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| **Alert Type:** Slow-onset crisis.**Alert** **Title:** Widespread Severe Drought in Somalia**Alerting Organisation(s):** OFROSOM**Date Received:** 04.03.25**Decision Date**: 06.03.25**By:** DERF Fund Management**Crisis country and location(s):** Somalia**Decision:** Not to activate the DERF to respond to Widespread Severe Drought in Somalia**Reason:** The unfolding situation follows the poor performance of the October to December 2024 *deyr* rains which led to drought conditions in southern and central regions, and current hot and dry conditions. The most affected areas include Gedo, Hiran, Bay, Bakool, Mudug, Bari, Togdheer, Bakool, Galguduud and Sool regions (OCHA Jan. 25).As a result, the food security situation in Somalia continues to be unstable. Below-average rainfall significantly reduced crop yields in agropastoral and riverine areas and accelerated the depletion of pasture and water resources in pastoral regions. In addition, localised flooding in riverine areas of Hiraan, Middle Shabelle, and Middle Juba, combined with ongoing insecurity and conflict in central and southern Somalia, as well as parts of the northern regions, led to population displacement, disrupted livelihoods, and limited market access. As a result, from January to March 2025, approximately 3.4 million people are facing severe acute food insecurity, IPC Phase 3 or higher (442.000 people in IPC 4), accounting for nearly 17 percent of the population assessed (IPC-Somalia 24.02.25). However, these levels of food insecurity cannot, in this context, be described as a rapid onset crisis nor a spike or a deterioration compared to the preceding months. The IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis covering July - December 2024 indicated that approximately 3.6 million (19 percent of the population) were in IPC Phase 3 or higher (724.000 people in IPC 4), (IPC-Somalia 23.09.24). Although the severity of the drought situation in Somalia is acknowledged, it is seen as a slow-onset crisis that has been unfolding over an extended period. As such, it falls outside the DERF's mandate, which only allows for responses within the first three months of either a rapid-onset or a slow-onset crisis. Furthermore, the possibility of opening a call based on a ‘spike in a prolonged crisis’ is also not feasible, as there have been no significant changes or sudden worsening of the drought situation in Somalia.  |