

**Horn Of Africa Humanitarian Crisis Deteriorates Rapidly**  
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NAIROBI, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Governments and international donors must act with greater urgency in the face of a deteriorating crisis and rising needs in the Horn of Africa, said the spokesperson of the International Agency Oxfam in Nairobi Elise Ford.

"Donors must move beyond promises and immediately turn money pledged into action on the ground, as more than half a million people area at risk of starvation," Algerian Press Service (APS) quoted Ford as saying to the press.

"Hundreds of thousands will face starvation unless donors step forward, maintain the generosity we have seen in recent weeks and help prevent a catastrophe," she added.

"Where access is possible, aid agencies like Oxfam have increased their programmes to reach people and save as many lives as we can," Ford said.

Oxfam aims to scale up its work to reach 3 million people across Somalia, southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya.

The United Nations estimates that the total number of people in need could rise up by 25 per cent and surpass 15 million soon if urgent action on all fronts is not taken.

As the crisis deteriorates, the amount of money needed goes up. Last week, the UN increased its appeals for Somalia and Kenya by US\$600 million, bringing the funding shortfall to US\$1.47 billion.

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