

Horn of Africa – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

23 MILLION	24.1 MILLION	4.4 MILLION	7.8 MILLION	1.3 MILLION
Population in Need of Food Assistance Due to Drought in the Horn of Africa	Number of People Affected by Drought in Ethiopia	People Living With Daily Household Water Insecurity in Kenya	Number of People Affected by Drought in Somalia	Number of People Displaced Due to Drought in Somalia Since January 2021
<i>UN – November 2022</i>	<i>UN – November 2022</i>	<i>UN – November 2022</i>	<i>UN – November 2022</i>	<i>UN – September 2022</i>

- The 2023 Somalia HRP, released in January, seeks an estimated \$2.6 billion to reach 7.6 million of the nearly 8.3 million people in need in the country, as ongoing drought conditions continue to intensify and exacerbate humanitarian needs.
- U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield traveled to the region and announced approximately \$41 million in new USAID/BHA funding to provide life-saving assistance in Somalia.
- Drought conditions have diminished pastoral livelihood opportunities in Kenya’s ASALs and heightened humanitarian need in Kenya and in eastern and southern Ethiopia in recent months.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Horn of Africa Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹ \$452,549,915

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

Total \$452,549,915

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2023 HRP for Somalia Requests \$2.6 Billion to Reach 7.6 Million People

The UN released the 2023 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on February 9, requesting \$2.6 billion in humanitarian assistance funding to assist 7.6 million vulnerable people across the country out of the 8.3 million total people in need. This represents an approximately 38 percent increase in the number of people targeted to receive humanitarian assistance compared to the 2022 HRP, released in December 2021, which requested nearly \$1.5 billion to reach 5.5 million people. The 2023 HRP's increased scale is indicative of worsening conditions in the country, as ongoing conflict, prolonged drought conditions, and resultant acute levels of food insecurity are projected to continue across Somalia throughout the year. The requested assistance aims to reach both newly and protracted displaced persons; shock-affected people in both rural and urban areas; and refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees, according to the UN. Moreover, to ensure the humanitarian response serves populations' immediate needs throughout 2023, the HRP set out three strategic objectives, including, preventing the loss of life of the most vulnerable people due to hunger and malnutrition; building resilience through supporting and sustaining livelihoods; and addressing critical protection risks associated with displacement.

USG Announces \$41 Million in Humanitarian Assistance to Address Heightened Need in Somalia

During a January 29 trip to Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield announced \$41 million in new funding from USAID/BHA to support humanitarian assistance in Somalia amid the Horn of Africa's longest drought in recorded history. The newly announced funding intends to provide nearly 860,000 people across Somalia with urgently needed assistance and enhance humanitarian coordination. Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Adam Abdelmoula also urged other international donors to increase their funding for the response in Somalia, noting that U.S. Government (USG) funding alone cannot meet the increased humanitarian needs projected in 2023.

Food insecurity in Somalia remains dire. The IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) projects the number of people facing Crisis—IPC Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity will increase to 6.4 million between January and March 2023.² Of this total, the IPC TWG projects approximately 1.9 million people will face Emergency—IPC Phase 4—food insecurity conditions and 322,000 people will face Catastrophe—IPC Phase 5—conditions.³ While a December IPC Famine Review Committee (FRC) report concluded that Somalia had not reached outcomes worse than Emergency, ongoing drought conditions continue to drive increased mortality. Famine—IPC Phase 5—also remains a possibility during the upcoming March-to-May period at internally displaced person (IDP) sites in and around Mogadishu, as well as in Bay Region, including the Baidoa IDP camps, and among agropastoral communities.

Record High Food Prices and a Fifth Below-Average Rainy Season Drive Acute Food Insecurity in Kenya

Essential water sources in pastoral regions in Kenya are drying following the end of the fifth consecutive below-average rainy season, according to a late January Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS

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

³ A Famine—IPC 5—classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term classification of Catastrophe—also IPC 5—refers to a household. A household in Catastrophe has an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

NET) report. Many drought-affected persons are traveling approximately 2 to 10 miles to access water, while livestock trek between 6 and 20 miles due to limited water access. Moreover, livestock body conditions—a critical metric for determining livestock well-being—remained extremely poor as of January, with large-scale livestock deaths reported across Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs). Livestock milk production, a key source of food and income for pastoral households, remains below-average, with livestock producing less than one liter of milk per household per day. Reduced milk output has severely hindered household access to income and food, resulting in widespread Crisis and Emergency outcomes throughout January, according to FEWS NET. Furthermore, FEWS NET reports crop failure or below-average for the main harvest season for legume and maize crops in agricultural areas across Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, and Meru counties due to low rainfall levels between October and December 2022.

Additionally, high costs of food, coupled with prolonged drought, continue to limit household purchasing power and diminish food access for Kenyans. Food security monitors recorded food price inflation was nearly 14 percent as of December 2022, as four successive below-average food production seasons since late 2020, high fuel and transportation costs, high demand, and reduced cross-border imports from Uganda and Tanzania diminished Kenya’s food stocks. In December, dry maize grain prices ranged from 35–140 percent above the five-year average; similarly dry bean prices were 50–85 percent above the five-year average, according to FEWS NET.

Conflict and Drought Fuel Severe Humanitarian Needs Across Ethiopia

Drought conditions continued to intensify in affected areas of Ethiopia’s Oromia, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples (SNNP) regions during January, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Local authorities in SNNP reported increased admissions of children ages five years and younger for severe acute malnutrition treatment, and in Oromia’s Borena Zone, a screening campaign in late December 2022 found moderate acute malnutrition prevalence as high as 43 percent among people older ages 60 years and older. USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is mobilizing resources to identify and treat cases of acute malnutrition in response to heightened needs. Moreover, more than 867,000 people in Dilo, Dublin, Teltele, and Wachele *woredas*, or districts, in Borena are estimated to require emergency food assistance, according to a recent Government of Ethiopia-led assessment. In response, the USAID/BHA-funded Joint Emergency Operation, led by Catholic Relief Services, has provided food assistance to approximately 604,000 people in Borena in recent weeks. Additionally, WFP had distributed more than 13,000 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to nearly 790,000 people in Somali between mid-December and January 23.

In addition, ongoing conflict is generating large-scale humanitarian needs, according to the UN. In western Oromia, fighting between armed groups and the Ethiopia National Defense Force has displaced hundreds of thousands of people, with many seeking shelter in neighboring Amhara Region. Many IDPs in western Oromia have yet to receive humanitarian assistance due to access challenges. Additionally, intercommunal violence between communities in Oromia’s West Guji Zone and bordering areas of Sidama Region has surged in January, displacing more than 5,000 people as of January 18. Humanitarian access declined in eastern and southern Ethiopia during the second half of 2022, as violence intensified across much of the country. Fighting expanded to previously peaceful areas of Oromia, and aid workers experienced increased security incidents, including detention, commandeering of humanitarian vehicles, and looting of aid shipments, the UN reports. Drought conditions also drove increased tensions and conflict over resources that limited access to much of eastern and southern Ethiopia, while fighting in Gambella Region—including the collateral effects of conflicts in neighboring Oromia and South Sudan—negatively affected access, with humanitarian movements suspended for two weeks in December.

KEY FIGURES



4.4 Million

People in Somalia reached with WFP food assistance in December



13 Partners

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



530,000

People in Somalia who received nutrition assistance from WFP in December



12 Partners

Providing protection services to drought-affected 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 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 WFP provides vouchers redeemable for food in local markets to reduce food consumption gaps at the household level, with an estimated 4.4 million people receiving some form of WFP food assistance in December alone; the UN agency distributed more than 9,200 MT tons of in-kind food assistance in Somalia during the month.

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 support urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (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 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-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 supports WASH activities that assist IDPs, as well as refugees. 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 3 million people in need. USAID/BHA also supports activities that train 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 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 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Somalia			
Implementing Partners	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Nutrition; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$191,450,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$192,675,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition Program Support	Countrywide	\$68,317,558
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE			\$452,549,915
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$452,549,915
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE HORN OF AFRICA RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$452,549,915

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 29, 2023.

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)