

Somalia – Complex Emergency

APRIL 28, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>5.9 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Somalia</p> <p><i>UN – December 2020</i></p>	<p>2.7 MILLION</p> <p>People Likely to Experience Crisis or Worse Levels of Acute Food Insecurity Through June</p> <p><i>IPC – March 2021</i></p>	<p>3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Somalia</p> <p><i>UNHCR – March 2021</i></p>	<p>629,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Somali Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2021</i></p>	<p>255</p> <p>Security Incidents Impacting Humanitarian Operations in Somalia in 2020</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>
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- Worsening drought conditions are driving water shortages across Somalia and could displace an estimated 380,000 Somalis in 2021.
- Somalia received its first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX initiative on March 15. As of April 21, the FGoS Ministry of Health had administered more than 118,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses with UN support.
- USAID/BHA partners continue to reach vulnerable populations in Bay and Bakool.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Somalia Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$150,971,525
	State/PRM ²	\$14,800,000
Total		\$165,771,525

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

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 in FY 2021 also includes \$8.95 million for Somali refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya, bringing total USG emergency funding for the Somalia crisis regional response in FY 2021 to \$174,721,525.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Deepening Drought Conditions Undermine Humanitarian Efforts

More than 50 of Somalia's 74 districts were facing moderate to severe drought conditions as of mid-April due to below-average rainfall since late 2020, leaving one in five Somalis with insufficient water to meet basic needs, according to the UN. Somalia's Adwal, Bari, Gedo, Lower Juba, Middle Juba, Mudug, Nugaal, Sanaag, Sool, Togdheer, and Woqooyi Galbeed regions were the worst affected by severe dry weather as of late April and lacked sufficient water to support domestic consumption, as well as livestock and agricultural production, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. FAO warns that drought conditions could intensify in the coming months, as much of the country will likely receive only limited rainfall in May and little or no rainfall in June.

Ongoing water shortages linked to drought are driving steep water price increases in many regions and have left a growing number of people reliant on expensive water trucking to meet their basic needs, contributing to worsening humanitarian conditions. Water prices in some rural parts of Bari, Nugaal, Sanaag, and Sool doubled between March and April, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. High prices had already prompted many people in these regions to adopt negative coping strategies, such as borrowing money to purchase water, further limiting households' ability to purchase other essential commodities, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). To avert worsening humanitarian outcomes, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) organizations in Somalia urged government entities and relief actors in March to expand vital water trucking services that had reached approximately 300,000 people across the country during the previous month.

Overall, the UN reports that drought and resultant water scarcity had displaced more than 116,000 people as of early April and could displace an estimated 380,000 Somalis in 2021. Pastoral communities in Gedo whose livelihoods and food security had been negatively affected by water shortages and receding grazing lands began migrating into Ethiopia in March to access pastures, according to FAO. The Somalia Humanitarian Fund and UN Central Emergency Response Fund have issued allocations totaling more than \$40 million to respond to the drought conditions.

2021 HRP Aims to Reach 4 Million People

The UN released the 2021 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in February, requesting nearly \$1.1 billion to reach 4 million of the country's most vulnerable people in 2021. Overall, the 2021 HRP identifies 5.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase of 700,000 people compared to the amended 2020 HRP released in July 2020 to account for additional needs resulting from Somalia's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. Conflict, climatic shocks such as drought and flooding, desert locust infestations, and the secondary effects of the COVID-19 outbreak are the primary drivers of deteriorating humanitarian conditions across Somalia in 2021, with worsening security conditions continuing to undermine efforts to reach vulnerable populations with life-saving assistance. Overall, the UN recorded 255 security incidents—the greatest number of which occurred in Bay, Gedo, Banadir, Hiran, and Galguduud regions—impacting relief operations in 2020, a nearly 70 percent increase compared to 2019. Incidents resulted in the deaths of 15 humanitarian personnel and the abduction of 24 humanitarian personnel.

2.7 Million People Face Crisis or Worse Levels of Food Insecurity

Nearly 2.7 million people across Somalia could face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through June in the absence of sustained humanitarian assistance due to poor and erratic

rainfall, desert locust infestations, the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, and protracted conflict, according to a March IPC analysis.³ Food needs will likely be most significant in Bari, Mudug, Sool, and Sanaag, where more than 30 percent of the population is projected to experience Crisis or worse outcomes. In addition, approximately 840,000 children ages five years and younger countrywide will likely suffer from wasting in 2021, including 143,000 children expected to require treatment for severe wasting—a life-threatening form of malnutrition. Heightened food needs will likely persist beyond June as precipitation across much of Somalia during the ongoing April-to-June *gu* season will likely be below average, exacerbating drought conditions already developing due to poor rainfall during the *deyr* rainy season in late 2020 and a hotter-than-average dry season between January and March 2021, according to the UN. Armed conflict and resultant displacement will also likely continue to undermine food security conditions in the coming months.

COVID-19 Vaccines Arrive in Somalia

Somalia is one of the 92 countries receiving COVID-19 vaccines through an allotment from the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility, an initiative led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Gavi, the UN Children’s Fund, and the UN World Health Organization to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines globally. Overall, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) anticipates receiving COVAX-supported vaccines for approximately 20 percent of the country’s population. An initial delivery of 300,000 vaccines arrived in Somalia on March 15. Relief actors anticipate that a shipment of 744,000 additional doses will arrive by May and that 5.2 million more doses will reach the country during the second half of 2021. As of April 21, the FGoS Ministry of Health (MoH) had administered more than 118,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses across the country with UN support. The MoH plans to prioritize frontline workers and other essential employees, older people, and people with comorbidities. FGoS officials have confirmed that internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and migrants will be included in ongoing vaccination efforts.

Escalating Violence in Lower Shabelle Displaces 33,000 People

Escalating intercommunal conflict and armed group attacks in Lower Shabelle displaced nearly 33,000 people in February and March and led to the destruction of houses, food stocks, and WASH infrastructure, heightening levels of humanitarian need, according to relief actors. Armed attacks by al-Shabaab elements on Lower Shabelle’s Yaaq-Bari Weyn town in early March prompted nearly 4,700 people to leave their homes and search for shelter in neighboring districts. In mid-February, intercommunal violence in Wanlaweyn District resulted in the deaths of five people, the displacement of approximately 28,000 people, and 20 villages damaged or destroyed by fire. The majority of those displaced by the two instances of violence were sheltering in host communities in Afgoye, Wanlaweyn, and War Maxan districts and nearby areas as of late March and remained in urgent need of emergency food, shelter, and WASH assistance, as well as relief commodities.

Insecurity Undermines Humanitarian Conditions in Bakool and Bay

Armed group activities in parts of Bakool and Bay regions continue to limit vulnerable households’ access to food and humanitarian assistance. As of late March, residents of Bakool’s Xudur town were experiencing produce shortages and above-average prices for some staple foods due to a recent al-Shabaab blockade, according to WFP. Flooding had previously prevented commercial and humanitarian organizations from reaching the town during much of the October-to-December *deyr* rainy season, and access to many roads to Xudur remained restricted in early 2021 due to heightened insecurity, including attacks on food shipments by suspected al-Shabaab actors. A similar al-Shabaab blockade of Bay’s

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.

Dinsoor town in February and March forced merchants to deliver food to the town by aircraft and donkey carts. In addition, the UN reported in January that humanitarian access to Bay's Berdale and Qansaxdheere districts had been limited since May 2020 following several targeted attacks on aircraft transporting essential commodities. USAID/BHA partners continue to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable populations in Xudur and unconditional cash assistance to approximately 21,600 people in Bay and Bakool.

KEY FIGURES



\$109 Million

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2021.



\$2 Million

In dedicated USG support for health programming in FY 2021.



\$3.6 Million

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming in FY 2021.



\$14 Million

In dedicated USG support for nutrition programming in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP and four international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide emergency food assistance to IDPs, refugees, host community members, and other populations facing acute food insecurity in Somalia. With more than \$109 million in FY 2021 funding from USAID/BHA, partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food assistance—including U.S.-sourced commodities, as well as 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 15 regions of Somalia through integrated health, nutrition, protection, and WASH programs. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support health centers, and train community health workers to address urgent health needs. In addition, State/PRM partners support essential health interventions for IDPs and other vulnerable populations including victims of conflict countrywide.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Somalia to prevent outbreaks of communicable disease such as cholera. USG funding supports critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict and natural disasters, and providing safe drinking water and sanitation to populations in need.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports WFP and 10 other implementing partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent, identify, and treat wasting across Somalia. By training local stakeholders how to effectively manage wasting, USAID/BHA partners support existing community-based nutrition systems geared toward decreasing morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition across Somalia. Nutritional programming also supports evidence-based management of malnutrition through focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women in particular.

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 attacks and resultant military operations, as well as intercommunal violence—continues to restrict trade and market activities while contributing to 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 al-Shabaab is present. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help vulnerable households meet their basic needs, reduce wasting, rebuild assets, and protect livelihoods.
- Recurrent drought conditions and seasonal flooding have amplified conflict-related humanitarian needs in Somalia; IDPs and other vulnerable populations remain particularly susceptible to cyclical climatic shocks.
- On October 26, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster for FY 2021 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Natural Hazards and Technological Risks; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$48,490,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, and Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$102,480,100
	Program Support		\$1,425
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$150,971,525
STATE/PRM			

IPs	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Education, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$14,800,000
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TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING² \$14,800,000

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2021 \$165,771,525

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 26, 2021.

² Total State/PRM funding for the Somalia regional response in FY 2021 also includes \$8.95 million for Somali refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya, bringing total USG emergency funding for the Somalia crisis regional response in FY 2021 to \$174,721,525.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)