**Horn of Africa drought 2011-2012**

The Horn of Africa crisis of 2011-2012 **affected 13 million people**. The main focus of the crisis was across southern **Ethiopia**, south-central **Somalia** and northern **Kenya**. Regional drought came on top of **successive bad rains** and **rising inflation**. It ramped up a chronic livelihoods crisis into a tipping point of potential disaster by **putting extreme pressure on food prices, livestock survival, and water and food availability**. **Armed conflict** across the region compounded chronic ecological and economic vulnerability, which escalated the crisis and limited people’s survival and recovery choices.

<http://reliefweb.int/disaster/dr-2011-000029-ken>

Between July 2011 and mid-2012, a severe drought affected the entire East Africa region. Said to be "**the worst in 60 years**", the drought caused a severe food crisis across **Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya** that **threatened the livelihood of 9.5 million people**. Many **refugees** from southern Somalia fled to neighbouring Kenya and Ethiopia, where crowded, unsanitary conditions together with severe malnutrition led to a large number of deaths. Other countries in East Africa, including Sudan, South Sudan and parts of Uganda, were also affected by a **food crisis**.

Weather conditions over the Pacific, including an unusually strong **La Niña**, have interrupted seasonal rains for two consecutive seasons. The rains failed in 2011 in Kenya and Ethiopia, and for the previous two years in Somalia. In many areas, the precipitation rate during the main rainy season from April to June, the primary season, was less than 30% of the average of 1995–2010. The lack of rain led to **crop failure and widespread loss of livestock**, as high as 40%–60% in some areas, which decreased milk production as well as exacerbating a poor harvest. As a result, **cereal prices rose** to record levels while **livestock prices and wages fell**, reducing purchasing power across the region.Rains were also not expected to return until September of the year. The crisis is compounded by **rebel activity** around southern Somalia from the **Al-Shabaab** group.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_East_Africa_drought>