

# Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 21, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The July 17 termination of the BSGI may undermine food security outcomes and further destabilize food prices globally, including in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.
- Above-average food prices and enduring drought conditions continue to adversely affect food security and purchasing power across the Horn of Africa.
- Escalating conflict in Ethiopia’s Gambella Region has displaced more than 11,700 individuals since May, according to the UN.
- Conflict in Somalia’s contested Laascaanood town displaced nearly 280,000 people between February and July, a relief actor reports.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Horn of Africa Response in FY 2023	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$1,314,432,683
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$132,314,977
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,446,747,660</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

### **International Community Expects High Needs in Horn of Africa Following End of Critical Black Sea Grain Initiative**

On July 17, the Government of Russia (GoR) terminated its participation in the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), an agreement the UN, the GoR, the Government of Türkiye, and the Government of Ukraine signed in July 2022 to resume Ukrainian grain exports via the Black Sea amid Russia's war against Ukraine. Since its beginning, the BSGI allowed USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) to transport more than 725,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat to countries with the most vulnerable populations, including Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. WFP Somalia had received an estimated 25,000 MT through the BSGI as of July 31, enabling the UN agency to provide food assistance to approximately 450,000 people per month for five months. WFP also had provided 263,000 MT of food assistance to Ethiopia and 25,000 MT to Kenya through the BSGI as of the same date. UN officials warn that without the BSGI in place, global communities could face worse food security outcomes and destabilized food prices, exacerbating humanitarian needs in already fragile communities throughout the Horn of Africa.

### **Conflict in Ethiopia's Gambella Region Displaces More Than 11,700 People Since May**

Insecurity in Ethiopia's Gambella Region since May, largely due to intercommunal violence, has resulted in several casualties in and around the region's Gambella town, according to the UN. Based on initial UN reports, more than 11,700 people had been displaced from Itang *woreda*—or district—and other affected areas as of July 31. Clashes have resulted in more than 40 deaths in the region since May, according to local media; however, the total number of casualties remains unconfirmed. In response, local authorities in the region had enforced an indefinite nightly curfew and maintained an increased security presence as of July 20. Individuals displaced by the violence require emergency nutrition, protection, and shelter assistance, the UN reports. State/PRM partners operating in Gambella, including the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), have repeatedly lost access to the Gambella refugee camps since May due to the unstable security situation.

### **Drought and Conflict Contribute to High Food and Fuel Prices in Ethiopia**

Staple food prices across Ethiopia continued to increase between April and June, reaching new record highs in most markets, according to a July WFP update. The combined effects of drought-induced below-average crop production, localized conflict, and macroeconomic challenges have negatively affected food prices during the period. WFP also found that across the country, recent cereal prices are at least 14 percent—and up to 50 percent in some areas—higher compared to prices in the same period in 2022. Fuel prices also increased more than 88 percent between June 2022 and June 2023. In addition, the Ethiopian birr has depreciated nearly 28 percent since June 2022, raising economic concerns for populations already vulnerable following climatic shocks and localized conflicts which have decreased crop production and livelihood opportunities across the country. The GoR suspension of the BSGI may also undermine the supply of wheat and further deteriorate already fragile food security conditions in Ethiopia, WFP projects.

### **Elevated Staple Food Prices Continue to Affect Household Purchasing Power Across Kenya**

The high cost of staple foods continues to constrain household purchasing power, exacerbating food insecurity in the high-production areas of western Kenya, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). In June, maize prices in markets across marginal agricultural and

pastoral areas—which are difficult to cultivate due to harsh climatic conditions—ranged from nearly 20 percent to more than 100 percent higher than the five-year average, constraining household purchasing power for an important staple food for local communities. Between February and June, Kenya imported nearly 260,000 MT of maize from international and regional markets, well below the government target of 900,000 MT by August. The shortfall is likely due to a stressed global market with the depreciation of the Kenyan shilling, high fuel prices, and high landing costs resulting in the imported maize being more expensive than local maize. These economic shocks illustrate the need for ongoing humanitarian assistance which continues to reduce the more devastating effects of food insecurity across arid and semi-arid land areas, particularly in Marsabit and Turkana counties, according to FEWS NET. USAID/BHA partner WFP currently distributes the equivalent of 75 percent of household kilocalorie requirements to nearly 160,000 drought-affected households in eastern and northern Kenya through cash-based transfers and in-kind food assistance. The assistance began in March, and WFP plans to continue distributions through August.

### **Food Assistance Needs in Somalia Remain High Amid Drought Recovery**

Despite the generally positive impact of the April-to-June *gu* rains, vulnerable populations in Somalia continue to confront the more long-term ramifications of the historic three-year drought and its effect on food security needs in the country, FEWS NET reports. Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity are expected to continue in several agro-pastoral, flood-prone riverine, and pastoral areas through January 2024.<sup>3</sup> Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes are projected among displaced populations in Banadir, Bay, Hiran, and Sool regions; agropastoral areas in Hiran and Togdheer regions; and central coastal areas, according to FEWS NET. Displaced persons—approximately 20 percent of Somalia’s population—remain particularly vulnerable to food insecurity as limited income-generating opportunities and above-average food prices reduce displaced households’ ability to purchase food. Sustained food assistance in the area remains necessary to prevent consumption gaps and a rise in malnutrition rates, FEWS NET reports.

### **Conflict in Somalia’s Contested Laascaanood Town Drives Displacement and Multi-Sector Humanitarian Needs**

In Sool’s Laascaanood town, conflict between Somaliland security forces and locally armed clan groups has displaced nearly 280,000 people in and outside of Somaliland between February 6 and late July, a USAID/BHA partner reports. Of those displaced, more than 90,000 individuals sought refuge in Ethiopia’s Somali Region as of June 9 while approximately 185,000 people remained internally displaced—largely sheltering in camps, schools, or other public buildings in Buhoodle or Laascaanood districts—as of July, according to UNHCR. A USAID/BHA partner identified food; education; health; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as priority needs for displaced populations after conducting a rapid needs assessment of nine internally displaced person (IDP) sites in Buhoodle and Laascaanood in July. The partner reported that approximately 1,500 households sheltering in Balliharac IDP site had not received any humanitarian assistance at the time of the assessment, indicating needs for increased relief services.

<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.

## KEY FIGURES



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USAID/BHA partners providing food assistance across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia



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USAID/BHA partners providing health services to vulnerable communities in Ethiopia and Somalia



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USAID/BHA partners providing nutrition assistance across Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia



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USAID/BHA partners providing protection services to drought-affected communities in the Horn of Africa

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports 13 partners across the Horn of Africa to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced pulses, sorghum, vegetable oil, and wheat—to populations in greatest need. USAID/BHA partners in the region also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets, where available.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports 11 nongovernmental organizations (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 with 15 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.

### PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection concerns into all USAID/BHA- and State/PRM-supported activities, USAID/BHA is also supporting 13 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 refugees and IDPs.



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USAID/BHA partners providing WASH support to vulnerable populations

## 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 UNHCR with the rehabilitation of boreholes in Ethiopia's Somali and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions. In addition, through partnership with four UN agencies and 25 NGO partners, USAID/BHA supports partners in conducting critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, providing safe drinking water to people in need, and rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict. 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 legacy USAID Office of Food for Peace and legacy USAID Office of U.S. 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 C. 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>1,2,3,4</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)	Health, 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
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$87,491,685
	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food	Oromia, SNNP	\$13,352,413
Ethiopia Red Cross Society	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia	\$2,111,463
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	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$5,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia	\$3,000,000
iMMAP	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Health, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$18,000,000
Initiative for Pastoralists Communication (IPC)	Agriculture	Amhara, Oromia, SNNP	\$2,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Somali, SNNP, Oromia	\$6,000,000
Mercy Corps	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, SNNP, Somali	\$2,000,000
Organization for Welfare and Development in Action (OWDA)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Somali	\$499,160
People in Need (PIN)	MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$1,500,000
Plan USA	MPCA, Protection	Oromia	\$999,999
Save the Children (SCF)	Agriculture, Health, MPCA, Nutrition, WASH	Oromia, Somali	\$5,000,000
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS)	Agriculture, WASH	Oromia	\$700,000
UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$2,500,000
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, Somali, Tigray	\$63,561,612
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition	Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, Sidama, SNNP, Somali, Tigray	\$109,994,219

World Vision	Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Oromia, SNNP	\$3,150,000
	Program Support		\$82,866
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA DROUGHT FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$353,173,417</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$353,173,417</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$60,200,000
UNICEF	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,100,000
IOM	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$1,350,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$68,250,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN ETHIOPIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$421,423,417</b>
<b>FUNDING IN KENYA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
AAH	Agriculture; Food Assistance –Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; WASH	Isiolo, Mandera	\$7,000,000
Concern	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; WASH	Marsabit, Samburu, Turkana,	\$9,000,000
IRC	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; Protection; WASH	Samburu, Turkana	\$5,000,000
Kenya Red Cross Society	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; WASH	Baringo, Turkana, West Pokot	\$7,000,000
Rural Community Development Agency (RACIDA)	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; WASH	Mandera	\$9,000,000
SCF	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; WASH	Garissa, Wajir	\$9,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, 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	\$38,656,013
Wajir South Development Association (WASDA)	Agriculture, MPCA, WASH	Wajir	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food; Nutrition; WASH	Kitui, Tana River	\$7,000,000
	Program Support		\$63,310
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR KENYA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$205,819,323</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Windle International	Education	Garissa, Turkana	\$1,499,977
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,100,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$865,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR KENYA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$20,464,977</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN KENYA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$226,284,300</b>
<b>FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance, Health, HCIMA, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$282,281,336
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,000,000



	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$388,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
	Program Support		\$166,049
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR SOMALIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$755,439,943</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,000,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$20,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR SOMALIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$43,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA IN SOMALIA IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$799,039,943</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 August 21, 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.

<sup>3</sup> State/PRM funding for the Horn of Africa includes some Northern Ethiopia Response Funding.

<sup>4</sup> State/PRM also provided an additional \$2.5 million in FY 2023 to support Somali refugees in Djibouti, in addition to the total represented in this Fact Sheet.

## 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)