

# Somalia – Complex Emergency

JULY 27, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>5.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Somalia</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.8</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Likely to Experience Crisis or Worse Levels of Acute Food Insecurity Through September</p> <p><i>FSNAU – July 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Somalia</p> <p><i>UN – June 2021</i></p>	<p><b>642,400</b></p> <p>Estimated Number of Somali Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – June 2021</i></p>	<p><b>70</b></p> <p>Security Incidents Impacting Humanitarian Operations in Somalia from January to April</p> <p><i>UN – April 2021</i></p>
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- Worsening drought conditions across Somalia are contributing to elevated humanitarian needs, while localized flooding has adversely affected 400,000 people since April.
- More than 2.8 million people across Somalia will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through September.
- Al-Shabaab activity has resulted in civilian deaths and population displacement in Mudug and Bakool regions in recent months.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Somalia Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$324,292,315
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$43,300,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$367,592,315</b>

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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 \$40.7 million for Somali refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya, bringing total USG emergency funding for the Somalia crisis regional response in FY 2021 to \$408,292,315.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Drought Conditions Persist, Generating Humanitarian Needs

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that much of Somalia will continue to experience drought conditions through late 2021 due to La Niña weather patterns, increasing the need for emergency food assistance. Low rainfall levels are expected to result in crop losses and poor livestock health in mid-2021, which will likely deteriorate agricultural livelihoods and undermine food security among vulnerable pastoral households in Somalia who are already struggling to access sufficient food and water. For example, poor April-to-June *gu* rainfall in Bakool and Gedo regions has resulted in decreased water catchment yields and led to severe water shortages and increased water prices, according to the UN. While some areas of northern Somalia experienced enhanced rainfall in late April and May, annual cumulative rainfall levels remained below average as of early July and will likely result in cereal harvests that are approximately 30 to 40 percent below average levels, FEWS NET reports. In late May, as a result of worsening drought conditions, FEWS NET reported that a scale-up of food assistance, health, livelihoods, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance would be required through the end of 2021 to prevent the further deterioration of humanitarian conditions.

### More Than 2.8 Million People Require Emergency Food Assistance

More than 2.8 million people across Somalia will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through September and require emergency food assistance due to worsening drought conditions, conflict, and the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, according to a Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) update released in May.<sup>3</sup> The latest projection marks a slight increase from the more than 2.7 million people estimated to be experiencing similar conditions between April and June. Elevated food needs will likely persist through at least January 2022 as the upcoming October-to-December *deyr* rainy season will likely be below-average, marking the third consecutive season of poor precipitation. FEWS NET notes that relief actors—who reached an average of 1.52 million people per month with emergency food assistance countrywide between March and May—do not have adequate resources to respond to growing food needs linked to continued drought.

### USAID/BHA Partners Respond to Flood-Affected Populations

Localized flooding amid overall drought conditions in some areas of Somalia has contributed to escalating humanitarian needs in recent months. Beginning in late April, heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding displaced 101,000 people and negatively affected 400,000 people across at least 14 regions of Somalia, according to the UN. In Middle Shabelle Region's Jowhar District and Hiran Region's Beledweyne District—the worst affected areas—flooding displaced approximately 66,000 people from 27 villages, destroyed 100,000 acres of farmland, and damaged approximately 80 percent of WASH infrastructure. Although access constraints have hampered some relief efforts, humanitarian organizations—including USAID/BHA partners—have provided emergency WASH assistance to 129,000 people, food assistance to 117,000 people, and health assistance to 66,000 people.

### Al-Shabaab Activities Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs in Mudug and Bakool

Al-Shabaab activity in central and southern Somalia continues to drive population displacement and result in civilian deaths while undermining humanitarian conditions, according to relief actors. On June 27, armed actors affiliated with al-Shabaab carried out an attack and temporarily seized Mudug Region's

<sup>3</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.

Wisil town, resulting in at least 25 civilian deaths, the displacement of approximately 4,500 households, and destruction of houses, international media report. Security conditions in the town remained precarious as of late June. The attack followed a recent escalation in conflict between Federal Government of Somalia (FGoS) security forces and al-Shabaab actors in Mudug following the group's capture of Mudug's Bacadweyn town in mid-April.

In Bakool, al-Shabaab activities in early June displaced nearly 30,000 people from 42 villages surrounding Xudur town, according to the UN. Al-Shabaab elements had recently increased their presence along main roads leading to Xudur prior to the displacement, compounding the impact of al-Shabaab-imposed blockades that have led to shortages of food and essential commodities since early 2021.

### **Mogadishu Violence Temporarily Displaces 200,000 People**

In mid-April, disagreement over a proposed two-year term extension for the FGoS President contributed to violent clashes between FGoS forces and armed factions in and around Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu, generating significant population displacement, according to international media. On April 25, armed factions clashed with FGoS security forces in northern Mogadishu, leading to civilian injuries, displacement, and damage to property. Insecurity resulting from heightened tensions in Mogadishu had temporarily displaced approximately 200,000 people by late May, including more than 7,300 people experiencing secondary displacement, according to the UN. Relief actors report that many displaced people returned to their homes following a de-escalation of hostilities in early May.

### **Response Actors Scale Up Locusts Control Efforts in Northwestern Somalia**

Rainfall in northern Somalia and eastern Ethiopia in late April and May generated favorable desert locust maturation and breeding conditions, resulting in the formation of hopper bands and mature swarms. Subsequently, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that urgent desert locust control operations are required to prevent the proliferation of locust-related threats to agriculture and livelihoods across the Horn of Africa in the coming months. In response, relief actors have scaled up aerial and ground control operations in northwestern and northern Somalia, particularly in the semi-autonomous regions of Puntland and Somaliland, treating more than 198,000 acres, as of early July, according to FAO; however, security-related access constraints in some areas have hampered locust response activities.

### **State Officials Seek to Prevent IDP Evictions in Bay and Lower Juba**

Between May and July, local officials in Somalia's South West and Jubaland states took actions to delay the eviction of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing on privately-owned land, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As of early July, Jubaland officials were negotiating with private landowners to extend the land tenure agreements of seven IDP settlements in Lower Juba Region's Kismaayo town that host 3,900 people facing imminent eviction and had identified land for a new settlement to host the displaced households. Similarly, in May, South West authorities extended a moratorium on IDP evictions in Bay Region's Baidoa District through November 30, relieving pressure on highly vulnerable crisis-affected households. Relief actors reported that evictions in Baidoa had decreased by more than 70 percent since the enactment of the initial moratorium in April 2020. Overall, approximately 360,000 IDPs were sheltering across 500 locations in Baidoa as of March, with many facing the threat of eviction from private landowners.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$198 Million**

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



**\$21.9 Million**

In dedicated USG support for health programming in FY 2021.



**\$19.3 Million**

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming in FY 2021.



**\$39.7 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 \$198 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 17 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 Mogadishu, which had closed in 1991 along with the former U.S. Embassy.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
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	\$149,255,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, and Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$175,019,359
	Program Support		\$17,956
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$324,292,315</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IPs	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Education, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$43,300,000

<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$43,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2021</b>	<b>\$367,592,315</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 July 26, 2021.

<sup>2</sup>Total State/PRM funding for the Somalia regional response in FY 2021 also includes \$40.7 million for Somali refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya, bringing total USG emergency funding for the Somalia crisis regional response in FY 2021 to \$408,292,315.

## **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 [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)