

**EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR'S
KEY MESSAGES ON HORN OF AFRICA
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I. Key Messages

1. The crisis in the Horn of Africa is intensifying. More than 12 million people in Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti urgently need help, and the numbers are increasing daily. If humanitarian agencies do not act now, the famine in two regions of Somalia is likely to spread throughout the south of the country within weeks - with grave implications for the entire region. The future of a generation is at stake.
2. The scale and severity of the crisis in Somalia makes it by far the most serious food security emergency in the world. Tens of thousands of people have died, and hundreds of thousands risk starvation. Continued armed conflict is exacerbating the situation, and insecurity remains a serious obstacle to providing humanitarian assistance. We are responding in transit areas near the borders, and in Mogadishu, where people are moving in search of help. We are also assisting people further inside Somalia where we can reach them, bringing in critical medical, water and food supplies by road and air. However large areas in the south remain cut-off from our assistance. Reports of deteriorating conditions in Lower Shabelle, Middle and Lower Juba, Bay, Bakool, Benadir, Gedo and Hiraaan are particularly worrying.
3. We urgently need to reach people where they are, and without delay. We must be allowed to bring in critical supplies and services as quickly and directly as possible, through all available channels. We continue to ask all parties to allow unhindered access, and reiterate the need to increase assistance to people in acute distress. Our sole aim is to save lives.
4. Assisting people displaced by the drought and refugees remains an especially high priority. Thousands of Somalis are arriving every day at camps across the Ethiopian and Kenyan borders. We need to increase shelter, water and sanitation services, and reduce the pressure on host communities, who are also severely affected by the drought. We greatly appreciate the support provided by the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya, and ask for their continued help in scaling up our assistance to refugees.
5. A number of member states and regional organizations have raised additional funds for the crisis. However there still remains a funding gap. Donors have committed more than US\$1 billion to help us respond to this crisis, and continue to pledge more. But the needs continue to

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rise, and every day can make the difference between life and death. A new assessment of humanitarian requirements identifies a funding gap of more than \$1 billion. Whilst I welcome the action already taken by a number of donors, we need to ask our donors to do more.

6. Steps have been taken to improve the operational coherence between humanitarian agencies at a country and regional level. This is important to avoid duplication and sustain a well coordinated response effort.