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| **Alert Type:** Rapid Onset Crisis  **Alert** **Title:** Increased food insecurity and malnutrition caused by DROUGHT  **Alerting Organisation(s):** Action for Relief and Development (ARD)  **Date Received:** 13-09-2021  **Decision Date:** 15-09-2021  **By:** DERF Fund Management  **Crisis country and location(s):** Somalia/Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Galmudug  **Decision:** Not to activate the DERF to respond to drought in Somaila  **Reason:**  The DERF only can activate a call if it can respond to it within the first 3 months of the start of a crisis (or a spike in a protracted crisis). In this case, there has not been any recent event that indicates the start of the crisis within the given timeframe.  Responding within 3 months of the start of a crisis means that the entire process of receiving alerts, opening a call, assessing applications, approving interventions, and starting the work of implementation has to be done within the 3 months. Therefore, it is important that the DERF receives an alert no later than approximately 4 weeks after the start of the humanitarian crisis.  **Assessment:**  The situation of drought is described well in the alert note. The drought is a protracted crisis, continuing from 2020 into the first quarter of 2021. Rains in March to June were too little and followed by Locust outbreak and the continuation of the drought since July and up to date. The Somalia humanitarian Bulletin, August 2021 (OCHA) assesses that a mild to moderate drought is likely to persist until the beginning of 2022.  The alert does not provide sufficient information to document the starting date of the described crisis within the timeframe of being able to respond to within a 3-month period. The provided starting date of 13th of September is no correct, as it only is the date of the last daily flash-update from ECHO. Also, the date mentioned on the “appeal for urgent humanitarian assistance” ( 19th of august) by the governor of Gedo region cannot be taken as the starting date of the humanitarian crisis. The document mentions the severe drought of the past quarter as the reason for the appeal.  Somalia water cluster dashboard mentions a spike in cholera outbreak during the months of June. This spike is also not timely for activating the DERF within the possible timeframe.  All in all, the crisis described does not fall under the mandate for the DERF to activate a call. |