

# Horn of Africa: The Danger of Food Loss & Waste

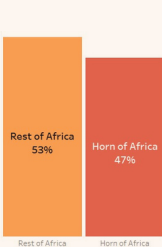
Food Loss & Waste is threatening the people and the climate of Horn of Africa.

NGOs around the world are growing concerns around the Middle East region of Africa, also called “The Horn of Africa“. Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are threatened by severe famine and extreme drought. The region experienced a series of heat waves followed by failed rainy seasons, leading to massive food loss and million of dead livestock, resulting in important food insecurity. In addition, food loss and waste has been identified as one of the contributing factors to CO2 emission, according to FAO, if the cumulated food wastage around the world were a country, it would be the third largest emitting country in the world. Therefore, in this article, we will present you the Food Loss and Waste situation of Horn of Africa with climatic and population background information, as well as a parameter identification of Kenya Food Loss.

International organizations are raising funds to help local population with malnutrition and food insecurity. NGOs are also looking for long-term and global solutions to tackle extreme drought, like the [Great Green Wall](#) initiative presented by the UNCCD (United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification).

## Horn of Africa: Densely and important populated region

In the FAO study, the population in Horn of Africa represents nearly 50% of the population in Sub Saharan Africa. On this map figures only the countries in the FAO Food Loss & Waste study, classified as developing country. Countries not highlighted either do not have data or are not qualified as developing economy.



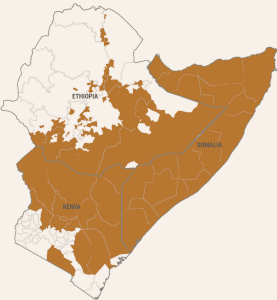
Population data from 2012

"Global Food Loss and Waste generate annually 4.4 Giga Ton of CO2, or about 8% of total anthropogenic Greenhouse Gas emissions"

FAO - 2011  
Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (UN)

## Horn of Africa: Drought Area

OCHA are addressing particular attention to Drought event in the recent years and are raising funds to tackle this climate danger.



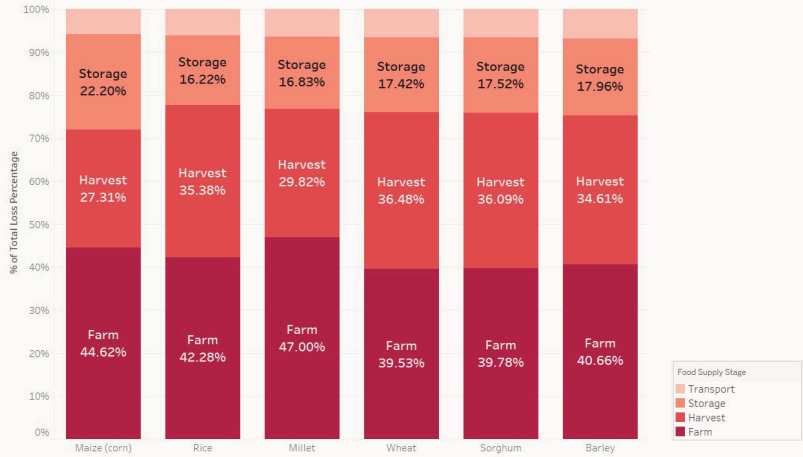
You can find more information here:  
[OCHA | Horn of Africa](#)  
[Horn of Africa Drought Data Explorer](#)  
[Horn of Africa Drought Dashboard](#)

"The Horn of Africa is experiencing the most severe drought in recent history, following four consecutive failed rainy seasons in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, a climatic event not seen in at least 40 years."

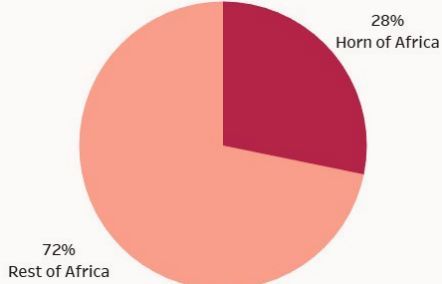
OCHA - 2022  
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)

## Food Loss & Waste: Kenya

Based on the most common commodity and Food Supply Stage, Kenya experience large loss during the farming stage. The hot temperature and failed rainfall make water resource extremely rare, hence, agriculture conditions extremely difficult in Kenya. Harvest Stage comes next in the Food Supply Loss and according to UNFSS this is also true on a global scale for Sub-Saharan Africa country as they stated, nearly 30% of harvest crop go to waste. To sum up, Food Loss in Kenya appears at Farming stage, certainly due to climatic reasons, and around 30% of Food Loss happen at Harvesting stage. It is vital to address a long-term solution to drought condition in Kenya and Horn of Africa, in order to reduce food loss and insure food security. It is, also, necessary to find large scale solutions to Harvesting in Sub-Saharan Africa, to tackle food waste and reduce CO2 emission due to food wastage.



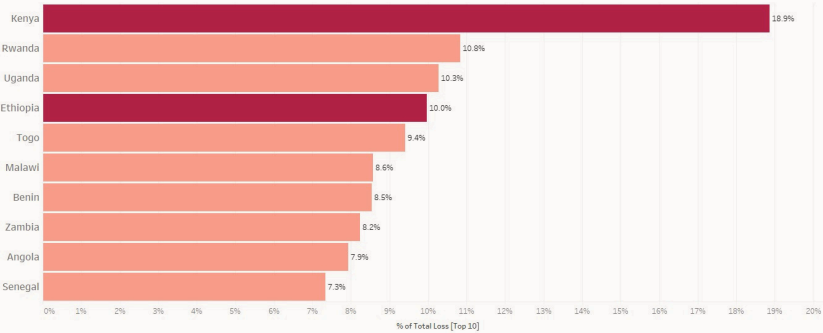
UNFSS - 2021  
Forums on Sustainability Standards (UN)



"Kenya is still grappling to achieve SDG Goal 2. Zero Hunger. Food insecurity and malnourishment plague millions of Kenyans every day. An estimated one in three Kenyans is food poor, which translates to 33% of the population."

## Food Loss & Waste: Horn of Africa

The region, Horn of Africa, experienced large Food Loss in the year 2012, nearly a third of the Food Loss & Waste registered in the FAO study. Two of the three countries appear in the Top 10 ranking of largest Food Loss in 2012. The country of Kenya shows nearly two times more Food Loss than the other countries, meaning Kenya represents nearly 20% of the Food Loss in the Top 10.



In FAO dataset, data were collected with different method, the measure in 2012 regarding Kenya comes from Literature Review [FAO, 2013]. Some other method of data collection include Modelled Estimates, Survey, Empirical Study.