

# Somalia – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Abnormally heavy rain and resultant flooding since July had adversely affected nearly 342,000 people in Somalia as of September 30, displacing approximately 28,000 people in Hiran Region’s Belet Weyne town alone.
- Primary health care visits and routine vaccination coverage for young children declined by more than 50 percent from March to September 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, primarily due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- FEWS NET and FSNAU project that nearly 2.1 million people could face acute food insecurity between October and December without sustained humanitarian assistance.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Somalia Response in FY 2020	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$447,866,714
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$57,442,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$505,308,714<sup>3</sup></b>

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

<sup>1</sup>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. For additional information regarding the desert locust response in Somalia, please refer to the USAID/BHA East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Fact Sheet.  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)  
<sup>3</sup>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

### Flooding Adversely Affects Nearly 342,000 People Since Late June

Heavy, unseasonal rainfall and subsequent flooding since late June had adversely affected more than 342,000 people in Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Hiran, Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, and Sanaag regions as of September 30, exacerbating the impact of previous flooding in these areas in April and May, according to the UN. Furthermore, the heavy rains resulted in the first recorded instance of the Shabelle River overflowing its banks during the July-to-September *hagaa* dry season, inundating at least 326,000 acres of agricultural land, including the homes and crops of 10,000 people in Lower Shabelle's Marka District. River overflow also damaged irrigation infrastructure, roads, and water points, while flooding contributed to the contamination of key water sources, exacerbating cholera transmission risk in 23 districts currently experiencing cholera outbreaks. Following a slight reduction in rainfall in the Ethiopian Highlands, the Shabelle River level at Belet Weyne—where nearly 28,000 people were displaced during September—had reportedly decreased from full capacity as of September 20. However, heavy rains in central and southern Somalia, as well as localized areas of the north, have perpetuated the risk of flash floods, according to the UN.

The dry season flooding was the third period of significant flooding in Somalia within 12 months. The 2019 October-to-December *deyr* rains led to flooding that affected more than 570,000 people and displaced at least 365,000 people across eight regions, according to the UN. Subsequently, moderate-to-heavy rainfall in the Ethiopian highlands and above-average rainfall in Somalia between mid-April and late May resulted in 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.

USAID/BHA partners have responded to flood-related humanitarian needs in Lower Shabelle, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Juba regions since June, through rapid response mechanisms in existing awards. A USAID/BHA partner provided one-time cash transfers to nearly 1,200 households in Middle Shabelle's Balcad and Jowhar districts in August. Meanwhile, another partner provided water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in early August in Lower Shabelle's Afgooye town, including distributing hygiene kits and reaching more than 26,000 people with hygiene messaging in Afgooye and Balcad. Additionally, a USAID/BHA partner has provided hygiene kits to 250 flood-affected internally displaced person (IDP) households in Lower Juba's Kismayo District.

### Nearly 2.1 Million People Face Acute Food Insecurity Through End of 2020

Conflict-related displacement, above-average rainfall and flooding, desert locust infestations, and the macroeconomic effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related movement restrictions continue to compound food insecurity in Somalia, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and the Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU). FEWS NET and FSNAU's assessment following the April-to-June 2020 *gu* rainy season estimated that 1.3 million people experienced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between July and September, representing a significant improvement over the 3.5 million people who were initially projected to experience acute food insecurity during the period in the absence of humanitarian assistance.

Sustained humanitarian assistance was responsible for preventing worse food insecurity outcomes, according to FEWS NET and FSNAU.<sup>5</sup> The post-*gu* assessment projects that more than 2.1 million

<sup>5</sup> Humanitarian actors were able to reach an average of 1.9 million people per month with emergency food assistance between April and August

people are likely to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between October and December in the absence of humanitarian assistance.<sup>6</sup> An additional 3 million people could experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of acute food insecurity, bringing the total number of food-insecure people in Somalia to at least 5.1 million.

Domestic and international COVID-19-related mitigation efforts have reduced income-generating opportunities and increased staple food prices across Somalia, reducing household purchasing power, FEWS NET and FSNAU report. Other COVID-19-related macroeconomic effects such as a decrease in remittances—including to IDPs and pastoralist households—and a decline in livestock exports have also compounded food insecurity. Additionally, the 2020 *gu* rainy season cereal harvest is anticipated to be 40 percent below average in southern Somalia, while in the north, the *gul/karan* cereal harvest is anticipated to be 45 percent below average, primarily due to erratic rainfall and desert locust infestations.

FEWS NET and FSNAU also anticipate a delayed start to the 2020 *deyr* rains in parts of Somalia while cumulative rainfall during the season is projected to be below average. Furthermore, preliminary forecasts suggest an elevated likelihood of below-average rainfall during the 2021 *gu* rainy season. Two consecutive, below-average rainy seasons would likely result in extremely poor harvests, the rapid deterioration of rangeland, and reduced livestock productivity, exacerbating food insecurity in Somalia and necessitating increased humanitarian assistance.

### **Health Actors Report Decline in Health Care Visits and Vaccinations**

Primary health care visits and vaccinations have decreased significantly during the COVID-19 pandemic, likely contributing to reduced treatment for malnutrition and infectious diseases and a decline in public health, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross. Visits to Somali Red Crescent Society health clinics by pregnant women and children ages five years and younger decreased from approximately 181,000 during the first seven months of 2019 to less than 83,000 in the same period of 2020. Moreover, vaccination coverage for children decreased significantly between January and August 2020, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Simultaneously, widespread flooding-induced displacement during the year has decreased the affected population's access to food, safe drinking water, and WASH facilities, while increasing the risk of malnutrition and waterborne diseases.

### **Nutrition Survey Underscores Continued Prevalence of Child Malnutrition**

The 2019 Somali Micronutrient Survey—a national nutrition survey conducted by the Federal Government of Somalia Ministry of Health and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and released in August 2020—indicates a 6 percent decline in the prevalence of stunting—an indicator of chronic malnutrition—among children ages five years and younger compared to a similar survey conducted in 2009. Despite this decline, survey results indicate a continued high national stunting prevalence of approximately 17 percent, and approximately 11 percent of children face acute malnutrition. Internally displaced children are disproportionately at risk for malnutrition, with nearly 30 percent of displaced children surveyed experiencing stunting. In addition, more than 40 percent of women and children surveyed were anemic, and nearly 35 percent of children were deficient in vitamin A.

Separately, a FEWS NET analysis indicates the national median prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in Somalia is within the range classified as Serious—Phase 3—by the IPC.<sup>7</sup> Approximately

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> The IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification provides a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of acute malnutrition. The IPC Acute Malnutrition scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Acceptable—Phase 1—to Extremely Critical—Phase 5—for acute malnutrition.

850,000 children ages five years and younger are expected to experience acute malnutrition through August 2021, including more than 143,000 children who are likely to be severely malnourished.

## KEY FIGURES



**1.9 Million**

People supported with emergency food assistance between April and August



**\$27.8 Million**

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care programming



**\$22.1 Million**

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming



**11**

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 four international non-governmental organizations to provide emergency food assistance to people experiencing acute food insecurity in Somalia, primarily through the provision of cash transfers for food as well as U.S.-sourced cereals, pulses, and vegetable oil. With more than \$275 million in FY 2020 funding from USAID/BHA, alongside other donor support, humanitarian actors reached approximately 1.9 million people with emergency food assistance between April and August, reducing food consumption gaps at the household level and preventing worse area-level outcomes across Somalia.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA implementing partners are working to enhance access to basic services across 16 regions of Somalia through provision of integrated health, nutrition, protection, and WASH programs. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support health units, 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 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 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 2020<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN THE SOMALIA FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
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 (MPCA); Natural and Technological Risks; Nutrition; Protection; Risk Management, Policy, and Practice; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$94,890,933
	Program Support		\$692,471
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$95,583,404</b>
Food Assistance			
IPs	1,390 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
	Cash Transfers for Food; Complimentary Services; Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Countrywide	\$66,898,755
WFP	41,800 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$88,794,102
	Cash Transfers for Food; LRIP	Countrywide	\$167,700,000
	Program Support		\$1,290,453
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$334,683,310</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>\$430,266,714</b>

STATE/PRM			
IPs	Multi-Sector Assistance; Protection; Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$51,200,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$51,200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$481,466,714</b>

FUNDING IN THE SOMALIA FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE <sup>3</sup>			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
IPs	Health; Logistics Support and Relief Commodities; MPCA; Protection; WASH	Countrywide	\$17,600,000
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$17,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$17,600,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
IPs			\$6,242,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$6,242,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN SOMALIA IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$23,842,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$447,866,714</b>
<b>TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$57,442,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$505,308,714</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Humanitarian funding for the complex emergency in Somalia includes \$7,092,866 for the ongoing desert locust response. For additional information for the Somalia desert locust response, please refer to the USAID/BHA East Africa Desert Locust Crisis Fact Sheet.

<sup>3</sup> Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance and Migration and Refugee Assistance funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 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).