SITUATION

In Somalia, due to conflict, drought and a number of other natural and human-caused disasters, access to food for vulnerable communities, water and sanitation facilities particularly for girls and women, protection of productive assets for cattle farmer households, enhanced protection for children, and psycho-social support for persons living with specific needs became immediate priorities for individuals in the country.

Now, having experienced its 4th consecutive season with poor rainfall, conditions in the most impacted areas are worsening. Although famine has been prevented due to the scale of humanitarian assistance, most people are still in crisis and the risk of famine is still very high.

The latest food security and nutrition analysis from the FAO-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) issued on 2 February 2018 revealed that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 5 million in September 2016 to 6.2 million between February 2018 and June 2018. That is more than half the population.

RESPONSE

In August 2017, Lutheran Disaster Response, through Lutheran World Federation, accompanied impacted communities through local ecumenical partners by helping students have access to safe sanitation facilities and adopt improved hygiene behavior and practices in Kismayo schools.

We are continuing that work, with additional support, to help with the construction of 60 latrines; installation of 10 hand-washing facilities; conducting of 25 hygiene promotion campaigns; and installation of 5 water storage tanks and water trucked to the 5 targeted schools.

In addition, Persons with specific needs (PWSN) will be equipped with skills and start up business kits; children engaged in child labor and child mothers will be reintegrated to school; vulnerable child mothers and PWSNs provided with mosquito nets and other basic, material needs.