

# Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

APRIL 14, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>27.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>Population Targeted for Assistance Due to Drought in the Horn of Africa</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>20.1</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of People Affected by Drought in Ethiopia</p> <p><i>UN – September 2020</i></p>	<p><b>4.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of People Affected by Drought in Ethiopia</p> <p><i>IOM – September 2020</i></p>	<p><b>6.5</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of Projected to Face IPC 3+ in Somalia</p> <p><i>IPC and FEWS NET – February 2023</i></p>	<p><b>2.1</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of People Internally Displaced Due to Drought in the Horn of Africa</p> <p><i>UN – November 2022</i></p>
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- On March 27, the EU allocated approximately \$358 million in humanitarian aid to the Horn of Africa region. Meanwhile, the IASC will extend scale-ups for Ethiopia and Somalia through September 6.
- The March-to-May *gu* season rains have caused 21 deaths and 140,000 people to be displaced in Somalia, as well as 35,000 households displaced in Ethiopia, and 5,000 households displaced in Kenya.
- A joint GoS, London SHTM, and UN report estimates that the drought resulted in 43,000 excess deaths in Somalia in 2022.
- The CRS-led JEOP distributed more than 10,200 MT of food to more than 604,000 people across Ethiopia as of March 2023.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$898,386,013
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$12,000,000
For the Horn of Africa Response in FY 2023	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$910,386,013</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6*

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### EU Allocates \$358 Million in Humanitarian Aid to the Horn of Africa

The European Union (EU) announced an allocation of approximately \$358 million to the Horn of Africa and neighboring countries—including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda—on March 27, assisting more than 50 million people primarily with emergency food assistance. In particular, the acutely drought-affected countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia will receive approximately \$66 million, \$14 million, and \$78 million, respectively. Of the total funds allocated to the region, an estimated \$9 million will be dedicated to disaster preparedness. The allocations will support the education of children in emergencies, food security and nutrition programs, protection activities, and displaced persons and refugees, the EU reports.

### IASC Scale-Ups for Ethiopia and Somalia Extended Amid Food Insecurity

UN Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths announced a six-month extension through September for the ongoing scale-ups of humanitarian response activities in both Ethiopia and Somalia on March 9 and 10, respectively, following consultation with members of the UN's high-level humanitarian affairs coordination body, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Although response programming for the drought increased in 2022, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) notes that funding and capacity are insufficient to meet growing needs in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. ERC Griffiths' announcements of the scale-ups emphasize the importance of setting concrete operational benchmarks for the success of the response in Ethiopia and Somalia.

Moreover, the six-month extensions reflect persistent humanitarian needs in both countries. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) projects worsening food security outcomes in internally displaced person (IDP) sites and the most heavily drought-affected areas in Ethiopia and Somalia, if the ongoing March-to-May *gu* rains result in a sixth consecutive failed rainy season and there are further declines in humanitarian funding levels. Populations in drought-affected Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia will likely continue to face widespread Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through September, according to the FEWS NET Food Assistance Outlook Brief released on March 14.<sup>3</sup>

### Flooding Affects More Than 35,000 Households in Ethiopia's Somali Region and Borena Zone Since Mid-March

The *gu* rains began in Ethiopia's southern and southeastern pastoral regions on March 14, with heavy rainfall resulting in the displacement of nearly 22,300 households from Somali Region's Afder, Dawa, Fafan, Liben, and Shabelle zones as of March 31, according to the Ethiopia Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. An estimated 65 percent of assessed shelters in Somali are fully damaged, a cluster-led survey from late March reports. Some IDPs in Somali are temporarily able to reside with family or other community members whose shelters were only partially damaged following the rains, whereas other populations across Afder, Dawa, Fafan, Liben, and Shabelle urgently require shelter support. Flooding had also adversely affected more than 13,200 households across 12 IDP sites in Dhas, Dire, Dubuluk, Elawye, and Moyale *woredas*, or districts, in Oromia Region's Borena Zone as of late March, according to the Ethiopia Shelter Cluster. In response to heightened humanitarian needs in Borena, the Ethiopia Shelter Cluster urged relief actors to mobilize relief

<sup>3</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

commodities—such as bedding and kitchen sets—and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to the zone’s affected populations on March 31.

Forecasts project heavy rains will continue in Borena and Somali throughout the coming weeks, the Ethiopia Shelter Cluster reports. While rains are needed in drought-affected areas, the projected, continued heavy rainfall will likely exacerbate humanitarian needs in the zones in the near term as many flood-affected individuals are living in makeshift shelters without adequate shelter support.

### **Kenya’s Long Rains Generate Widespread Displacement, Result in At Least 21 Deaths**

The March-to-May long rains in Kenya began with significant rainfall and flooding across 19 counties, resulting in the deaths of 21 people, displacing at least 5,000 households, and affecting more than 35,200 people between March 21 and April 2, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reports. The floods’ effects are mostly concentrated in drought-affected Wajir County, where an estimated 4,100 households are displaced. Another estimated 860 households displaced from drought-stricken Mandera, Marsabit, and Samburu counties. Meanwhile, flash flooding on April 2 in southern Kenya’s Nakuru County resulted in the deaths of eight people, according to IFRC.

USAID/BHA partner the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) is responding to flood-affected populations’ needs, having distributed in-kind food aid to 2,000 households in Mandera, Marsabit, and Wajir and relief commodities—including blankets and water containers—to 500 households in Marsabit as of April 2. While initial rainfall has adversely affected certain areas of Kenya and flooding could continue in the coming weeks, relief actors also note continued rainfall may offer some temporary relief for individuals practicing weather-dependent livelihoods, such as agriculture and pastoralism, in drought-affected areas of the country, KRCS reports. Forecasts project near-average to above-average rainfall is likely in drought-affected Garissa, Mandera, and Wajir counties through May, according to the Kenya Meteorological Department. In drought-stricken Isiolo, Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana counties, near-average rainfall will likely continue during the same period.

### **Heavy Rains Displace 140,000 People in Somalia, Signaling an Early Start to *Gu* Season**

Several areas across Somalia received heavy rains beginning the week of March 12, signaling an early beginning of the *gu* rainy season, according to OCHA. The UN agency also reports heavy rains caused flash floods and high water levels in Bay, Galgaduud, Gedo, Hiraaan, and Nugaal regions, which led to at least 21 deaths, the displacement of an estimated 140,000 people, electricity outages, and livestock and crop loss as of mid-April. The start of the *gu* season has affected 175,000 people in Somalia and will likely lead to the deterioration of living conditions due to flooding and contribute to increased disease outbreaks, particularly in overcrowded IDP settlements, as people often rely on contaminated water and have little access to adequate hygiene facilities and services, OCHA reports. A limited humanitarian response is currently underway with a humanitarian organization aiming to reach 48,000 people with multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Gedo’s Baardheere town; relief actors are prioritizing immediate shelter needs as populations from Gedo could experience increased displacement in the coming months due to proximity to the flood-prone Juba River.

### **UN Estimates 43,000 Excess Deaths in Somalia Due to Drought in 2022**

Relief actors estimate 43,000 excess deaths may have occurred during 2022 due to the ongoing drought,

according to a March 20 joint report by the Government of Somalia (GoS) Federal Ministry of Health and Human Services, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UN Children’s Foundation (UNICEF), and UN World Health Organization (WHO). The report also estimated children ages five years and younger accounted for one-half of the estimated deaths and that the highest death rates were concentrated in south-central Somalia’s Bakool, Banadir, and Bay regions. Moreover, the report warns that, between January and June 2023, the ongoing crisis may result in 135 excess deaths per day, with 18,100 to 34,200 total excess deaths projected for the period. Both government and UN stakeholders who collaborated on the study—the first in a planned series of reports—expressed concern regarding its results and urged relief actors to maintain support for the humanitarian response’s continued scale-up.

## KEY FIGURES



**604,000**

People in Borena Zone reached with JEOP food assistance since December 2022



**13 Partners**

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



**918,000**

People in across Orormia, Sidama, and SNNP regions who received nutrition assistance from WFP during March

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports 10 NGOs and two UN agencies across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced pulses, vegetable oil, and wheat or sorghum—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 Ethiopia’s Borena Zone, USAID/BHA supports the Catholic Relief Services (CRS)-led Joint Emergency Operations (JEOP) to respond to deteriorating nutrition outcomes in the zone. The JEOP distributed more than 10,200 MT of food assistance to more than 604,000 people across 13 *woredas* between December 2022 and mid-March 2023.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 10 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 address urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. In addition, State/PRM partners support essential health interventions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

### 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 illnesses 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. In southern and southeastern Ethiopia, USAID/BHA partner WFP reached nearly 918,000 people with nutrition assistance across Oromia, Sidama, and Somali, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions during March.



## 12 Partners

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

## PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection concerns into all USAID/BHA-supported activities, USAID/BHA is also supporting 12 implementing partners responding to conflict- and drought-generated protection needs across the Horn of Africa. 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 the region. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia to provide protection services to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs.



## 17 Partners

Providing WASH support to vulnerable populations through USG-funded WASH activities

## WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout the Horn of Africa to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, including cholera and acute malnutrition in children and mothers. State/PRM continues to reach IDPs and refugees with critical WASH activities, such as supporting the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the rehabilitation of boreholes in Ethiopia's Somali and SNNP regions. In addition, through partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, and 15 NGO partners, USAID/BHA supports partners in conducting critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict, and providing safe drinking water to people in need. USAID/BHA partners are also training local health workers to prevent and treat suspected cholera cases in their own communities.

## 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. USG 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 al-Shabaab 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 (DHN) for Ethiopia for FY 2023 to assist vulnerable populations adversely affected by armed conflict and climatic shocks, including the ongoing drought. On October 19, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Margaret Whitman renewed the DHN for Kenya for FY 2023 due to the drought-driven complex emergency. On October 11, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Larry E. André renewed the DHN for Somalia for FY 2023 in response to the ongoing complex emergency, including climatic shocks and protracted conflict.

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN ETHIOPIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action Against Hunger/USA (AAH/USA)	Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$2,500,000
CARE	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$4,000,000
Concern	Nutrition, WASH	Somali	\$2,230,000
CRS	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$87,491,685
	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food	Amhara, Oromia; SNNP	\$13,352,413
Fayyaa Integrated Development Organization (FIDO)	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Benishangul Gumuz	\$1,000,000
Food for the Hungry (FH)	Agriculture, WASH	Benishangul Gumuz	\$1,000,000
GOAL	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, SNNP, Somali	\$5,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Amhara, Oromia	\$3,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Countrywide	\$500,000
Mercy Corps	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
People in Need (PIN)	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$1,500,000
Plan USA	MPCA, Protection	Amhara, Oromia	\$999,9999

Swiss Church Aid (HEKS)	Agriculture, WASH	Oromia	\$700,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$63,561,612
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Sidama, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$109,994,219
World Vision	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$3,150,000
	Program Support		\$53,025
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA DROUGHT FUNDING</b>			<b>\$319,532,952</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA</b>			<b>\$319,532,952</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner (IP)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,300,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$12,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$331,532,952</b>
<b>FUNDING IN KENYA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Nutrition	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir	\$110,600,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir	\$15,659,111
	Program Support		\$44,035
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$126,303,146</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN KENYA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$126,303,146</b>
<b>FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IPs	Health, HCIMA, MPCA, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$191,450,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$192,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
	Program Support		\$107,357
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$452,549,915</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN SOMALIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$452,549,915</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$910,386,013</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 15, 2023 and reflect estimated values of assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, which are subject to change.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/BHA emergency funding for the Horn of Africa includes funding in both drought and non-drought areas of Ethiopia, as well as emergency funding in drought-affected areas of Kenya and Somalia. Funding specific to the Northern Ethiopia Crisis response can be found in [Northern Ethiopia Crisis Fact Sheets](#). In drought-affected areas across the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA funding is responding to emergency needs related to drought as well as conflict and other emergency shocks.

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## 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](https://www.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](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

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