



6 MONTH DONOR UPDATE

Africa Drought

“Once you see a camel is dead, then you know you are heading towards famine,” says Fatuma Idris, a Senior Health Officer at the Somali Red Crescent Society.

Even these resilient animals are casualties of a drought that has gripped parts of East Africa – a crisis that has starved livestock and emptied wells.

Six months ago, the world was awakening to a looming human catastrophe. Across several countries, millions of people faced life threatening hunger due to a severe food crisis caused by drought and crisis.

The consequences have been devastating. Farming stopped. Livelihoods lost. Families left without enough to eat or drink.

“Before we used to sow maize but for more than a year, there has been no rain, so no cultivation,” says Abebech Ayanu, a young mother in Ethiopia. “Some of my livestock have already died. My children are now starving and there is no water.”

But drought has not just caused thirst and hunger. It has also caused disease to spread. When supply is scarce, water from dirty rivers and contaminated sources is often the only option for desperate families. Those who are malnourished are more vulnerable to infection and more likely to perish from preventable diseases like cholera.

But thanks to donors like you, emergency help has arrived to those most in need. Families whose crops and livestock have perished can plant and secure food again. People can access clean water safely without travelling through conflict zones. And mothers can find life-saving treatment for their sick or malnourished children.

While the situation remains critical across the region, your support continues to bring vital relief to people facing an incredible challenge to their survival.

Your support has reached the most vulnerable communities



ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, some regions have not seen rain in more than two years. **Your support is restoring access to water, reducing the risk of disease, and helping to protect families' means of income.** In one of the most impacted regions, the Red Cross has been able to transport emergency water into villages and distribute water purification tablets to provide tens of thousands of people with one of life's basic essentials.

SOUTH SUDAN

Ongoing conflict has severely compromised food security across the country. Three million people in South Sudan have been repeatedly forced to flee their homes, leaving behind crops and livestock and surviving on whatever they can find. **Your support has provided essential food assistance to families – restoring their dignity and providing urgently needed means of subsistence.**

SOMALILAND

In Somaliland, where a cholera outbreak sparked by drought and other factors has affected tens of thousands of people, your action was integral to the deployment of our Emergency Response Unit, which operated a cholera treatment centre in one of the hardest-hit areas. Today, with the outbreak under control, the treatment centre has transitioned to a 20-bed unit and been handed over to the Somalia Red Crescent Society, along with training and supplies.

How your action has saved precious lives



“This sickness is not the same as when they have been sick in the past...I am worried that my own children will die,” says Shukri. The cholera that ravaged so many drought-stricken villages in Somaliland had taken a toll on two of her three children.

Fortunately, because of kind donors like you, the Canadian Red Cross Emergency Response Unit was deployed to a region where thousands of lives were at risk.

“When I heard about the treatment centre opened up by the Red Cross, I had to find a way to get my children there,” says Shukri.

Shukri’s six-year-old boy, Zakaria, was lucky. He arrived at the centre so weak he was barely able to lift his head. But just hours later, the rehydration solution given to Zakaria was enough to restore his energy and fight off the disease.

The care found inside the Red Cross hospital tents has come from the actions of our donors. Your kindness has brought life-saving medications and the skill and heart of a dedicated team of Canadian medical professionals working alongside local doctors and nurses.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HAS HELPED SAVE LIVES IN OUR CHOLERA TREATMENT CENTRE



4

months of emergency treatment provided



60

field hospital beds for patients



29

Canadian doctors, nurses and technicians sent to the treatment centre



50

patients treated per day during the worst of the outbreak



4,000+

patients treated during the operation

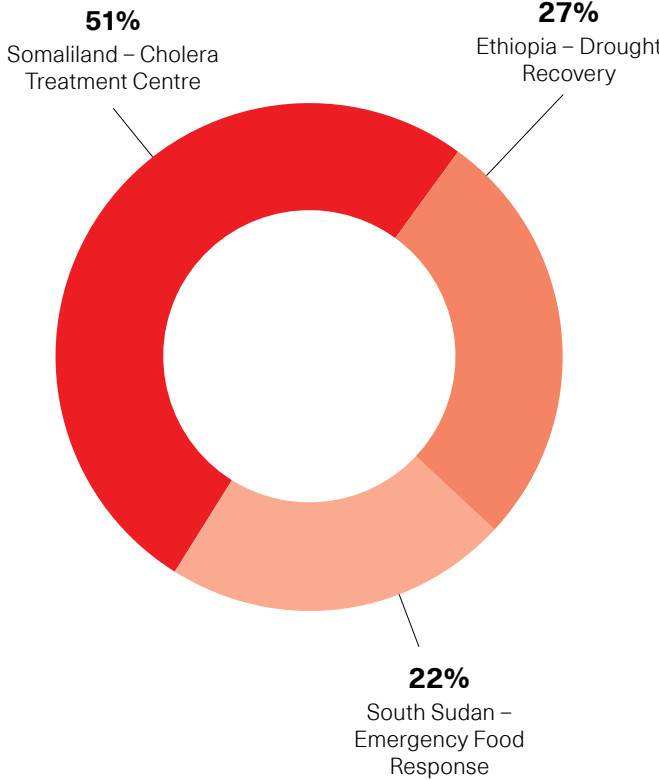


Thank You!

12-year-old Cecilia smiles as she awaits a Red Cross relief distribution in South Sudan. “Normally, our only food is leaves that we cook with salt and water,” says her mother, Vajda. “Usually, we have nothing, so today we are happy. We can finally eat something different.” Thanks to you, families like Vajda’s can return to farming with seeds and tools from the Red Cross as well as supplementary food to sustain them while their crops grow. Thank you for making a difference in their lives!

The Canadian Red Cross would like to thank the generous individuals, businesses and governments who donated more than \$2.75 million in support of our response to severe drought in Africa. Compassionate donors like you have enabled emergency food and water distributions, essential health services, and supplies and cash assistance to restore people’s livelihoods.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT IS HELPING.*



*As of October 16. Please note that our assistance may change as the needs on the ground evolve and we adjust our response accordingly.

The cost of fundraising on this appeal was less than 5%. This includes fees associated with donation processing and receipting, reporting and communications.