

# The Drought in the Horn of Africa

## IB GEOGRAPHY CASE STUDY

### Where?



Horn of Africa

is a Peninsula in Northeast Africa. This region comprises the countries of Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Kenya and Djibouti. In the 2 million km<sup>2</sup> that the region covers, there are approximately 115 million people.

### When did the drought occur?

Dryer than average conditions have been prevalent in this region for more than **30 years**. The drought hazard commenced late **2010** and in some areas lasted until **2012**.

### What were the consequences?



#### Social Impacts

- 260,000 deaths in Somalia between 2001-2012
- The overall mortality rate was 7.4 out of 10,000 per day
- 920,000 refugees fled from Somalia
- Refugee camps overcrowded
- Malnutrition



#### Environmental Impacts

- Overgrazing led to desertification and degradation of land.
- Deforestation to set up refugee camps and to give them shelter and fuel.



#### Economic Impacts

- Stable food prices were at 68% over the 5-year average.
- 12 million people are in need of food aid, according to the World Food Program.



#### Political Impacts

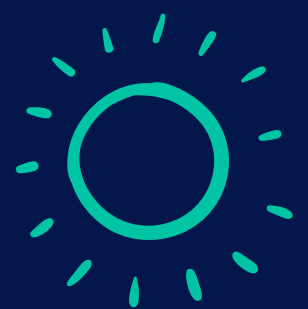
- Governments asked for international and humanitarian assistance.

## Why did the drought occur?

Weather conditions e.g. an exceptionally strong **la nina** interrupted seasonal rains for **2 consecutive years**. Climate change contributed to the severity of the crisis. Rebel activity is another factor influencing food shortage caused by the drought.



## Management of the drought



### Before the event

- Failure of international community to heed the early warning system, led to the worsening of the crisis.

### During the event

- The warning signs have been seen for months, and the world has been slow to act.
- Long-term investment is needed in food production
- Basic development to help people cope with poor rains and to ensure that this is the last famine in the region.

### After the event

- Horn of Africa needs sustainable solutions to prevent reoccurring droughts.
- Restoration and maintenance of ecosystems helps countering climate change and securing vulnerable economies.
- Adaptation Measures:
  - supporting the restoration of Kenya's Mau forest.
  - introducing new policies in Ethiopia, to manage climate change risks in six districts.
  - councils improving drought resilience and water security.

