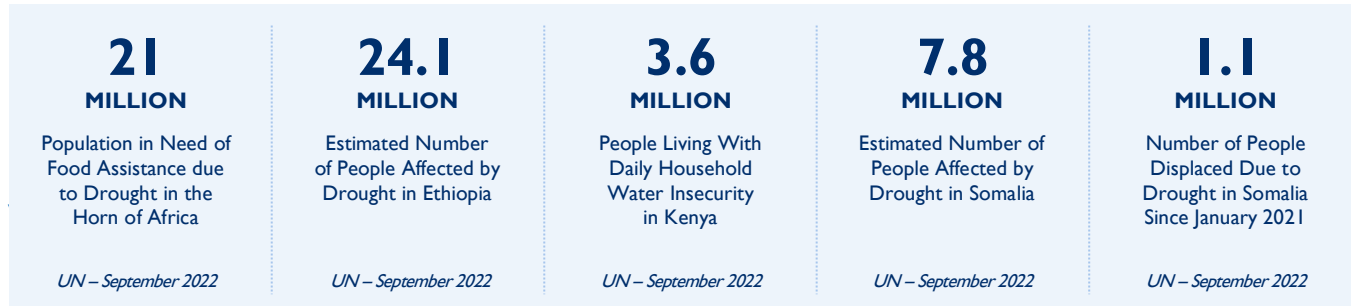


Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 18, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- A suspected AS car bomb attack resulted in the deaths of at least 120 civilians in Somalia’s capital city of Mogadishu on October 29, representing the deadliest attack in the country in five years.
- Relief actors warn that an unprecedented fifth consecutive drought season is likely affecting parts of the Horn of Africa.
- USAID/BHA partner UNICEF recently provided WASH services to flood-affected populations in western Ethiopia’s Gambella Region.
- Severe drought and deteriorating security conditions in Somalia prompted thousands of Somalis to seek refuge in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya’s Garissa County between September and early November.



¹ FY 2023 funding for the Horn of Africa will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government’s funding toward the response in FY 2022, refer to Horn of Africa Fact Sheet #3 released on September 21, 2022, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Suspected AS Attack Results in 120 Civilian Deaths in Mogadishu

Suspected al-Shabaab (AS) elements detonated two car bombs in Mogadishu on October 29, resulting in at least 120 civilian deaths and injuries to more than 320 others, international media report. The bombing, which constituted the deadliest attack in Somalia in five years, prompted the Federal Government of Somalia to temporarily close several roadways in Mogadishu to prevent further AS attacks. Meanwhile, UN Secretary-General António Guterres released a statement on October 30 condemning the attack and reiterating the international organization's commitment to supporting peace in Somalia. Between January 1 and November 14, armed group attacks resulted in at least 613 civilian deaths and nearly 950 injuries throughout the country, representing an approximately 30 percent increase compared to 2021, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The UN agency attributes approximately 60 percent of the civilian casualties recorded in 2022 to AS improvised explosive device attacks.

The October 29 bombing coincided with a recent influx of new internally displaced person (IDP) arrivals in Mogadishu, according to the UN. Rising insecurity in Bakool, Galgadud, Hiraan, and Lower Shabelle regions had prompted more than 17,000 IDPs to seek refuge in Mogadishu and other areas of Banadir Region in recent weeks, bringing the total number of IDP arrivals recorded in Banadir between January and October to 365,000. Heightened insecurity and protection risks in central and southern Somalia have likely contributed to the wave of recent arrivals, with the UN citing accounts of non-state armed group elements engaging in child marriage, forcibly recruiting children into their ranks, and confiscating livestock and produce from local farmers. USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners continue to provide urgently needed support to IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Banadir. For example, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is distributing hygiene kits containing soap, water purification tablets, and other relief items to vulnerable populations in the region. Meanwhile, health actors are providing medical services to IDPs and other underserved communities in Banadir.

Relief Actors Project an Unprecedented Fifth Consecutive Drought Season in the Horn of Africa

The UN World Meteorological Organization and 15 international organizations and academic institutions released a joint statement on November 7 warning of a fifth consecutive below-average rainy season across the Horn of Africa. The statement highlighted the poor start to the October-to-December rainy season and acknowledged a high probability of below-average rainfall through the remainder of the season, noting that areas of Kenya and southern Somalia are expected to receive rainfall totals that are approximately 40 percent below average. Moreover, the statement warned that the Horn of Africa may receive below-average rainfall from March through May 2023, resulting in a sixth consecutive drought season. The consortium urged the international community to allocate additional funding to address the rising food, nutrition, and other urgent needs facing drought-affected populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, noting that elevated humanitarian needs will likely continue well into 2023.

Flash Floods Displace More Than 185,000 People in Ethiopia

Heavy rains and subsequent flooding across 12 *woredas*, or districts, in Gambella displaced more than 185,000 people between August and October, according to the UN. The recent floods also caused extensive destruction to local clinics and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, damaging

nearly 80 health facilities and rendering nearly 30 percent of communal water systems in affected *woredas* non-functional. In response to the heightened humanitarian needs facing flood-affected communities, relief actors—including USAID/BHA partner UNICEF—distributed WASH supplies to flood survivors and began rehabilitating non-functional water systems in recent months. UNICEF also supported the Gambella Regional Health Bureau to dispatch medical supplies and emergency medical kits to affected *woredas* and deployed eight mobile health and nutrition teams to the region to assist flood-affected households in August.

Drought, Insecurity Prompt Influx of Somali Asylum Seekers to Garissa

Relief actors recorded a surge of new arrivals at the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya’s Garissa County in recent weeks, as thousands of Somalis flee rising insecurity and severe drought conditions in their areas of origin. Approximately 20,000 Somali asylum seekers arrived at the Dadaab sites between January 1 and mid-November, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UN agency notes that the scale of new arrivals has dramatically increased in recent weeks, warning that approximately 2,100 asylum seekers were arriving at the camps each week as of early November. The new arrivals are straining the capacity of relief actors operating in the camps, which already hosted more than 233,000 people as of July. In response, the Government of Kenya recently approved the re-opening of the Ifo II camp—previously closed in 2018—to accommodate the new arrivals, according to the European Commission’s Department for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). In addition, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable households sheltering in the Dadaab camps with support from USAID/BHA and other donors. Meanwhile, the International Rescue Committee and the Save the Children Federation are advocating for the humanitarian community to scale up food, health, shelter, and other emergency services in Dadaab to assist the camps’ burgeoning population, while UNHCR continues to support the displaced population with shelter, clean water, and protection services.

KEY FIGURES



4.1 Million

People in Somalia reached with WFP food assistance in September



13 Partners

Providing health services to vulnerable communities in the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports two UN agencies and nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced wheat, or sorghum, pulses, and vegetable oil—to populations in greatest need, including refugee households. USAID/BHA partners in the region also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets, where available. In Somalia, USAID/BHA partner WFP provides vouchers redeemable for food in local markets to reduce food consumption gaps at the household level.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports ten NGOs and three UN agencies to improve access to health care services across Ethiopia and Somalia. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support mobile health units, and train community health workers to support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. In addition, U.S. Department of State

Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partners support essential health interventions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia and Somalia.



506,000

People in Somalia who received nutrition assistance from WFP in September

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Working through 11 NGOs and four UN agencies, USAID/BHA supports community-centered and evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related morbidity and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as identification and treatment of wasting, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA nutrition partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia implement life-saving nutrition services as part of the national health systems and integrate nutrition assistance with food security, health, livelihood, and WASH interventions to prevent excess mortality and improve resilience among drought-affected households.



12 Partners

Providing protection services to drought-affected communities in the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

PROTECTION

In response to rising protection needs resulting from conflict and drought conditions, USAID/BHA is supporting 12 implementing partners across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Partners are expanding gender-based violence (GBV) case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, and providing dignity kits—which contain items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors. Implementing partners are also providing mental health and psychosocial support services to conflict-affected communities in both countries. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Ethiopia and Somalia to provide protection services to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs.



23 Partners

Providing WASH services to vulnerable populations across the Horn of Africa with USAID/BHA support

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout the Horn of Africa to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, such as cholera, and acute malnutrition in children and mothers. With USAID/BHA support, 21 NGO partners and two UN agencies across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are providing WASH services—including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems, and providing safe drinking water—to IDPs and other people in need. USAID/BHA partners are also improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, distributing materials to test and treat contaminated water, and providing technical support for community-led experts responsible for managing water and sanitation infrastructure. Additionally, State/PRM is supporting UNHCR to implement WASH activities that assist refugees sheltering across Ethiopia. In Kenya, USAID/BHA partners are supporting communities, as well as local and national governments, to rehabilitate and manage water systems in drought-affected areas and promote improved hygiene and sanitation practices for both drought-affected Kenyans and refugees.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia struggle with a confluence of recurring climatic shocks, widespread food insecurity, and reduced access to livelihoods. These ongoing challenges, exacerbated by persistent conflict and resultant displacement, contribute to sustained humanitarian needs and ongoing complex emergencies. U.S. Government humanitarian assistance is designed to remain flexible and respond to needs as they arise, providing support to crisis-affected populations across the Horn of Africa.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to acute needs resulting from persistent dry weather in parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, with five consecutive seasons of poor rainfall between 2020 and 2022 leading to the most severe drought on record in the Horn of Africa in the last 70 years. Critical water shortages in drought-affected areas have significantly undermined livestock conditions, livelihoods, and food security. The former USAID Office of Food for Peace and the former USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance responded to heightened food and nutrition needs resulting from drought in Ethiopia between 2015 and 2018, as well as drought in Kenya and Somalia between 2016 and 2018.
- Intercommunal conflicts in Ethiopia have generated displacement, exacerbated humanitarian needs, and impeded humanitarian access since 2018. In Somalia, ongoing conflict—related to AS attacks and resultant military operations, as well as intercommunal violence—continues to contribute to displacement and food insecurity, while restricting access to livelihoods. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help conflict-affected households meet their basic needs and rebuild assets.
- On October 28, 2022, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ethiopia for FY 2023 to assist vulnerable populations adversely affected by armed conflict and climactic shocks, including the ongoing drought. On October 19, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Margaret Whitman renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Kenya for FY 2023 due to the drought-driven complex emergency. On October 11, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Larry E. André renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Somalia for FY 2023 in response to the ongoing complex emergency, including climatic shocks and protracted conflict.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)