

Somalia – Complex Emergency

JUNE 17, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

6.1
MILLION

Estimated Number of People Affected by Drought As Of May

UN – May 2022

7.1
MILLION

People Likely to Face Acute Food Insecurity by September

IPC – June 2022

4.2
MILLION

Number of People Facing Water Shortages as of April

WASH Cluster – May 2022

1.5
MILLION

Children Ages Five Years and Younger Facing Acute Malnutrition in 2022

IPC – June 2022

- Due to deteriorating drought conditions, more than 7.1 million people across Somalia are likely to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse food insecurity conditions between June and September, including populations in eight livelihood zones facing an increased risk of Famine—IPC 5—conditions.
- Consumption of contaminated water, poor hygiene practices, and deteriorating nutrition conditions have driven an increase in suspected cholera and measles cases in 2022.
- On June 13, the USG announced more than \$55.1 million in additional funding to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to drought-affected populations in Somalia.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Somalia Response in FY 2021 and FY 2022

USAID/BHA¹

\$575,033,296

State/PRM²

\$66,950,000

Total

\$641,983,296

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

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

² Total U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) funding for the Somalia regional response during FY 2021 and FY 2022 also includes an additional \$53,756,716 for Somali refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Growing Risk of Famine in Eight Zones Across Somalia After Failed Rains

Humanitarian conditions have rapidly deteriorated across Somalia in recent weeks due to the impact of a fourth consecutive season of poor rainfall between April and June, according to relief actors. Overall, precipitation was between 40 and 60 percent below 40-year average levels during the period, leading to a severe decline in local food production, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. According to a June IPC analysis, eight livelihood zones—including parts of Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Galguduud, Hiiraan, and Mudug regions—will experience an increased risk of Famine—IPC 5—conditions through at least September.³ Famine occurs when at least 20 percent of the households in a given area have an extreme lack of food; the global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence, as measured by weight-for-height z-score, exceeds 30 percent; and mortality rates exceed two deaths per 10,000 people per day. Food security and nutrition actors warn that mortality rates in Bay's Burhakaba and Baidoa districts had already exceeded one death per 10,000 people per day as of May, indicating that a severe decline in food and nutrition security had occurred in recent weeks. While normal rainfall during the upcoming October-to-December *deyr* rainy season—a smaller percentage of the country's annual rainfall compared to the April-to-June *gu* rainy season—would marginally replenish pasture and water sources across Somalia, forecast models are now signaling an elevated likelihood that the *deyr* rains will also be below average. Accordingly, the scale of humanitarian need is expected to grow, further prolonging already dire food security conditions across Somalia through the end of 2022 and into 2023.

Relief actors report that the window for early humanitarian action has closed and acute food insecurity and malnutrition outcomes are expected to rapidly deteriorate through the end of 2022. An estimated 7.1 million people across Somalia will likely experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between June and September, including 2.1 million people facing Emergency—IPC 4—conditions and more than 213,000 people facing Catastrophe—IPC 5—outcomes, according to a June IPC analysis.⁴ This marks an increase of more than 1 million people requiring emergency food assistance since May and a more than two-fold increase compared to the 3.5 million people in need during the peak of the country's last major drought in 2017. Additionally, more than 1.5 million children ages five years and younger will likely require treatment for wasting, the deadliest form of malnutrition, through the end of 2022.

Receding pasture and limited access to water also led to the deaths of 3 million livestock between mid-2021 and mid-2022, undermining livelihoods and access to milk, a key source of nutrition and an economic asset among pastoralist households. Continued insecurity, the socioeconomic effect of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and heightened prices for food imports—in part due to market disruption linked to the Government of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine—have further exacerbated growing food needs in recent weeks. While relief actors delivered emergency food assistance to an average of 2.4 million people per month between February and April, humanitarian assistance provided to date in Somalia has not kept pace with the rapid rise in humanitarian needs countrywide. The 2022 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan, which requested nearly \$1.5 billion to reach approximately 5.5 million people across the country, was 18 percent funded as of early June, the UN reports. The UN warns that insufficient funding for the current appeal is expected to lead to

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

pipeline breaks for food assistance after June, noting that a sustained scale up of humanitarian assistance would be required to avert Famine conditions in parts of Somalia during 2022 and 2023.

Water Shortages, Malnutrition Drive Disease Outbreaks

The water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reports that 4.2 million people across Somalia were experiencing drought-driven water shortages as of late April, with deteriorating drought conditions having dried approximately 80 percent of water sources countrywide. Compounding the crisis, nearly 160 strategic communal boreholes throughout the country required urgent maintenance as they were either non-functional or functioning below optimal levels due to degraded machinery. These water shortages have exacerbated inadequate access to sanitation and hygiene facilities, leaving households vulnerable to diseases such as cholera.

Between January and late May, Government of Somalia (GoS) health officials recorded nearly 5,400 cholera cases in Banadir, Bay, Lower Shabelle, and Middle Shabelle regions that resulted in 17 deaths. GoS authorities attribute the disease outbreak to prolonged drought conditions that have resulted in the consumption of contaminated water and poor sanitation practices, compounded by increased prevalence of wasting. Similarly, the UN reported more than 8,700 suspected measles cases in Somalia during the first five months of 2022—80 percent of which affected children—surpassing the nearly 7,500 suspected cases recorded during the entirety of 2021. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) notes that Somalia is at heightened risk of a measles outbreak due to low levels of vaccination coverage and a high prevalence of both wasting and vitamin A deficiency among children ages five years and younger.

High levels of malnutrition have significantly increased the risk of death resulting from disease across Somalia. The number of individuals admitted for treatment of severe wasting increased sharply in Somalia between January and February, with nearly 88,000 new admissions of severely malnourished children between January and March and the highest number of admissions recorded in Lower Juba, according to the Nutrition Cluster. As of June, nutrition conditions have continued to deteriorate, with an estimated 386,000 children ages five years and younger requiring treatment for severe wasting through the end of 2022, exceeding the 340,000 children who required treatment at the time of the 2011 drought, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). While national GAM prevalence is currently below the 17.4 percent level recorded during the 2017 drought, GAM rates in more than 40 districts across Somalia were above the WHO-established emergency threshold of 15 percent, with several districts—including Bakool’s Rab Dhuure District—recording rates above 30 percent. However, insecurity-related humanitarian access limitations to malnutrition-affected areas and a lack of resources have negatively impacted the delivery of nutrition assistance, relief actors report.

USG Provides More Than \$55.1 Million in Additional Funding to Somalia

On June 13, the USG announced more than \$55.1 million in additional funding to respond to the rapidly growing humanitarian needs of drought-affected populations in Somalia. Through additional USG support, UN agencies and NGO partners will provide emergency food, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH assistance to drought-affected populations in Somalia. This contribution brings the total USAID assistance for the drought response in Somalia to approximately \$206 million in FY 2022.

KEY FIGURES



\$117 Million

In dedicated USAID support for emergency food assistance in FY 2022



\$16 Million

In dedicated USAID support for health programming in FY 2022



\$12.9 Million

In dedicated USAID support for WASH programming in FY 2022



\$29 Million

In dedicated USAID support for nutrition programming in FY 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

In FY 2022, USAID/BHA supports the two UN agencies and two international NGOs to provide emergency food assistance to populations facing acute food insecurity in Somalia. With USAID/BHA funding for food assistance, partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food assistance—including U.S.-sourced commodities and locally, regionally, and internationally procured commodities—to reduce food consumption gaps at the household level and help prevent the deterioration of food security outcomes across Somalia.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA implementing partners are working to enhance access to basic health services across Somalia through integrated health, nutrition, protection, and WASH programming. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support mobile and static health centers, and train community health workers to address urgent health needs. In addition, State/PRM partners support essential health interventions for refugees and other vulnerable populations countrywide, including conflict-affected individuals.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Somalia to improve access to safe drinking water and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as cholera and measles. With U.S. Government funding, UN agencies and NGO partners construct boreholes, deliver hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitate water systems destroyed by conflict and natural hazards, and provide sanitation assistance and safe drinking water through emergency water trucking to support communities experiencing water shortages across Somalia.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports six implementing partners to prevent, identify, and treat wasting across Somalia. By training local stakeholders on how to effectively manage wasting, USAID/BHA partners support existing community-based nutrition systems to decrease morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition across Somalia. Nutritional programming also supports evidence-based management of malnutrition by focusing on children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Persistent food insecurity, widespread violence, and protracted population displacement, as well as recurrent droughts and floods, have characterized the complex emergency in Somalia since 1991. The current conflict—primarily related to al-Shabaab (AS) attacks and resultant military operations, as well as intercommunal violence—continues to restrict trade and market activities while contributing to further population displacement and food insecurity.
- Attacks against civilians and aid workers also disrupt livelihoods and hinder humanitarian response activities, particularly in areas that lack established local authorities and where AS is present. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help vulnerable households meet basic needs, reduce acute malnutrition, rebuild assets, and protect livelihoods.
- A fourth consecutive season of poor rainfall in 2022 has intensified drought conditions across Somalia, generating extensive livestock losses, food insecurity, and severe water shortages. Recurrent drought conditions have amplified conflict-derived humanitarian needs in Somalia; IDPs and other vulnerable populations remain particularly susceptible to cyclical climatic shocks.
- On October 14, 2021, Chargé d'Affaires Colleen Crenwelge redeclared a disaster for FY 2022 in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Somalia.
- On June 17, 2019, USAID Administrator Mark Green reopened the USAID Mission in Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu, which had closed in 1991 along with the former U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IPs	Agriculture; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, and Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Nutrition; Protection; WASH	Countrywide	\$123,499,816
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, and LRIP; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$82,738,185
	Program Support		\$148,025
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$206,386,026
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Camp Coordination and Camp Management; Education; Health; Logistics Support; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$14,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING²			\$14,600,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2022			\$220,986,026

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021³

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IPs	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers; Health; HCIMA; MPCA; Natural Hazards and Technological Risks; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$191,569,419
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, and LRIP; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$125,050,000
	Food Assistance—28,560 Metric Tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$51,963,895
	Program Support		\$63,956
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$368,647,270
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Camp Coordination and Camp Management; Education; Health; Logistics Support; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$52,350,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$52,350,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2021			\$420,997,270

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 17, 2022.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

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, dietary, 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)