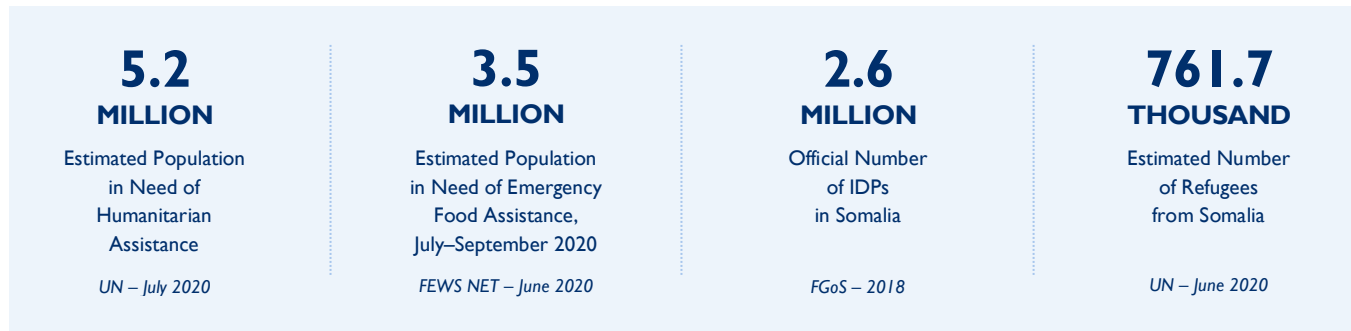


Somalia – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 7, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Without sustained assistance, up to 3.5 million people in Somalia could face severe food insecurity through September.
- COVID-19 control measures and the associated worsening of socioeconomic conditions are further eroding the protection environment in Somalia.
- The UN released a revised 2020 HRP for Somalia on July 26, accounting for changes in humanitarian needs and the operational environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, seasonal floods, and the regional desert locust upsurge.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Somalia Response in FY 2020	USAID/BHA ¹	\$381,239,413
	State/PRM ²	\$45,892,000
Total		\$427,131,413³

For breakdown by Agency and partners, see funding chart on page 5

¹ Total USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace. Humanitarian funding for the complex emergency in Somalia does not include support for the ongoing desert locust response. For additional information regarding the desert locust response in Somalia, please refer to the USAID/BHA East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Fact Sheet.

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ This total includes approximately \$23,842,000 in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UN Releases Revised 2020 HRP For Somalia

On July 26, the UN released a revised 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Somalia, requesting a total of \$1.01 billion to respond to the acute needs of 3 million of the most vulnerable people in the country, an increase from the 2.9 million prioritized to receive assistance under the initial plan. The plan was revised to account for the impacts of desert locust infestations, coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures, and heavy flooding during the April-to-June *gu* rainy season, and reprioritized funds toward COVID-19-related health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, as well as multi-sector programming to address new and continued humanitarian needs. The revised funding request represents a 4 percent decrease from that of the January 2020 Somalia HRP; the decline is partially attributed to the cancellation of some activities that cannot be implemented amid COVID-19-related restrictions.

Food Insecurity Exacerbated By COVID-19, Erratic Rainfall, Floods

The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 mitigation measures, erratic *gu* rains, and desert locust infestations have exacerbated food insecurity across Somalia in recent months, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit–Somalia (FSNAU). Poor urban and internally displaced person (IDP) households and pastoralists, particularly in northern Somalia, are likely to experience heightened food insecurity in the coming months due to an estimated 30 to 50 percent decline in annual external remittances, a 25 to 35 percent decline in annual livestock exports, lower labor demand, and steep price increases for staple foods.

Additionally, a premature end to the *gu* rainy season has contributed to crop loss in many areas of Somalia, with the highest losses recorded in riverine areas and northern agropastoral areas of Bakool and Bay regions. Nationally, the July *gu* harvest is projected to be 20 to 30 percent below the long-term average, due largely to heavy flooding in April and May, which inundated more than 133,000 acres of farmland—equivalent to more than 20 percent of the 1995–2019 average for planted area. Below-average rainfall, coupled with the impact of desert locust infestations, is expected to further undermine crop and livestock production in the coming months, particularly in northern and central pastoral and southern agropastoral areas of Somalia.

At least 20 percent of the population in most IDP settlements and urban areas across Somalia are already facing food consumption gaps or are reliant on negative coping strategies that may jeopardize future food access, even with the receipt of food assistance. Without access to sustained humanitarian assistance, FEWS NET and FSNAU anticipate that up to 3.5 million people could face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through September.⁵

Relief Agencies Report Worsening Protection Environment Amid Pandemic

Populations across Somalia are facing increased protection risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to humanitarian protection actors. In a survey of nearly 750 people across 19 districts conducted between April 26 and May 6, many respondents reported high levels of physical violence perpetrated by security personnel enforcing COVID-19 prevention measures. Despite advocacy by humanitarian organizations to halt evictions during the pandemic, evictions continue in some districts; in Wooqoyi Galbeed Region's Hargeysa District, survey participants linked evictions directly to authorities' enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures.

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

Women and girls in particular face a greater risk of violence, including gender-based violence, as economic constraints related to the COVID-19 pandemic lead them to seek livelihood opportunities in locations further away from their areas of residence. In a separate interagency survey conducted in May, 25 percent of key informants reported incidents of sexual violence during the month—18 percentage points higher than observed in surveys completed in the last 12 months.

Heavy Rainfall and Flooding Generate Displacement, Increase Cholera Risk

Moderate-to-heavy rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands and above-average rainfall in Somalia between mid-April and late May caused severe flash and riverine flooding in many areas of Somalia, displacing more than 500,000 people and adversely affecting a total of approximately 1.3 million people as of June, according to the UN. The recession of floodwaters and reduction in rainfall enabled some displaced households to begin returning to prior areas of residence in late May.

Between late June and late July, unseasonal heavy rains generated flash and riverine flooding in southern Somalia and in Banadir Region, exacerbating the impact of previous flooding in these areas in April and May and displacing more than 124,000 people as of July 26, the UN reports. In Middle Shabelle Region's Balcad, Jowhar, and Mahaday districts, floods have damaged nearly 365,000 acres of agricultural land across 100 villages since May. Also in Middle Shabelle, humanitarian access to more than 65,000 flood-affected people has been limited due to the presence of non-state armed actors, the UN reports.

Widespread flooding since the onset of *gu* rains in April has contaminated water sources across much of Somalia, facilitating the spread of cholera and other water-borne diseases. As of July 19, the Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) Ministry of Health had reported nearly 5,200 suspected cholera cases—including 29 related deaths—across Somalia since January; nearly 50 percent of the cases were recorded among children younger than two years of age. In 2020 alone, more than 3,100 suspected cases and 18 related deaths have been reported in Banadir, where an outbreak has persisted since December 2017.

UNICEF, WHO Highlight Reduced Vaccination Coverage Due to COVID-19

A joint analysis conducted by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 108,000 children younger than one year of age did not receive a first dose of the measles vaccine between January and June after the FGoS postponed scheduled campaigns to administer measles and polio vaccines, as well as vitamin A supplements and deworming tablets, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, at least 96,000 children did not receive a pentavalent vaccine, which increases immunity to other communicable diseases, during the same period. The analysis attributes the decline in vaccination coverage to reduced outreach from health care providers, as well as less willingness on the part of parents and caregivers to bring children to health clinics for routine visits during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak.

Relief Actors Record 2,600 New IDPs in Berdale

Between late June and early July, al-Shabaab militants forcibly evicted populations in several villages located west of Bay Region's Berdale District, prompting more than 2,600 IDPs to seek shelter in Berdale, according to a recent interagency assessment. Although some displaced individuals are sheltering with other displaced or host community households, many remain in open areas without access to shelter or WASH facilities. Priority needs among new IDPs include emergency food and shelter assistance, relief commodities, and safe drinking water.

KEY FIGURES



2.2 Million

People supported with emergency food assistance in May



\$27.8 Million

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care programming



\$22.1 Million

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming



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Number of USG implementing partners supporting programming to combat malnutrition

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and five international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to provide emergency food assistance to people experiencing acute food insecurity in Somalia, primarily through cash transfers for food and U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. With more than \$275 million in FY 2020 funding from USAID/BHA and other donor support, humanitarian actors reached approximately 2.2 million people with emergency food assistance in May, reducing food consumption gaps at the household level and preventing worse area-level outcomes in parts of northern Somalia.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA implementing partners are working to improve access to health care services across 16 regions of Somalia. Often integrated with nutrition, protection, and WASH programming, USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports health units, and trains community health workers to support urgent health needs. In addition, State/PRM partners support essential health interventions for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Somalia.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Somalia to prevent communicable disease outbreaks such as cholera and acute malnutrition in children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA and State/PRM funding supports partners for critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict, and providing safe drinking water to populations in need.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat acute malnutrition across Somalia. Working through WFP and other implementing partners, USAID/BHA supports community- and evidence-based programs aiming to decrease morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition. Focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women in particular, USAID/BHA programs help prevent, identify, and treat acute malnutrition.

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 basic needs, reduce acute malnutrition, rebuild assets, and protect livelihoods.
- Recurrent drought conditions and seasonal flooding have amplified conflict-derived humanitarian needs in Somalia; IDPs and other vulnerable populations remain particularly susceptible to cyclical climatic shocks.
- On November 18, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Donald Y. Yamamoto redeclared a disaster for FY 2020 in response to the ongoing complex emergency in Somalia.
- On June 17, 2019, former USAID Administrator Mark Green reopened the USAID Mission in Mogadishu, which had closed in 1991 along with the former U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance; Natural and Technological Risks; Nutrition; Protection; Risk Management, Policy, and Practice; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$87,798,067
	Program Support		\$47,244
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$87,845,311
Food Assistance			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food; Complimentary Services; 865 MT of Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP); 1,390 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$70,000,000
WFP	Cash Transfers for Food; 12,404 MT of LRIP; 67,260 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$205,794,102
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$275,794,102
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$363,639,413

STATE/PRM			
International Humanitarian Organizations	Multi-Sector Assistance; Protection; Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$39,650,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$39,650,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2020			\$403,289,413

FUNDING IN SOMALIA FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE ²			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
IPs	Health; Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance; Protection; WASH	Countrywide	\$17,600,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$17,600,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$17,600,000
STATE/PRM			
International Humanitarian Organizations			\$6,242,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$6,242,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN SOMALIA IN FY 2020			\$23,842,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$381,239,413
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$45,892,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$427,131,413

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 7, 2020.

² Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of August 7, 2020.

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)