



GREATER HORN OF AFRICA HUMANITARIAN KEY MESSAGES

Photo: UNICEF South Sudan

HIGHLIGHTS

- The conflict in South Sudan has generated the largest refugee crisis on the African continent; as many as 70 per cent of the refugees are children.
- After multiple years of drought, floods have affected more than 1.4 million people across the Greater Horn of Africa in April and May 2018.
- The region is experiencing a major food insecurity crisis and over 1.6 million children are severely malnourished.
- Humanitarians are appealing for just US\$20 per person, per month, to provide life-saving assistance and protection in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

KEY MESSAGES

1. **Conflict, insecurity and political instability, combined with climatic shocks have caused increased humanitarian needs and protection concerns in the Greater Horn of Africa.***
2. **Nearly 12 million people are displaced in and from the Greater Horn of Africa, including around 8 million internally displaced and 3.9 million living in the region and neighbouring countries as refugees and asylum seekers.** The Greater Horn of Africa is both the host and the source of significant population displacement and mixed migration movements, and the Horn of Africa remains a major migration transit route to and from the Arabian Peninsula and to Europe. In Ethiopia, tensions and violence –particularly between the Somali and Oromo communities- have caused rising internal displacement.
3. **The conflict in South Sudan is driving massive internal displacement and has created the largest refugee crisis on the African continent.** The refugee population could exceed three million by December 2018, if current trends continue. Refugees are hosted by six countries in the region—Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda and Kenya, as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic—which have continued to keep an open door as growing numbers of refugees flood in, against the backdrop of dwindling financial resources. About 70 per cent of all South Sudanese refugees are under age 18, making this a children’s refugee crisis. Many refugee children are arriving unaccompanied, separated and deeply traumatized.
4. **In April and early May 2018, large-scale floods affected more than 1.4 million people across the Greater Horn of Africa,** impacting more than 770,000 people in Somalia, over 300,000 in Kenya, at least 300,000 in Ethiopia and between 25,000 to 50,000 in Djibouti. Cyclone Sagar impacted Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia on 19-20 May, bringing heavy rainfall and floods. Across the region, floods have destroyed and damaged houses, schools, health facilities and water and sanitation (WASH) infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, displaced hundreds of thousands of people and increased the risk of the spread of water-borne diseases, including cholera.

- 5. The region is experiencing a major food insecurity crisis, with South Sudan still at risk of famine.** Some 25.4 million people are severely food insecure in the Greater Horn of Africa and over 1.6 million children are severely malnourished. In South Sudan alone, 1.1 million children under age 5 are acutely malnourished, 260,000 of whom are severely malnourished, and 7.1 million people are severely food insecure. In Sudan, at least 5.5 million people face food insecurity, and 2.8 million children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished. In Ethiopia, 7.9 million people is severely food insecure and over 350,000 children are severely acute malnourished.
- 6. Communicable diseases remain prevalent, including in regions bordering neighbouring countries.** So far in 2018, some 6,000 cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and/or cholera, and over 7,000 cases of measles have been recorded in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. These diseases are preventable and should not cost lives in 2018. They also exacerbate food insecurity.
- 7. In multiple locations across the region, insecurity, bureaucratic impediments and access denials are hampering humanitarian operations.** In South Sudan, 101 aid workers have been killed since the conflict began in December 2013 and attacks against aid workers and assets and bureaucratic impediments continue to seriously curtail humanitarian access. In Somalia, denial of humanitarian access by non-state armed actors, insecurity and bureaucratic impediments have impeded the response. In Sudan, humanitarian access to Blue Nile and South Kordofan has been limited, while in Ethiopia, intercommunal conflict has also hampered humanitarian access.
- 8. Humanitarian partners have appealed for more than US\$5.8 billion to provide life-saving assistance and protection to about 24 million people in 2018 in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.** Although these numbers look big, they amount to just \$20 per person, per month. In contrast, the average person in the United Kingdom spends around ten times this amount in coffee shops each month.
- 9. Countries in the Greater Horn of Africa continue to demonstrate tremendous generosity in hosting large numbers of refugees fleeing violence and hunger, yet there is a deficit of global solidarity with these host communities.** The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2018 calls for \$1.5 billion to assist and protect an estimated 3.1 million South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, but is just 8 per cent funded. In 2017, underfunding of refugee operations resulted in ration cuts in some countries in the region, including in Kenya.

** For the purposes of these Key Messages, the Great Horn of Africa includes: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.*