, particularly in Bari (94%), Nugaal, and Sool (89%). Furthermore, the findings revealed that the large majority of the assessed communities reported shortages of fodder, a lack of pasture, and a lack of water for livestock while 51 out of the 84 communities assessed (more than 50%) reported some loss of livestock.

Prior to Puntland DRA, FSNAU/FEWSNET and partners' Post Deyr seasonal assessment outcome, which HADMA was part, further confirmed that 17% (745,741 people) in Puntland are in need of assistance (water and other livelihood supports) because they are either in crisis (IPC-3) or in emergency situation (IPC-4). In addition, 26% (1,127,264 people) in Puntland are stressed (in IPC-2).

As per the latest outcome of HADMA drought monitoring field assessments conducted in February 2021, an estimated 124,290 households (746,000 people) are affected by the current drought in 249 worst affected settlements in Bari, Nugaal, Mudug, Sool, Sanaag and Ceyn regions.

In view of the above, Puntland government appeals to national and international humanitarian partners to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population by:

- Providing immediate WASH, Food Security, and Protection response in the most severely affected areas, focusing, among others, provision of safe drinking water, rehabilitation of water sources affected including shallow wells and boreholes,

provision of livestock supplementary feeds, drought-smart farming package, and food security assistance mainly through cash – based (conditional and unconditional cash) assistance.

- Providing the necessary integrated humanitarian assistance to sustain livelihoods for the coming three to six months through the provision of food, healthcare, nutrition and water and protection support.
- Immediate water trucking for those villages facing acute water shortage for the coming three months from March to May 2021 as well as where there is a concentration of human and livestock population.
- Sustaining and scaling up nutrition and health responses, more of an integrated nutrition and health assistance focusing worst affected population and IDP population in settlements with prevailing acute and severe malnutrition rates and the drought affected rural and pastoral communities.
- Continuing to monitor the situation and be prepared for possible deterioration of the humanitarian situation.
- Developing resilience programs to drought and other climate shocks affected communities both at state and community levels.
- Strengthening local capacity in emergency response and preparedness and disaster risk reduction capabilities within state and local institutions.

For further information and clarification in relation to this matter, kindly feel free to contact Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency, HADMA.

Thanking you in advance for your continued cooperation and support.

Yours Sincerely,

H.E Ahmed Elmi Osman (Karaash)

Vice President, Puntland Government of Somalia



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