

Somalia – Complex Emergency

MARCH 28, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

7.7
MILLION

Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance

UN – December 2021

4 to 5
MILLION

People Likely to Face Acute Food Insecurity During 2022

FEWS NET/FSNAU – March 2022

2.9
MILLION

Estimated Number of IDPs

UN – February 2022

4.5
MILLION

Estimated Number of People Affected by Drought Conditions

UN – February 2022

- Drought conditions across Somalia continued to severely limit access to food and water and generate humanitarian needs for an estimated 4.5 million people as of February.
- Drought-driven food, pasture, and water shortages prompted more than 670,000 people countrywide to relocate to other areas between January 2021 and February 2022, the UN reports.
- Consumption of contaminated water and poor hygiene practices—primarily due to prolonged drought conditions—have contributed to disease outbreaks in parts of Somalia in recent weeks.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Somalia Response in FY 2021 and FY 2022

USAID/BHA¹

\$376,344,292

State/PRM²

\$52,350,000

Total

\$428,694,292

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 also includes an additional \$41,856,716 for Somali refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Kenya.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Relief Actors Report Risk of Famine in Somalia During 2022

Food security conditions in Somalia have rapidly deteriorated since the start of the January-to-March *jilal* dry season, according to a joint Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) and Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) assessment released in March. Persistent drought conditions—coupled with the adverse socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged insecurity—continue to result in escalating staple food prices, loss of livestock, and widespread water scarcity as of late March. Relief actors suggest households in Somalia have lost up to 30 percent of their livestock holdings due to starvation or disease since mid-2021, while staple food and water prices rose between 140 and 160 percent above the five-year average in parts of Somalia in February alone. Moreover, water shortages have exacerbated inadequate access to sanitation and hygiene facilities, leaving households vulnerable to diseases such as cholera.

As a result, between 4 and 5 million people in Somalia—up to 30 percent of the country's total population—will likely require humanitarian food assistance to prevent Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during 2022, including up to 1.5 million people facing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food security.³ A projected fourth consecutive below-average rainy season between April and June will likely exacerbate already dire food security conditions across Somalia, as many households face widening food consumption gaps and the erosion of their coping capacity, relief actors report. Significant levels of acute food insecurity are expected to worsen through September; FEWS NET and FSNAU assess that Somalia faces a risk of Famine—IPC 5—in 2022 if the April-to-June *gu* rains fail, purchasing power continues to decline, and food assistance is unable to reach areas of high concern.⁴

The 2022 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan, which requested nearly \$1.5 billion to reach approximately 5.5 million people across the country, is less than 4 percent funded as of March. Relief actors anticipate breaks in food assistance pipelines may occur in May, as the number of people experiencing acute food insecurity is rapidly outpacing current levels of food and water assistance. Scaled up and sustained humanitarian assistance—in addition to improved humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas—is necessary to avert the risk of Famine in Somalia in 2022.

Drought Has Displaced An Estimated 671,000 People Across Somalia

Worsening drought conditions displaced an estimated 671,000 people in Somalia, including nearly 573,000 people displaced between October 2021 and February 2022, according to the UN. Specifically, worsening drought conditions and a lack of livelihood opportunities displaced an estimated 115,000 people during February from Somalia's Bay and Lower Shabelle regions and the semi-autonomous region of Somaliland's Togdheer Region, reports the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN). Somalia's Banadir Region received the largest number of drought-induced internally displaced persons (IDPs) during February, while Bay was the most common place of origin for IDPs newly displaced due to drought. More than 50,000 IDPs—including more than 30,000 people adversely affected by the ongoing drought—arrived in Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu in Banadir Region during February, according 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.

PRMN. Many newly displaced people in the region are living among host communities in Mogadishu's Daynile, Garasbalay, and Kaxda districts as of early March.

The rise in drought-related displacement has contributed to overcrowding in IDP sites and settlements in parts of Somalia. Many of the new arrivals lack adequate shelter and are at risk of water shortages, according to PRMN. As of March, an estimated 62 percent of all displaced people across Somalia have reported shelter needs as a priority. Overall, the UN warns that cumulative drought-related population displacement could reach as many as one million people by April.

In addition, conflict in Bay's Diinsoor town resulted in the displacement of nearly 17,500 people in late February, PRMN reports. The displacements were triggered by insecurity following a siege that started approximately three months ago and a recent eviction announcement by a non-state actor—presumed to be al-Shabaab (AS)—operating in the area. According to displaced communities interviewed by PRMN monitors, mortar shell attacks in Diinsoor town have resulted in the significant displacement of civilians to Somalia's Banadir, Bay, Gedo, and Middle Juba regions.

Drought and Displacement Result in Disease Outbreaks in Parts of Somalia

More than 3,500 suspected measles cases have been reported throughout Somalia since January, including nearly 2,000 suspected measles cases reported in Banadir and the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, as well as Somalia's Galmudug, Jubaland, and South West states in February alone, according to health authorities and the UN. Relief actors attribute the disease outbreak to prolonged drought conditions that have resulted in the consumption of contaminated water and poor sanitation practices, compounded by the recent surge in displacement. The most adversely affected populations include children ages five years and younger residing in rural villages and IDP settlements. In addition, new suspected cases of cholera have increased in 2022 compared to previous years due in part to limited access to safe drinking water, the UN reports. In Galmudug, relief actors also reported a shortage of medical supplies and overcrowding at patient isolation centers during February.

WFP Launches Regional Drought Response Plan

In early February, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) launched its Regional Drought Response Plan, which aims to provide critical food and nutrition assistance while also supporting increased humanitarian access in Somalia through June. Specifically, WFP aims to provide cash transfers for food and in-kind food assistance to an estimated 2.5 million people across the country's drought-affected areas. In addition, the UN agency intends to prevent and treat wasting by providing nearly 394,000 children ages five years and younger and more than 177,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with blanket and targeted supplementary feeding. WFP also plans to augment the capacity of relief actors to deliver humanitarian assistance across Somalia through coordinated logistics efforts and information management support.

KEY FIGURES



**\$209.8
Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food assistance in FY 2021



\$26 Million

In dedicated USG support for health programming in FY 2021



\$26 Million

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming in FY 2021



\$58.5 Million

In dedicated USG support for nutrition programming in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, WFP, and four international non-governmental organizations to provide emergency food assistance to populations facing acute food insecurity in Somalia. With nearly \$210 million in USAID/BHA FY 2021 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 water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming. 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 refugees and other vulnerable populations countrywide, including conflict-affected individuals.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Somalia to prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, such as cholera and measles, and improve access to safe drinking water. With U.S. Government funding, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) 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 WFP, UNICEF, and seven other 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 PLW.

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 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 third consecutive season of poor rainfall in late 2021 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			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Bakool, Banadir, Bay, Gedo, Lower Shabelle	\$7,650,000
	Program Support		\$47,022
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$7,697,022
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN SOMALIA IN FY 2022			\$7,697,022

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE SOMALIA RESPONSE IN FY 2021²

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
IPs	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Natural Hazards and Technological Risks; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$191,569,419
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, and Local, Regional, and International Procurement; 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 FUNDING³			\$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 January 10, 2021.

² 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.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change

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)