

Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 13, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The latest FRC findings state that the drought continues to drive large numbers of hunger-related deaths in Somalia and that Famine remains a major threat in parts of Bay Region and among IDPs in Mogadishu.
- On December 13, USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced \$411 million in new humanitarian funding for Somalia.
- Drought conditions and armed conflict displaced 1.6 million people in Somalia between January and October, and humanitarian needs are high among IDPs and Somali refugees in Kenya.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA¹

\$411,422,073

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

Total

\$411,422,073

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). FY 2023 funding figures for Ethiopia and Kenya will be included in future information products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding towards the response in FY 2022, refer to Horn of Africa Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #3 released on September 21, 2022, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>. In FY 2022, the USG provided more than \$2.04 billion in humanitarian funding for the Horn of Africa response, including \$884.8 million in Somalia, \$789.3 million in Ethiopia, and \$366.1 million in Kenya.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Famine Threat Persists as Drought Drives Regionwide Crisis; USAID Announces \$411 Million in New Funding for Somalia

On December 13, the IPC Famine Review Committee (FRC)—an independent team of food and nutrition experts—issued its latest findings for Somalia, indicating that, although Famine—IPC 5—thresholds have not yet been reached, the drought continues to drive large numbers of hunger-related deaths and Famine remains a significant threat at internally displaced person (IDP) sites in and around Somalia’s capital city of Mogadishu, as well as among agropastoral communities and IDPs in Bay Region’s Baidoa and Burhakaba districts.² If funding and coverage in all sectors—including food and nutrition assistance, as well as health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions—are not scaled up, the FRC warns that Famine is a strong possibility beginning in April 2023, particularly among IDPs in and around Baidoa and Mogadishu and among agropastoral communities in Baidoa and Burhakaba. Following the release of the FRC’s findings, USAID Administrator Samantha Power announced more than \$411 million in new USAID humanitarian funding for the emergency response in Somalia, with an emphasis on supporting households who have been displaced by the drought, including more than \$260 million for the UN World Food Program (WFP) to deliver emergency food and nutrition assistance. Programs supported by the newly announced funding are expected to reach approximately 4.5 million people per month with multi-sectoral assistance across Somalia through March 2023.

The scale of drought-related needs continues to escalate in affected areas of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. The UN estimates that at least 9.5 million livestock deaths occurred between January and November 2022 across the three countries, resulting in a severe loss of livelihoods among pastoralists and livestock keepers. According to the UN, an estimated 23 million people across drought-affected areas of the Horn of Africa are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and require humanitarian assistance to meet their basic food needs. Additionally, the UN estimates that more than 24 million people regionwide lack access to sufficient water for safe drinking, cooking, and cleaning, leading to heightened risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases. Health actors recorded more than 13,000 suspected cholera cases regionwide between January and November, including 12,000 in Somalia alone; the FRC also noted that dense concentrations of IDPs are stretching the capacity of health and WASH infrastructure in many areas.

Humanitarian assistance has played a vital role in alleviating the worst impacts of the drought crisis in accessible areas of the Horn of Africa. Relief actors scaled up assistance across the region during 2022, with the USG providing more than \$2.45 billion in humanitarian assistance to the region in FY 2022 and FY 2023 to date as the largest donor to the Horn of Africa. However, the UN warns that the emergency response is struggling to match the scale of current and projected needs, as assistance had reached only 62 percent of the target number of people in 2022 as of the end of November. Additionally, regardless of whether a Famine declaration is made in Somalia, relief actors warn that persistent Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity, which are prevalent across much of the Horn of Africa, will likely lead to significant excess mortality in affected areas.

Drought Continues to Drive Food Insecurity in Kenya Despite Increased Assistance

Worsening drought conditions are likely to continue to drive Crisis and Emergency levels of acute food insecurity across eastern and northern Kenya’s arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) counties through at least

² 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.

mid-2023, according to a Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) analysis released in early December. Rainfall levels in October and November were less than 55 percent of 40-year average levels, leading to particularly severe impacts on pastoral households due to a lack of consistent access to pasture and drinking water for livestock. The UN estimated in late November that approximately 2.5 million livestock had died in Kenya due to drought-related causes. Meanwhile, in agricultural areas of the ASALs, the late onset of the October-to-December rainy season has delayed land preparation and planting activities, resulting in below-average livelihood opportunities and decreased household food stocks. Although FEWS NET notes that humanitarian assistance and Government of Kenya social welfare programs are preventing even worse food security outcomes across much of the ASALs, parts of Marsabit and Turkana counties will likely experience widespread Emergency conditions despite ongoing assistance efforts. On November 21, in response to current and anticipated humanitarian needs in Kenya, the UN issued an appeal for \$472.6 million in humanitarian funding from international donors to provide assistance to 4.3 million drought-affected people across Kenya in 2023.

Relief Actors Warn of Increased Needs in Drought-Affected Areas of Ethiopia

Food and water shortages continue to drive acute humanitarian needs across drought-affected areas of central, eastern, and southern Ethiopia, according to the UN. A recent nutrition campaign in Oromia Region, where more than 5 million people require emergency food assistance, found that levels of acute malnutrition continue to escalate. Additionally, relief actors are providing water trucking in parts of Somali Region's Afder, Dawa, and Liben zones, which had not received any recent rainfall as of late November. Although 10 other drought-affected zones of Somali did see limited rainfall in November, this was not sufficient to allow households to recover from the impact of drought. Despite a substantial contribution of more than \$789 million by the USG alone in FY 2022, overall humanitarian resources to address drought conditions in Ethiopia remain insufficient to meet current and anticipated needs, due in part to multiple overlapping humanitarian crises in the country—including the conflict in northern Ethiopia. Relief actors are working to determine priority areas for a scale-up of the drought response using available supplies.

Meanwhile, a cholera outbreak continues to spread in parts of Oromia and Somali. Local health authorities recorded 311 and 157 confirmed cases in Oromia and Somali, respectively, as of November 23, according to the UN. The Ethiopian Public Health Institute estimates that up to 555,000 people across the two zones are at high risk of contracting cholera. Relief actors note that the lack of adequate WASH infrastructure across much of Oromia and Somali and the resulting widespread use of contaminated water sources, is likely fueling the outbreak. While case fatality rates for cholera are normally below one percent with early and proper treatment, the current fatality rate in Ethiopia is approximately four percent; relief actors are working to understand the drivers of the high case fatality rates and to improve the distribution of cholera treatment supplies in conflict-affected areas.

Somali Refugees in Kenya Face Heightened Needs as Displacement Rises

Between January and November, prolonged drought and conflict displaced approximately 1.7 million people within Somalia, with affected people seeking shelter at IDP sites or host communities, according to the Protection and Return Monitoring Network, led by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The UN agency further notes that the monthly number of people displaced due to drought in Somalia has been five to ten times higher during each month of 2022 compared to the monthly totals for 2021. Overall, the UN estimated that more than 2.9 million Somalis were internally displaced at the beginning of 2022, while approximately 662,000 Somalis were sheltering in nearby countries as of November 2022.

At the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya’s Garissa County—which borders southern Somalia—relief actors report that hundreds of Somalis have arrived per day in recent weeks, and an estimated 24,000 people arrived in October and November, according to UNHCR. Due to overcrowding and limited access to basic services, many new arrivals have sheltered in informal settlements adjacent to the camps, where recent visits by humanitarian staff found significant health risks, including increased risk of cholera outbreaks, resulting from limited WASH infrastructure; health actors have identified more than 350 cholera cases at Dadaab since the end of October, according to UNHCR. Inadequate WASH facilities have also contributed to a high risk of protection incidents among new arrivals, many of whom belong to marginalized communities and are survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). Garissa hosts more than 233,000 refugees, mostly from Somalia, who represent more than 40 percent of Kenya’s overall refugee population.

KEY FIGURES



4.3 Million

People in Somalia reached with WFP food assistance in October



13 Partners

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



559,000

People in Somalia who received nutrition assistance from WFP in October

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, USAID/BHA supports two UN agencies and ten 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 the UN World Food Program (WFP) provides vouchers redeemable for food in local markets to reduce food consumption gaps at the household level, with an estimated 4.3 million people receiving some form of WFP food assistance in October alone; the UN agency distributed nearly 12,000 metric tons of in-kind food assistance in Somalia during the month.

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, 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 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 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, Kenya, and Somalia to provide protection services to crisis-affected refugees and IDPs.



28 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 wasting in children and mothers. With USAID/BHA support, 25 NGO partners and three 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 drought-affected people in need. USAID/BHA partners are also improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure, distributing supplies 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 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 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 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$150,350,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$192,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
	Program Support		\$79,515
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$411,422,073

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN SOMALIA IN FY 2023³

\$411,422,073

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023

\$411,422,073

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023

\$411,422,073

³ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 13, 2022 and reflect estimated values of assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, which are subject to change.

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)