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Contact: Hannah Button, Communications Team Lead,
Famine Early Warning Systems Network

Email: hbutton@fews.net

UNPRECEDENTED SIXTH CONSECUTIVE SEASON OF DROUGHT FORECAST IN HORN OF AFRICA: HUNGER SURGES AS HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS REMAIN UNDERFUNDED

Washington, D.C. – Sixteen international organizations have joined forces to warn, once again, of the already dire and deteriorating food security crisis in the eastern Horn of Africa.

On Monday, the [Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEWS NET\)](#) was among a consortium of food security organizations that issued a new [Joint Statement](#) urging the humanitarian community to immediately increase funding for the Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia drought response.

Record-breaking levels of acute food insecurity are being recorded across the region, which has experienced a relentless series of droughts over the last two years. Another poor rainy season is expected in the remaining months of 2022, and forecasts now indicate a significant likelihood that the March-to-May 2023 rainy season will also be below-average.

“We are already witnessing a poor start to the current rainy season in the Horn, and FEWS NET scientists have compared model forecasts of Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures with previous years to warn that we may well see another failed rainy season in 2023,” FEWS NET Team Leader Kiersten Johnson said. “Even if the March-to-May rainy season performs well, it will take years for impacted communities in the eastern Horn to recover from the damage that has already been done over the past two years of drought.”

According to the Joint Statement, 20.9 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are acutely food insecure. Increases in child deaths have been observed across the region, and 7.46 million children under the age of five are estimated to face acute malnutrition. The drought is also contributing to significant health risks, including multiple ongoing disease outbreaks.

“We do not need to wait for a [formal Famine declaration](#) in any of these countries to warrant action,” Johnson said. “Millions of peoples’ lives are already at risk. Lives will continue to be lost and people will continue to suffer if the drought response continues to be underfunded.”

For the latest information on Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia and the ongoing drought situation in the eastern Horn of Africa, follow FEWS NET on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and [subscribe](#) for updates.

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About FEWS NET: FEWS NET, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, is a leading provider of early warning and analysis on acute food insecurity around the world. Created in 1985 by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in response to devastating famines in East and West Africa, FEWS NET provides unbiased, evidence-based analysis to governments and relief agencies who plan for and respond to humanitarian crises. FEWS NET analysts and specialists work with scientists, government ministries, international agencies, and NGOs to track and publicly report on conditions in the world's most food-insecure countries. The content of this press release does not necessarily reflect the view of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government. *For more information, visit: www.fews.net.*