



# SOMALILAND DROUGHT RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT

Commissioned By  
National Drought Committee



JANUARY 2022

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A combination of two consecutive dry seasons that resulted with severe water shortages, and rising food prices have left Somaliland citizens mostly severely drought affected in the country. The intensity of the drought has led to water shortages, crop failures, and scarce pasture for livestock.

Overall, the rapid assessment findings shows that severity is higher in Togdheer, Sool and Sanaag regions, and some parts of Marodijeh, Sahil and Awdal regions with current people who are at critical situation in need of emergency assistance hits 810,000 person and should the current drought conditions maintain in the next coming two to three months. The number of affected people will be 1,200,420 persons across all the six main regions in Somaliland. The top priority needs of the people affected to date are mainly water (70%), Food (21%) and Health (9%).

In addition, Population experienced abnormal migration influx in search of food, water, and pasture, is on the increase, with reports of new arrivals and departures including in the last one month. Access to water remains very limited, the available Berkeds and shallow wells in most locations have dried up due failed rainy seasons. Food and water prices increasing across the regions while livestock market prices are decreasing considerably. Livestock access to water is extremely worsening across the country and the situation is highly expected to worsen in the first quarter of 2022.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The current global El Nino manifestation has created multi array climate related impacts ranging from floods, hurricanes, drought, and other natural calamities that are associated with social, economic and environmental costs. The risk of drought and associated impacts are always complex and they magnify through systems and social-economic and environmental factors prevalent within affected society.

There is some confidence that climate change has already led to more-intense and longer meteorological droughts in some regions of the world notably East African countries including Somaliland. Projections indicate droughts that are more frequent and more severe (even more severe than the worst droughts in the period 1981–2010) over wide parts of the world, in particular most of Africa, central and South America, central Asia, southern Australia, southern Europe, Mexico and the United States of America. The extent and severity of these projected droughts largely depend on the magnitude of the temperature rise.<sup>1</sup>

In Somaliland, drought has been frequently occurring in the country for the last decades and was having varied impacts. The country is vulnerable to droughts due to predominantly reliance on pastoralism in terms of livelihood and economy as livestock remains an important source for employment opportunities, hard currency, and significantly contributing to government revenue and the country's economy at large. Climate variability and changes in environmental conditions are also important factors that always stem from recurrent droughts throughout the country.

Currently, the drought situation has been worsening as a result of failures of two consecutive rainy seasons in some regions, and others erratic and poorly performed. This is also intensified by the desert locust infestation and Coronavirus which impacts the livelihood of thousands of people. National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) released a drought monitoring flash report to update the government and partners to respond to the drought situation.

## 1.1 Activation of National Drought Committee (NDC)

The Government of Somaliland has realized that the current drought situation is worsening, and there is need to peer into the situation, and greater attention and effort be given to it to mitigate the impact of drought on communities and economics. The President of Somaliland activated the National Drought Committee (NDC), and NADFOR is secretary of the committee to spearhead the drought management efforts and plans, to save affected people, and mitigate impact of drought. The NDC realized the need to conduct a rapid assessment to have detailed information on the current drought situation in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

## 1.2 Scope of the Assessment

A ten-day rapid assessment has been conducted across the six main regions of Somaliland (Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, Sahil, Marodijeer and Awdal regions). Hotspot locations were selected in each region that represents the current severely affected locations in each region. The combination of

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (2021). GAR Special Report on Drought 2021. Geneva

the information collected from visited locations represent the overall drought situation in the country, and critical locations that need urgent assistance.

### 1.3 Overall objectives

The overall objective of the assessment was to establish detailed information on the current drought situation and associated impacts in terms of water, food security, health, Nutrition, and displacement to inform the government and humanitarian partners on the current drought situation and mobilize necessary resources for drought response and mitigation.

### 1.4 Specific Objectives

The objectives of the assessment were:

- To determine the current drought situation across six main regions of Somaliland (Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, Sahil, Marodijeeh, and Awdal regions)
- To find out the needs and priorities of the drought affected communities
- To gather information for a national response plan to manage, and mobilize resources for the drought.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Data collection tool and fieldwork preparation

The assessment used common tool initially developed for the Somaliland Drought Risk Assessment in December 2020 and it was designed via Kobo Collect by participants based in each region. The tool was validated in advance to make sure, the completeness and the applicability of the questions to the local context and objectives of the assessment. The field teams received their brief training on 16 December 2021 with the specific focus on the field staff to comprehensively understand the data collection tool. In addition to, all necessary materials for the field work were given to the teams.

### 2.2. Field teams and Data collection procedure

The assessment was carried out across six main regions in Somaliland. The assessment was commissioned by National Drought Committee (NDC). NADFOR was tasked with the technical leadership of the rapid assessment with participation (MoPD, MoED, MoHD, MoAD, MoRE, MoWD, MoI and MoLF, NADFOR UN, and NGOs. The fieldwork was carried out by six teams, with the funding of the government, each consisting of one supervisor, number of enumerators and a driver. An Android platform developed in Kobo was used for data collection. Prior to data collection, field teams had consultation meeting with regional governors and regional coordinators of the participating ministries for identification of the hotspot areas for the assessment in each region. This was followed by field teams to conduct either key informative interview or focus group discussion in each selected location as applicable. Teams were sending their data to the server continuously and on a daily basis, alongside data collection on paper work. Fieldwork has taken 10 days to complete the field exercise for the six region.

### 2.3. Scope and sampling procedure

The assessment covered range of topics on drought and its impacts including the current situation on water, food security, pasture, health and nutrition in all Somaliland regions. Around 77 locations (towns/villages and IDP sites) were selected in consultation with regional governors, based on the reported severity of the water and pasture shortages. This was a community-level assessment which was designed to interview community key informants including traditional leaders, local authorities and affected communities in each selected location. Respondents were selected purposively for the assessment and the results are not statistically representative for each district.

Table 1: locations selected for assessment

Region	Districts	# of locations	Locations
<b>Awdal</b>	Baki	4	Carrowareen, Carroweyne, Fadhixun, Weeraar
	Lughaye	3	Gargara, Karuure, Lughaya
	Zaylac	3	Ceel-gaal, Fiqi-Adem, Jidhi
<b>Maroodijeex</b>	Gebiley	1	Taysa
	Hargeisa	10	Balli mataan (Barasanka IDP), Daba jilab, Dacarta, Dhagax Maxamed, Gaas, Ina Guuxaa, Kaabadda Galbeed, Labi-sagaala, Wado bariis, Weeraarta
<b>Saaxil</b>	Berbera	15	Bulahar, Deri-maraa, Fuguho, Fuguxo, Go'ada wayn, Goobaare, Ilcarmo, Laasciidle, Salat biyo kulul, Salay, Salay Biyo Kulul, Xagal, Xididaalay
	Sheikh	3	Cilaan, Dowdama, Ximan
<b>Sanaag</b>	Ceel Afweyn	4	Beer waysoo, Dararwayne, Fara guul, Huluul
	Ceerigaabo	5	Dhoob, Dhoobo Cantuug, Fiqi Fuliye, Kulaal, Shimbiraale
	Laasqoray	1	Baraagaha Qol
<b>Sool</b>	Caynabo	2	Buq-dharkeyn, War idaad
	Laas Caanood	3	Dharkeyn Geenyo, Goljano, Karin Garfood
	Taleex	2	Godaale, Taleex
	Xudun	2	Saax Gabgebo, Xudun
<b>Togdheer</b>	Burco	14	Bali dhiig, Balidhiig, Ceel-dheere, Duruqsi, Masalaha gorad, Nasiye, Qoryaale, Riyo xidho, War cimran, Waraabiye

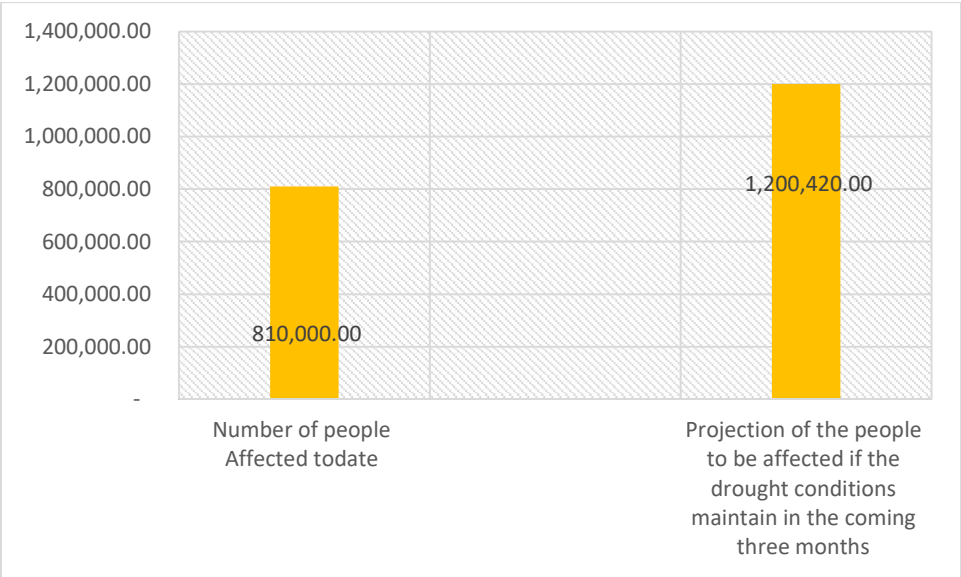
	Buuhoodle	1	Buuhoodle
	Owdweyne	4	Cali Farax, Ceeg, Laab mulaaxo, Xaaji saalax
Total		<b>77</b>	

### 3. KEY FINDINGS

Generally, the mission found that there is serious shortage of water and pasture in the assessed locations/ districts of the Eastern regions (Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag) and Marodijeeh region , While the Guban districts, especially Coastal and Subcoastal areas of Awdal and Sahil regions have enough water but suffer extreme shortage of pasture and food in those regions.

#### 3.1 Population affected and projections

Currently drought has critically affected **810,000 persons** who are in need of urgent assistance. However, if the current drought conditions persist in the coming three months, the total people to be affected are expected to reach **1,200,420 persons**.



#### 3.2 Water shortage

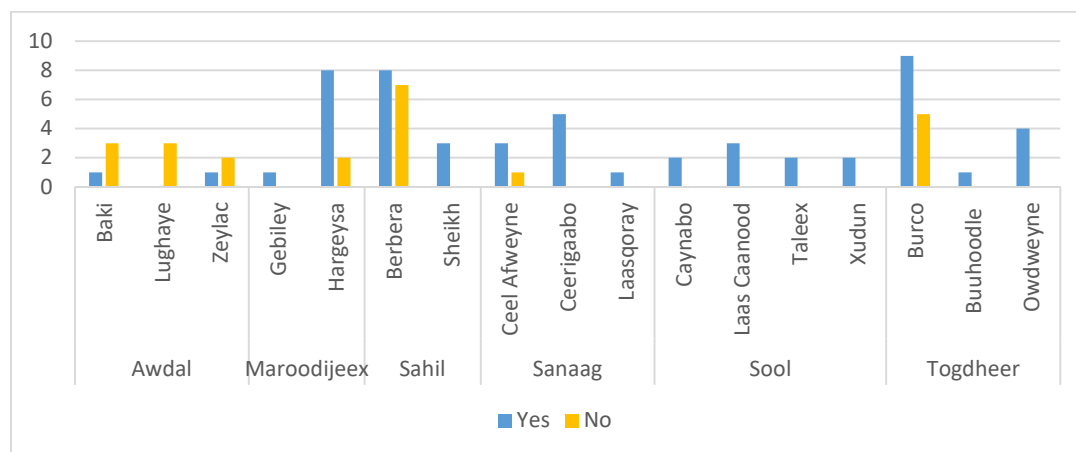
The cost of water was rising rapidly in most of the drought affected locations, especially in the Eastern regions (Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool). One barrel of 200 litres of water cost 40,000-65,000 SL shilling and more in some of the areas, which is very costly for the low income rural households. Most of the people in those locations visited complained of their income and purchasing power is reduced by the deteriorated terms of trade and the high cost of food commodities (Rice, wheat flour, oil, and sugar and etc.) whereas the price of livestock is decreased.

The missions reported the following:

## Water source:

- Out of 77 communities assessed, 49 have *berkets*, 26 have boreholes, 21 have shallow wells, 28 communities reported that they receive water trucking.
- **Berkads:** 76% of communities having berkets reported that all berkets are reported to be depleted, while 22% reported they were less half than full.
- **Water trucking:** Out of the 28 communities that receive water trucking, 43% receive water on a daily basis. 19 out of 28 communities (68%) receiving water trucking responded that they receive water from private suppliers. No communities, covered by this assessment, mentioned water trucking from humanitarian partners.
- **Reduction of water consumption:** 54 out of 77 assessed communities (69%) responded that the majority of community members reduced water consumption in the past 4 weeks, including all assessed communities in Sool.

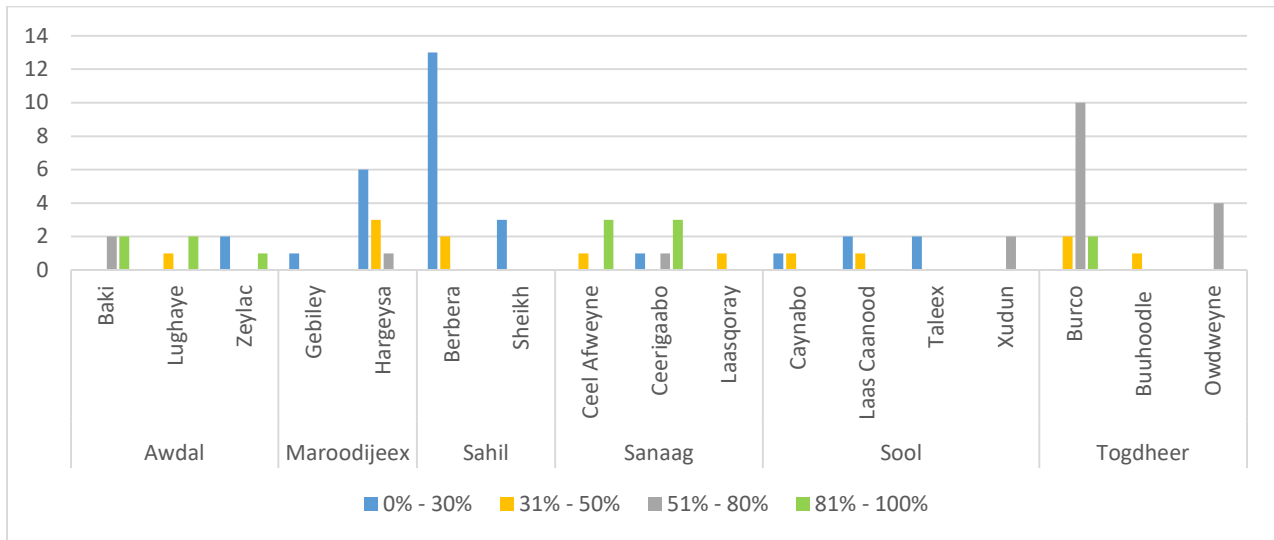
*Figure: Number of communities who reported that the majority of community members reduced water consumption in last 4 weeks*



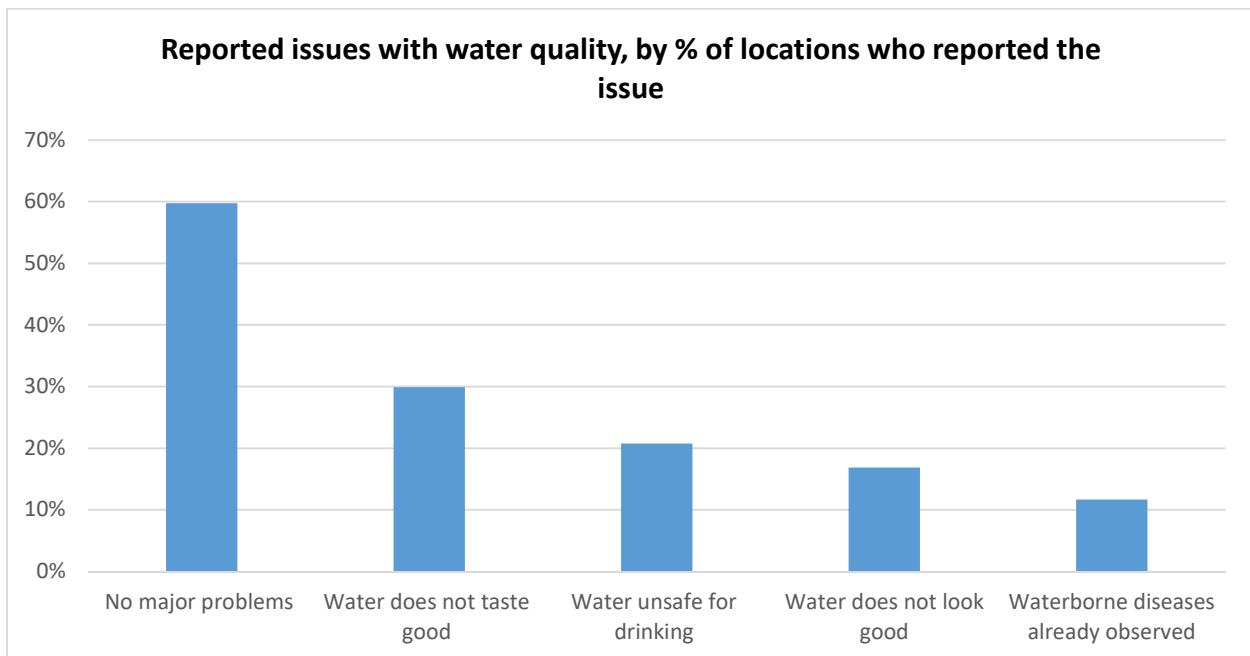
- **Possession of water facilities (jerricans and barrels):**  
44 out of 77 assessed communities (57%) responded that less than 50% of households in the communities owned jerricans or barrels to store water. Of these, 31 communities (40%) responded that less than 30% of households in their community own these items.



Table: Estimation of % of households in community with jerricans and barrels, by number of assessed locations



- **The major challenges faced in accessing water** were far away in terms of the distance to the water point, which was reported by more than half of the assessed sites, followed by lack of money, quality of water, as well as unavailability of water.
- **Concerns over the quality of water:** although 60% of the assessed community mentioned that there are no major problems, 30% of the communities reported that the water tastes bad, and 21% perceived the water as to be unsafe for drinking. In addition, 9 out of 77 communities reported that waterborne diseases had already been observed.



- **Water management committee:** 56% of all assessed communities reported to have water management committees in place.
- **Water treatment:** Only 31% of all locations reported to be treating their drinking water.

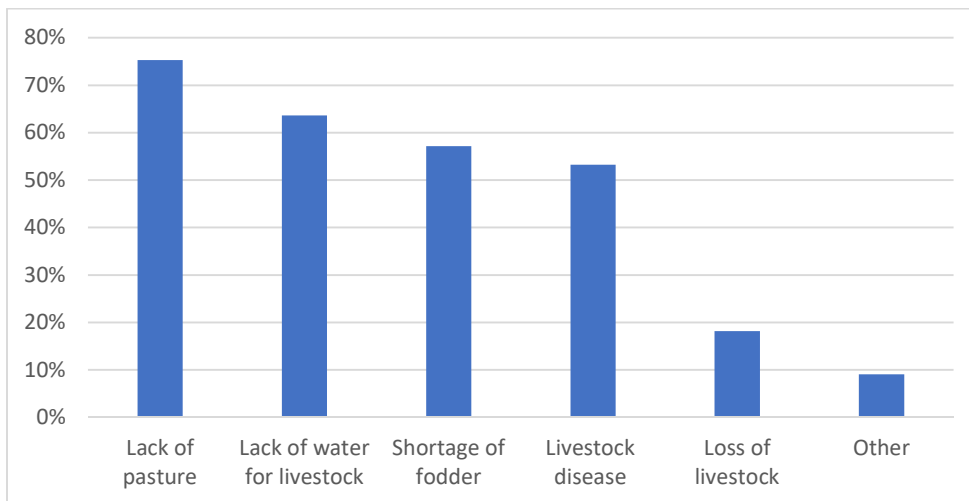
Based on the above discussion, there is an urgent need to scale Up Lifesaving Response in terms of water trucking to the most affected areas, rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, and distribution of plastic water storages.

### 3.3 Pasture

The assessment teams found that there is also shortage of or poor pasture in the coastal and subcoastal areas under Sahil and Awdal regions, as well as the Hawd of Maroojeh, Togdheer, and Sool regions. The 2021 GU seasonal rainfall was poor or below normal and failure of localized Hays rainfall in the entire assessed coastal locations under the two regions. Consequently these circumstances have led to depletion of livestock holding herd size and reduction in sellable livestock.

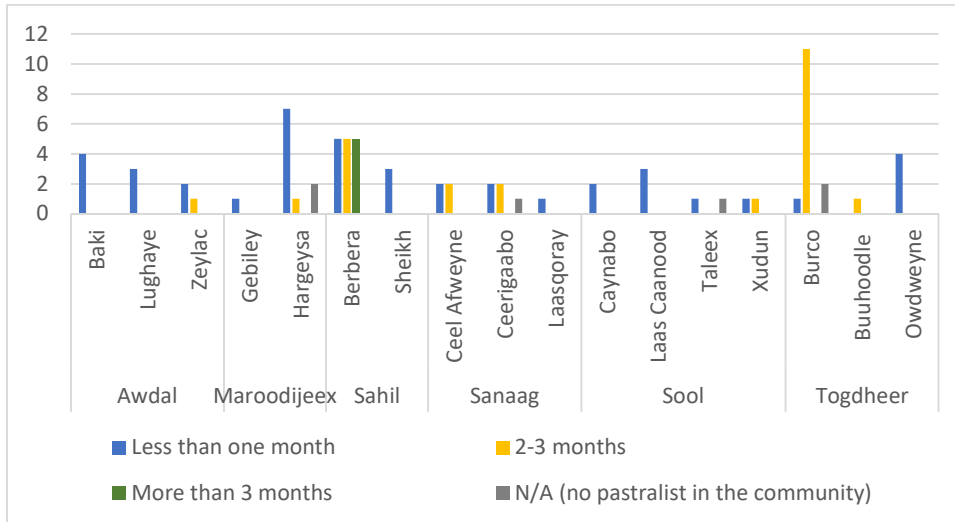
- **The challenges faced by pastoralist:** 75% of all assessed communities reported a lack of pasture due to a lack of rain, 64% of communities cited a lack of water for livestock, and 57% expressed concerns over shortage of fodder.

Figure: Challenges facing by pastoralists in the face of current drought



- **Availability of the fodder**  
42 out of 77 assessed communities (55%) estimated they could only feed their livestock for less than one month with their current available fodder stock.

Figure: Availability of pasture in different locations

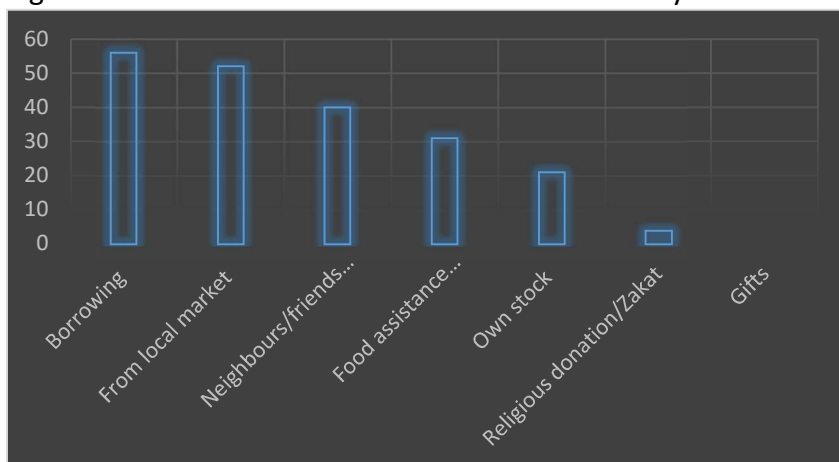


### 3.4. Food security

The main sources of food reported by communities were borrowing, the local market, neighbors and friends and food assistance. About 21 out of 77 assessed locations reported to have access to their own stock of food. The consecutive dry spell caused severe damage to food sources and the income of marginal pastoralists who are mainly dependent on livestock as their primary source for food and nutrition supplements.

The absence of two normal rain seasons, the food and nutrition situation of the communities affected will move into serious situation and the food prices to increase that will further double the burden that communities affected will face.

Figure: Sources of food for the assessed community.



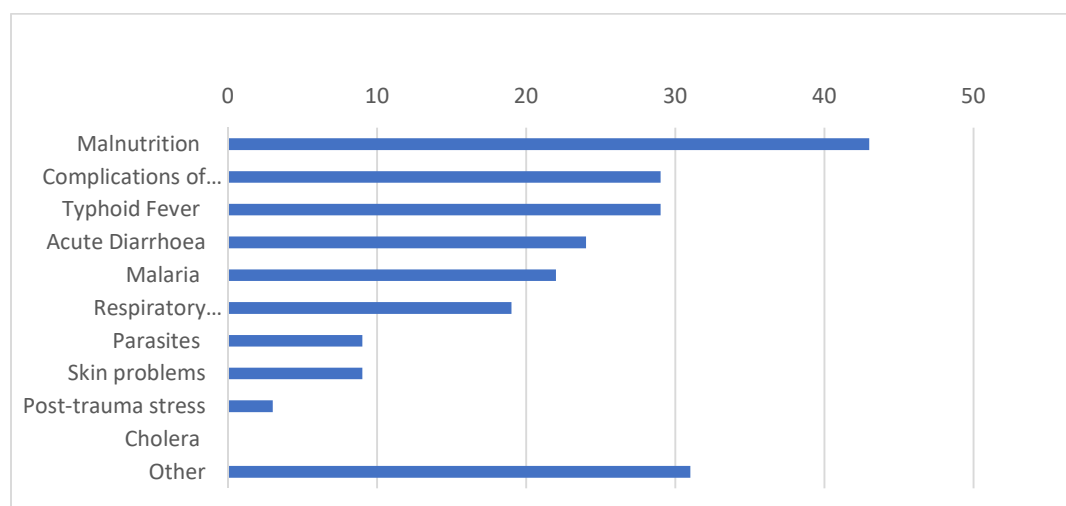
The availability of livestock product (milk, butter, and meat) is very low and thereby affecting availability of nutritious diet for households particularly children and women were highly affected and malnutrition cases remain dominantly high in the affected communities because of the effects of the current drought. Milk and meat availability are critically depressed in these villages and the prices of livestock drastically have fallen.

### 3.5 Health

Findings indicate that 21 out of 77 assessed locations (27%) reported an increase in waterborne diseases in the last four weeks. About 44 out of 77 locations (57%) reported that a health facility was at least 5km away from their location.

The main major diseases reported in the assessed locations were as follows:

Figure: Major diseases reported in the assessed communities in the last 4 weeks



Over 75% of the villages assessed during the rapid needs' assessment reported have no type of health facilities and worst few have poorly functional facilities in their main host villages or

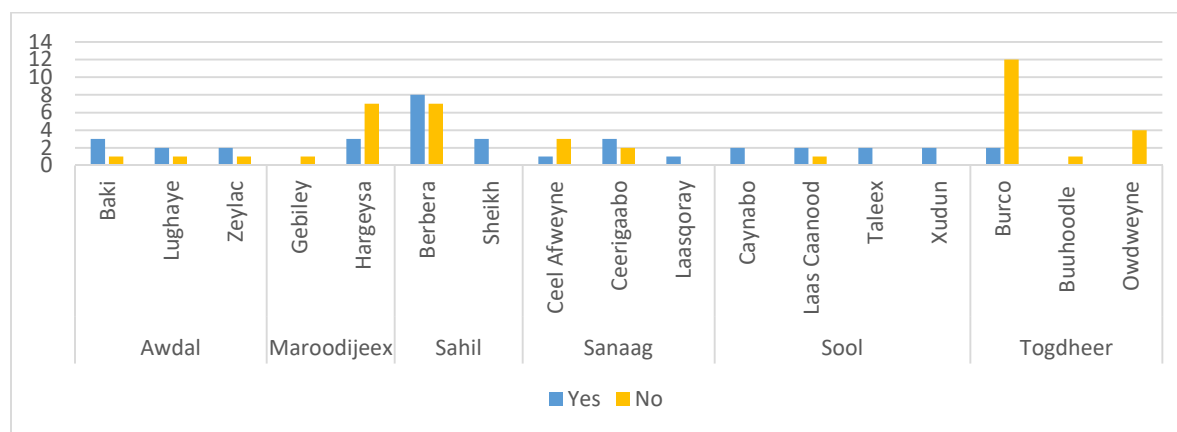
district which was too far from the communities affected while the transport means available was unfavorable for a sick person. In addition, facilities available in the host villages or main districts were experiencing short of healthcare providers and necessary supplies and medicine and thus health facilities capacity in the affected areas to handle complicated cases was impossible.

### 3.6 Nutrition

About 37 out of 78 of the locations assessed reported that most children in their community have been reducing the frequency and quantity of their meals in the last 4 weeks, and 43 communities reported that adults were reducing their meals. The reduction of dairy products particularly milk from livestock due to drought, has impacted the nutritional status of the children, pregnant, lactating and adults.

Health and nutritional facilities were considerably far away from the majority of the community affected by the drought.

Figure: Locations where children have reduced their food consumption in the last 4 weeks, by # of communities



### 3.7 Displacement/Migration

In 48 out of 77 locations assessed (62%), the communities reported the arrivals of migrated persons and livestock in the last weeks to their locations.

The main reason for migration (arrival) in the last four weeks across nearly all locations was drought related. The areas assessed have observed significant number of migrated families and their livestock mainly from the neighboring countries (Somali and Ethiopia).

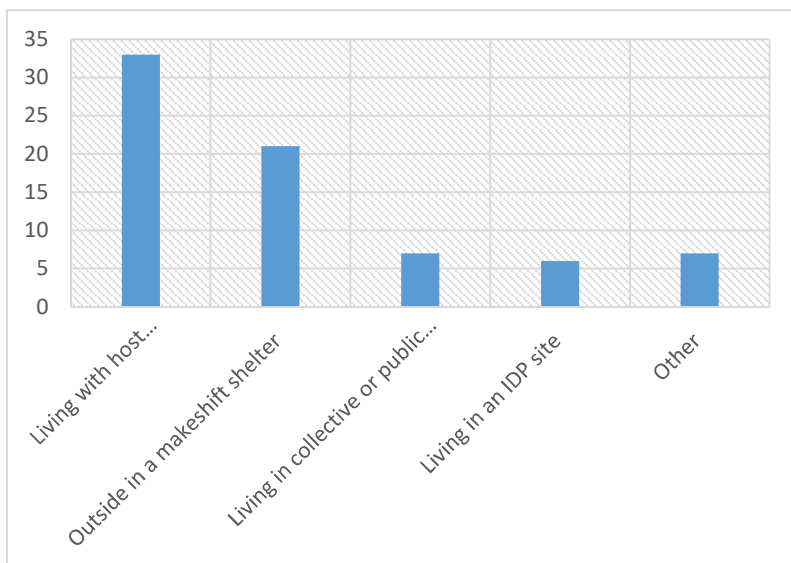


Figure: Status of settlement of the migrated/displaced people

## 4. HOTSPOT AREAS AND PRIORITIES

As findings of rapid drought assessment report shows, there is an urgent need for high priority provisions of most lifesaving assistance, which includes water trucking, distribution of food, and to access health services in drought affected areas.

### 4.1 Top Priorities

#### A) Water Assistance

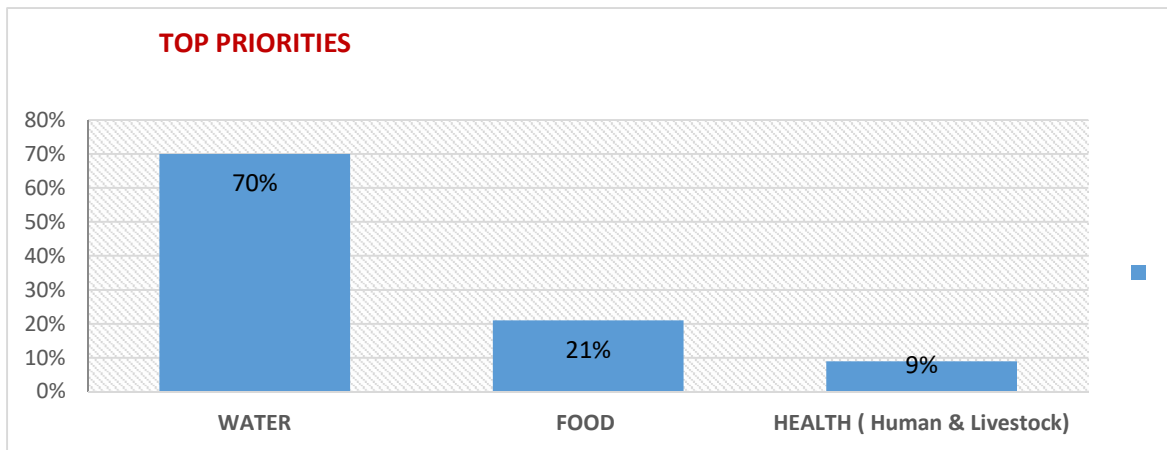
Water in our country is mainly scarce even without drought. Mostly, water supply comes from boreholes, wells and berkads. As resulted from the current drought the majority of open wells, berkads and boreholes in most location dried up, shortage of water supply caused abnormal migration in addition to that increased the cost of potable water. Not only drought affects water quantity but also the quality of drinking water. About 70% of the assessed locations, need for urgent water assistance. Therefore, there is need for immediate water trucking to drought affected areas. Boreholes and other water sources that are not currently functions to be repaired urgently. Also water storage facilities to be provided to the people.

#### B) Food assistance

This assessment found that there is high food insecurity in drought affected areas, as result of loss of livestock and pasture. Prices of food commodities increased, households reduce the quantity and frequency of meal. As depicted figure below 21% of assessed locations respond that they need an urgent assistance in terms of food.

## C) Healthcare Services

Drought also has an influence on health of the people where people suffer health related diseases as result of drought. About 9% of the assessed locations, assert that they need emergency health service.



## 4.2 Hotspot Locations for Emergency Response

This assessment increases the overall knowledge of hotspot locations affected by drought, in order to support prioritization and to make better targeting of resources. Since the areas visited were selected purposively for the assessment, the hotspots might keep changing and therefore resource allocation will be decided by the National Drought Committee.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Largely, the country is in drought, most severely impacted regions are Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, where an urgent water trucking is needed. Also the Sahil, Maroodijeh, and Awdal regions are undergoing an alarming drought situation with shortage of food and some places both food and water, and they need urgent support in terms of food and water assistance. Hundreds of people migrated from their locations, and still both normal and abnormal migration of pastoralists are largely observed in all drought affected locations. Lifesaving assistance with focus on water and food are currently the utmost need of the drought affected people, and the situation will deteriorate if urgent lifesaving assistance is not given to the affected communities.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an urgent need to scale up lifesaving response in terms of water trucking to the most affected areas, rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, and the provision of food assistance using the different modalities.
- There is a need to prioritize the most vulnerable community members including IDPs and the pastoralists who migrated from their places in search of water and pasture.
- The Government of Somaliland must issue an appeal and mobilize resources to respond to the drought.
- The Technical team under National Drought committee should develop a drought response plan.

- There is need for National Digital Platform to map responses and intervention in the face of current drought situation with an hourly update for better observation on ongoing responses, and avoid overlaps of responses.



## Annex 1: Photos Taken During Field Work



Dhoob, Sanaag region



Wari-daad, Sool



Siiga-Dheere, Sanaag



Dharkayn geeyo, Sool





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the information collected from visited locations represent the overall drought situation in the country, and critical locations that need urgent assistance.

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The assessment used common tool initially developed for the Somaliland Drought Risk Assessment in December 2020 and it was designed via Kobo Collect by participants based in each region. The tool was validated in advance to make sure, the completeness and the applicability of the questions to the local context and objectives of the assessment. The field teams received their brief training on 16 December 2021 with the specific focus on the field staff to comprehensively understand the data collection tool. In addition to, all necessary materials for the field work were given to the teams.

### 2.2. Field teams and Data collection procedure

The assessment was carried out across six main regions in Somaliland. The assessment was commissioned by National Drought Committee (NDC). NADFOR was tasked with the technical leadership of the rapid assessment with participation (MoPD, MoED, MoHD, MoAD, MoRE, MoWD, MoI and MoLF, NADFOR UN, and NGOs. The fieldwork was carried out by six teams, with the funding of the government, each consisting of one supervisor, number of enumerators and a driver. An Android platform developed in Kobo was used for data collection. Prior to data collection, field teams had consultation meeting with regional governors and regional coordinators of the participating ministries for identification of the hotspot areas for the assessment in each region. This was followed by field teams to conduct either key informative interview or focus group discussion in each selected location as applicable. Teams were sending their data to the server continuously and on a daily basis, alongside data collection on paper work. Fieldwork has taken 10 days to complete the field exercise for the six region.



### 2.3. Scope and sampling procedure

The assessment covered range of topics on drought and its impacts including the current situation on water, food security, pasture, health and nutrition in all Somaliland regions. Around 77 locations (towns/villages and IDP sites) were selected in consultation with regional governors, based on the reported severity of the water and pasture shortages. This was a community-level assessment which was designed to interview community key informants including traditional leaders, local authorities and affected communities in each selected location. Respondents were selected purposively for the assessment and the results are not statistically representative for each district.

Table 1: locations selected for assessment

Region	Districts	# of locations	Locations
<b>Awdal</b>	Baki	4	Carrowareen, Carroweyne, Fadhixun, Weeraar
	Lughaye	3	Gargara, Karuure, Lughaya
	Zaylac	3	Ceel-gaal, Fiqi-Adem, Jidhi
<b>Maroodijeex</b>	Gebiley	1	Taysa
	Hargeisa	10	Balli mataan (Barasanka IDP), Daba jilab, Dacarta, Dhagax Maxamed, Gaas, Ina Guuxaa, Kaabadda Galbeed, Labi-sagaala, Wado bariis, Weeraarta
<b>Saaxil</b>	Berbera	15	Bulahar, Deri-maraa, Fuguho, Fuguxo, Go'ada wayn, Goobaare, Ilcarmo, Laasciidle, Salat biyo kulul, Salay, Salay Biyo Kulul, Xagal, Xididaalay
	Sheikh	3	Cilaan, Dowdama, Ximan
<b>Sanaag</b>	Ceel Afweyn	4	Beer waysoo, Dararwayne, Fara guul, Huluul
	Ceerigaabo	5	Dhoob, Dhoobo Cantuug, Fiqi Fuliye, Kulaal, Shimbiraale
	Laasqoray	1	Baraagaha Qol
<b>Sool</b>	Caynabo	2	Buq-dharkeyn, War idaad
	Laas Caanood	3	Dharkeyn Geenyo, Goljano, Karin Garfood
	Taleex	2	Godaale, Taleex
	Xudun	2	Saax Gabgebo, Xudun
<b>Togdheer</b>	Burco	14	Bali dhiig, Balidhiig, Ceel-dheere, Duruqsi, Masalaha gorad, Nasiye, Qoryaale, Riyo xidho, War cimran, Waraabiye

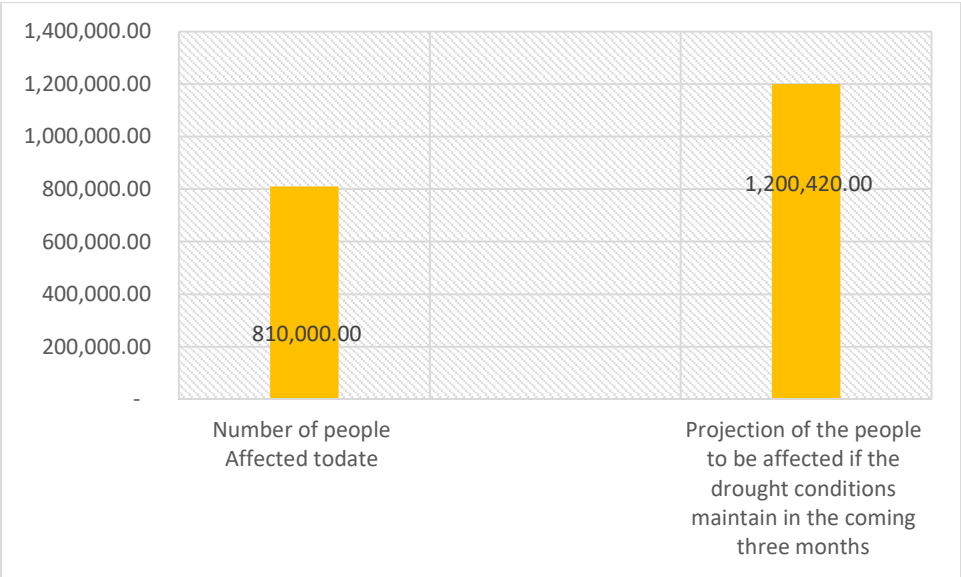
	Buuhoodle	1	Buuhoodle
	Owdweyne	4	Cali Farax, Ceeg, Laab mulaaxo, Xaaji saalax
Total		<b>77</b>	

### 3. KEY FINDINGS

Generally, the mission found that there is serious shortage of water and pasture in the assessed locations/ districts of the Eastern regions (Togdheer, Sool, and Sanaag) and Marodijeeh region , While the Guban districts, especially Coastal and Subcoastal areas of Awdal and Sahil regions have enough water but suffer extreme shortage of pasture and food in those regions.

#### 3.1 Population affected and projections

Currently drought has critically affected **810,000 persons** who are in need of urgent assistance. However, if the current drought conditions persist in the coming three months, the total people to be affected are expected to reach **1,200, 420 persons**.



#### 3.2 Water shortage

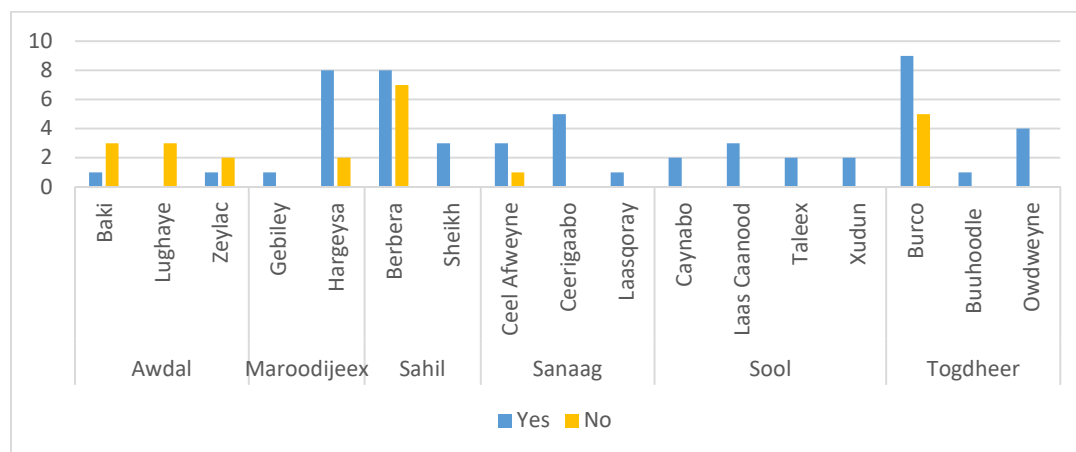
The cost of water was rising rapidly in most of the drought affected locations, especially in the Eastern regions (Togdheer, Sanaag and Sool). One barrel of 200 litres of water cost 40,000-65,000 SL shilling and more in some of the areas, which is very costly for the low income rural households. Most of the people in those locations visited complained of their income and purchasing power is reduced by the deteriorated terms of trade and the high cost of food commodities (Rice, wheat flour, oil, and sugar and etc.) whereas the price of livestock is decreased.

The missions reported the following:

## Water source:

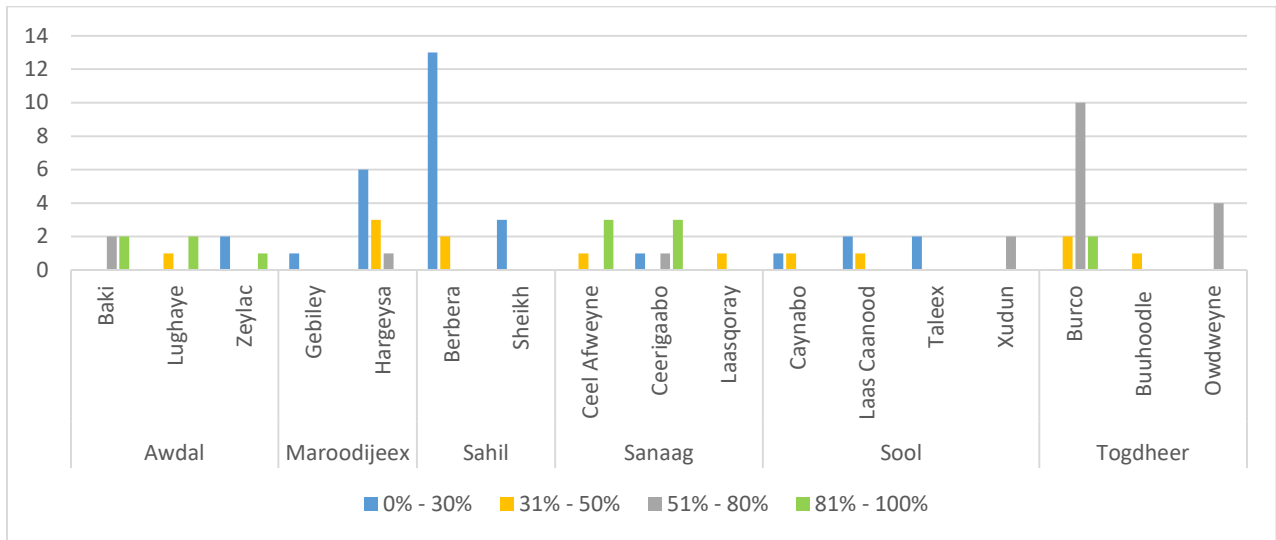
- Out of 77 communities assessed, 49 have *berkets*, 26 have boreholes, 21 have shallow wells, 28 communities reported that they receive water trucking.
- **Berkads:** 76% of communities having berkets reported that all berkets are reported to be depleted, while 22% reported they were less half than full.
- **Water trucking:** Out of the 28 communities that receive water trucking, 43% receive water on a daily basis. 19 out of 28 communities (68%) receiving water trucking responded that they receive water from private suppliers. No communities, covered by this assessment, mentioned water trucking from humanitarian partners.
- **Reduction of water consumption:** 54 out of 77 assessed communities (69%) responded that the majority of community members reduced water consumption in the past 4 weeks, including all assessed communities in Sool.

*Figure: Number of communities who reported that the majority of community members reduced water consumption in last 4 weeks*

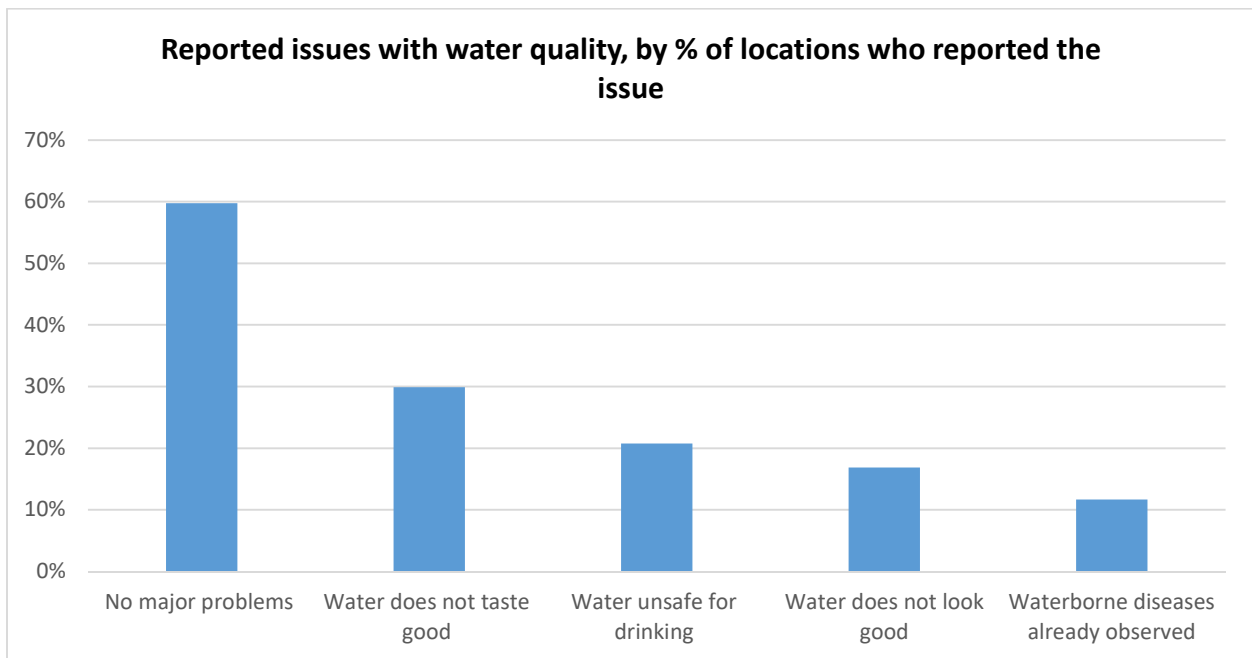


- **Possession of water facilities (jerricans and barrels):** 44 out of 77 assessed communities (57%) responded that less than 50% of households in the communities owned jerricans or barrels to store water. Of these, 31 communities (40%) responded that less than 30% of households in their community own these items.

Table: Estimation of % of households in community with jerricans and barrels, by number of assessed locations



- **The major challenges faced in accessing water** were far away in terms of the distance to the water point, which was reported by more than half of the assessed sites, followed by lack of money, quality of water, as well as unavailability of water.
- **Concerns over the quality of water:** although 60% of the assessed community mentioned that there are no major problems, 30% of the communities reported that the water tastes bad, and 21% perceived the water as to be unsafe for drinking. In addition, 9 out of 77 communities reported that waterborne diseases had already been observed.



- **Water management committee:** 56% of all assessed communities reported to have water management committees in place.
- **Water treatment:** Only 31% of all locations reported to be treating their drinking water.

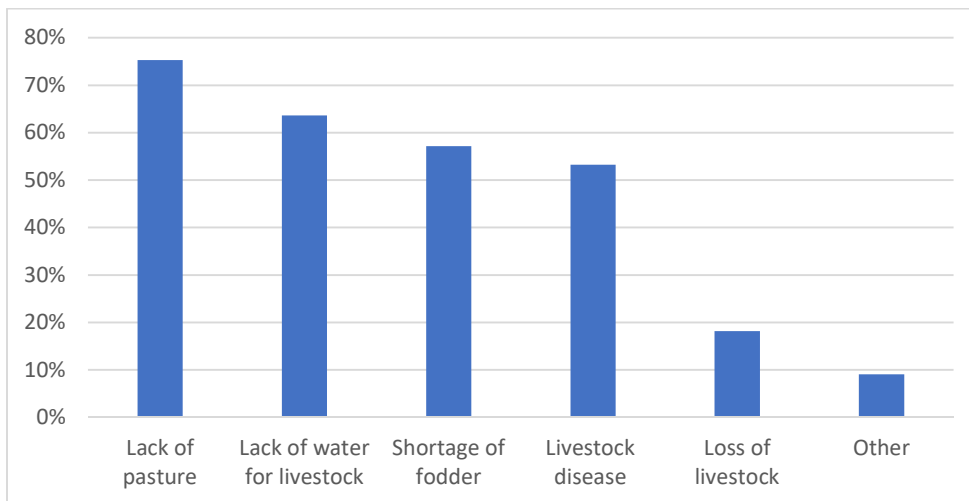
Based on the above discussion, there is an urgent need to scale Up Lifesaving Response in terms of water trucking to the most affected areas, rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, and distribution of plastic water storages.

### 3.3 Pasture

The assessment teams found that there is also shortage of or poor pasture in the coastal and subcoastal areas under Sahil and Awdal regions, as well as the Hawd of Maroojeh, Togdheer, and Sool regions. The 2021 GU seasonal rainfall was poor or below normal and failure of localized Hays rainfall in the entire assessed coastal locations under the two regions. Consequently these circumstances have led to depletion of livestock holding herd size and reduction in sellable livestock.

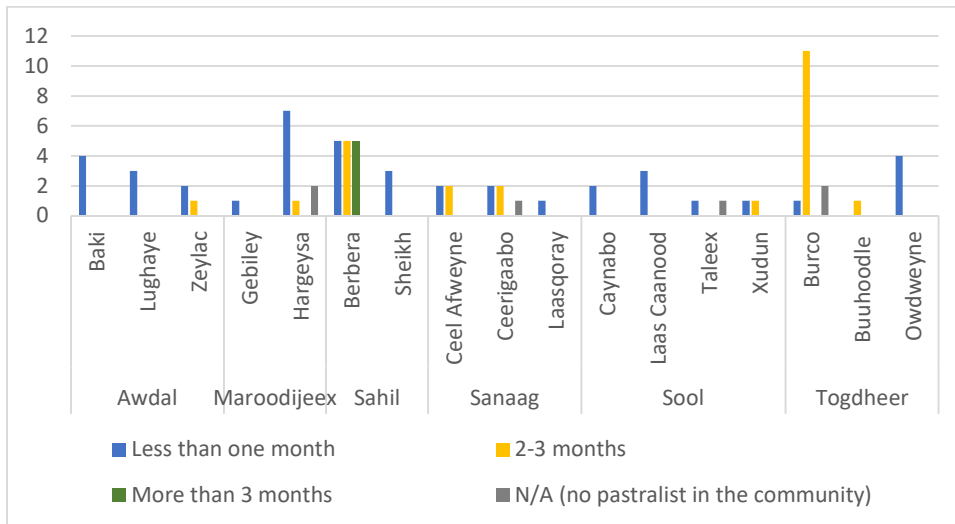
- **The challenges faced by pastoralist:** 75% of all assessed communities reported a lack of pasture due to a lack of rain, 64% of communities cited a lack of water for livestock, and 57% expressed concerns over shortage of fodder.

Figure: Challenges facing by pastoralists in the face of current drought



- **Availability of the fodder**  
42 out of 77 assessed communities (55%) estimated they could only feed their livestock for less than one month with their current available fodder stock.

Figure: Availability of pasture in different locations

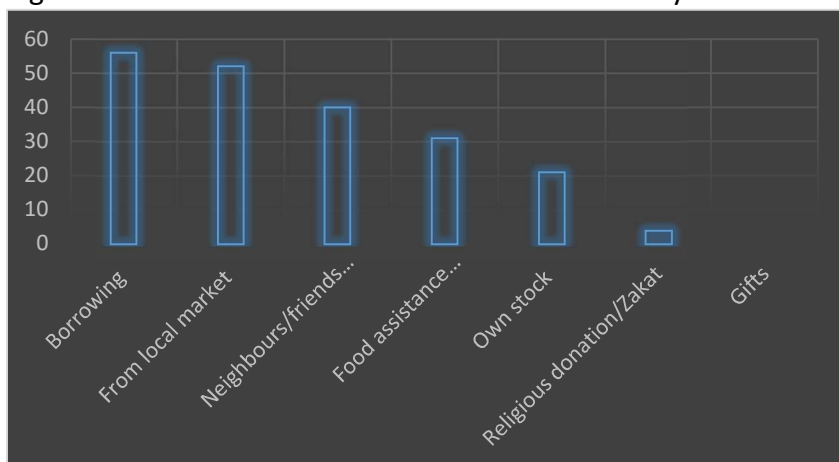


### 3.4. Food security

The main sources of food reported by communities were borrowing, the local market, neighbors and friends and food assistance. About 21 out of 77 assessed locations reported to have access to their own stock of food. The consecutive dry spell caused severe damage to food sources and the income of marginal pastoralists who are mainly dependent on livestock as their primary source for food and nutrition supplements.

The absence of two normal rain seasons, the food and nutrition situation of the communities affected will move into serious situation and the food prices to increase that will further double the burden that communities affected will face.

Figure: Sources of food for the assessed community.



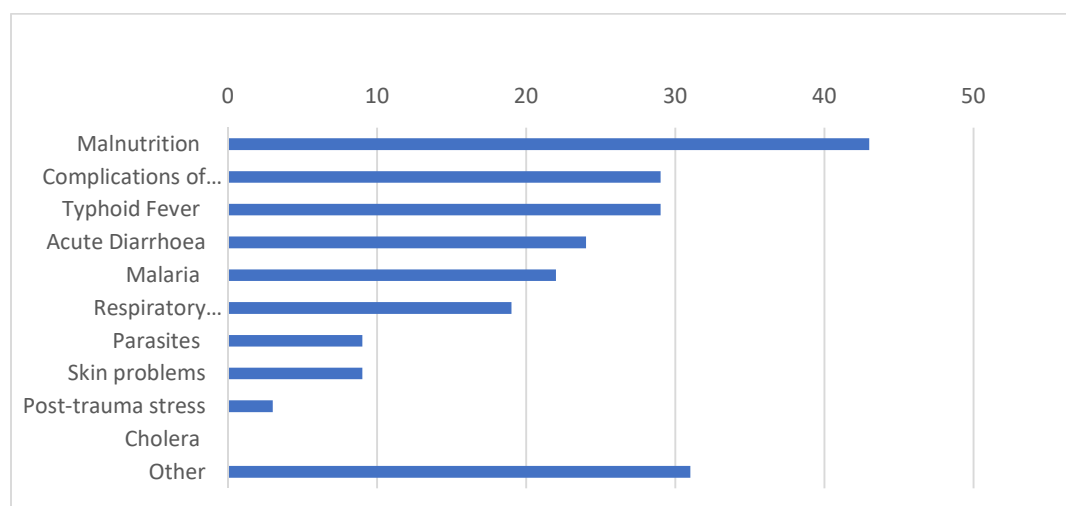
The availability of livestock product (milk, butter, and meat) is very low and thereby affecting availability of nutritious diet for households particularly children and women were highly affected and malnutrition cases remain dominantly high in the affected communities because of the effects of the current drought. Milk and meat availability are critically depressed in these villages and the prices of livestock drastically have fallen.

### 3.5 Health

Findings indicate that 21 out of 77 assessed locations (27%) reported an increase in waterborne diseases in the last four weeks. About 44 out of 77 locations (57%) reported that a health facility was at least 5km away from their location.

The main major diseases reported in the assessed locations were as follows:

Figure: Major diseases reported in the assessed communities in the last 4 weeks



Over 75% of the villages assessed during the rapid needs' assessment reported have no type of health facilities and worst few have poorly functional facilities in their main host villages or

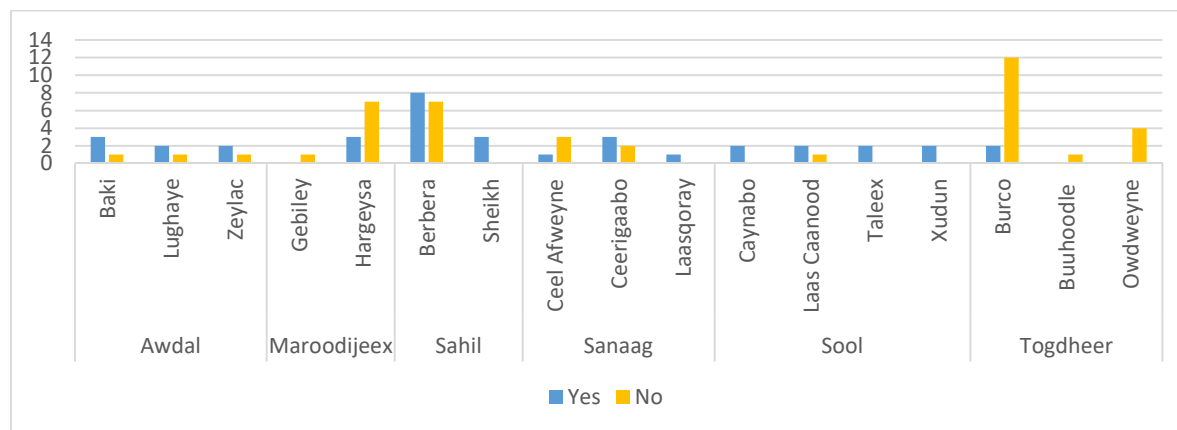
district which was too far from the communities affected while the transport means available was unfavorable for a sick person. In addition, facilities available in the host villages or main districts were experiencing short of healthcare providers and necessary supplies and medicine and thus health facilities capacity in the affected areas to handle complicated cases was impossible.

### 3.6 Nutrition

About 37 out of 78 of the locations assessed reported that most children in their community have been reducing the frequency and quantity of their meals in the last 4 weeks, and 43 communities reported that adults were reducing their meals. The reduction of dairy products particularly milk from livestock due to drought, has impacted the nutritional status of the children, pregnant, lactating and adults.

Health and nutritional facilities were considerably far away from the majority of the community affected by the drought.

Figure: Locations where children have reduced their food consumption in the last 4 weeks, by # of communities



### 3.7 Displacement/Migration

In 48 out of 77 locations assessed (62%), the communities reported the arrivals of migrated persons and livestock in the last weeks to their locations.

The main reason for migration (arrival) in the last four weeks across nearly all locations was drought related. The areas assessed have observed significant number of migrated families and their livestock mainly from the neighboring countries (Somali and Ethiopia).



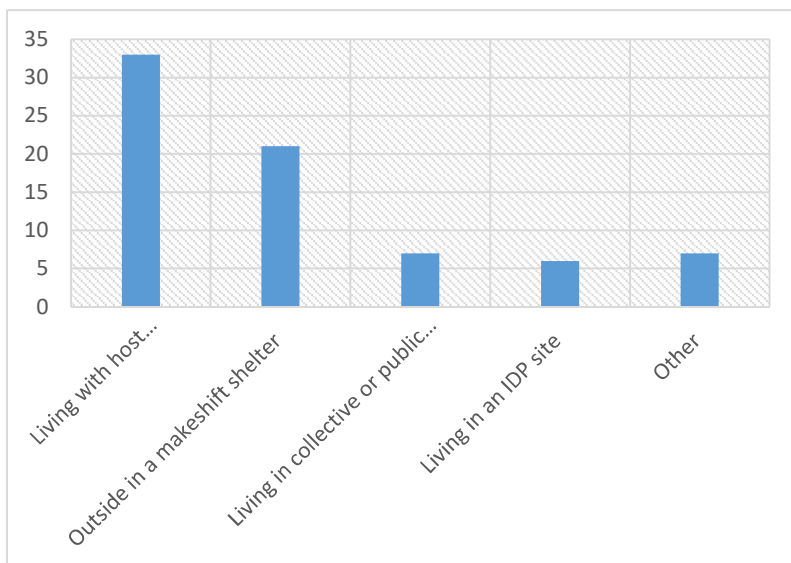


Figure: Status of settlement of the migrated/displaced people

## 4. HOTSPOT AREAS AND PRIORITIES

As findings of rapid drought assessment report shows, there is an urgent need for high priority provisions of most lifesaving assistance, which includes water trucking, distribution of food, and to access health services in drought affected areas.

### 4.1 Top Priorities

#### A) Water Assistance

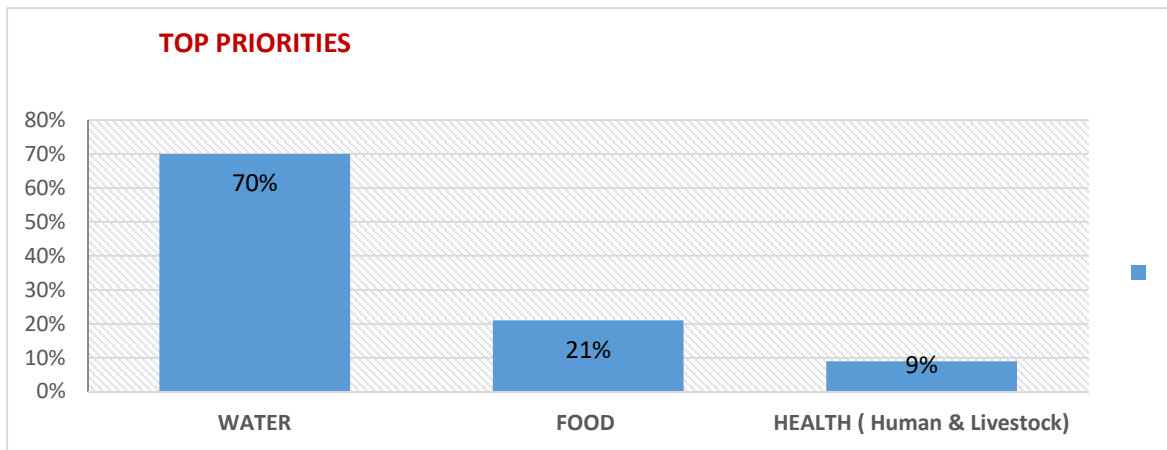
Water in our country is mainly scarce even without drought. Mostly, water supply comes from boreholes, wells and berkads. As resulted from the current drought the majority of open wells, berkads and boreholes in most location dried up, shortage of water supply caused abnormal migration in addition to that increased the cost of potable water. Not only drought affects water quantity but also the quality of drinking water. About 70% of the assessed locations, need for urgent water assistance. Therefore, there is need for immediate water trucking to drought affected areas. Boreholes and other water sources that are not currently functions to be repaired urgently. Also water storage facilities to be provided to the people.

#### B) Food assistance

This assessment found that there is high food insecurity in drought affected areas, as result of loss of livestock and pasture. Prices of food commodities increased, households reduce the quantity and frequency of meal. As depicted figure below 21% of assessed locations respond that they need an urgent assistance in terms of food.

## C) Healthcare Services

Drought also has an influence on health of the people where people suffer health related diseases as result of drought. About 9% of the assessed locations, assert that they need emergency health service.



## 4.2 Hotspot Locations for Emergency Response

This assessment increases the overall knowledge of hotspot locations affected by drought, in order to support prioritization and to make better targeting of resources. Since the areas visited were selected purposively for the assessment, the hotspots might keep changing and therefore resource allocation will be decided by the National Drought Committee.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Largely, the country is in drought, most severely impacted regions are Sool, Sanaag, Togdheer, where an urgent water trucking is needed. Also the Sahil, Maroodijeh, and Awdal regions are undergoing an alarming drought situation with shortage of food and some places both food and water, and they need urgent support in terms of food and water assistance. Hundreds of people migrated from their locations, and still both normal and abnormal migration of pastoralists are largely observed in all drought affected locations. Lifesaving assistance with focus on water and food are currently the utmost need of the drought affected people, and the situation will deteriorate if urgent lifesaving assistance is not given to the affected communities.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an urgent need to scale up lifesaving response in terms of water trucking to the most affected areas, rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, and the provision of food assistance using the different modalities.
- There is a need to prioritize the most vulnerable community members including IDPs and the pastoralists who migrated from their places in search of water and pasture.
- The Government of Somaliland must issue an appeal and mobilize resources to respond to the drought.
- The Technical team under National Drought committee should develop a drought response plan.

- There is need for National Digital Platform to map responses and intervention in the face of current drought situation with an hourly update for better observation on ongoing responses, and avoid overlaps of responses.

## Annex 1: Photos Taken During Field Work



Dhoob, Sanaag region



Wari-daad, Sool



Siiga-Dheere, Sanaag



Dharkayn geeyo, Sool

