

CONTEXT

- An estimated 8.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance in Somalia in 2023 due to the compounding effects of conflict, drought, and other climatic shocks such as floods, according to the UN. The multi-facted crisis facing Somalia has prompted more than 1.3 million people countrywide to flee their areas of origin in 2023, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons in the country to more than 3.8 million.
- Following five consecutive below-average rainy seasons between 2020 and 2022, which resulted in a historic drought across the Horn of Africa, April-to-May rains moderated drought conditions in Somalia. However, significantly more rainfall is required to fully replenish water sources, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports, and drought conditions continue to undermine food security in Somalia with populations confronting widespread Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency—IPC 4—outcomes.¹ Food security monitors projected an estimated 6.6 million people would experience Crisis or worse levels of food insecurity between April and June, including more than 40,000 people projected to face Catastrophe—IPC 5—outcomes, according to IPC analysis.² While a scale-up of humanitarian assistance averted the worst food security outcomes at the end of 2022, FEWS NET projects that severe outcomes will persist through at least September.
- Heavy rainfall that began on May 8 in the Ethiopian highlands caused extreme water flow to and subsequent flooding in Somalia’s Hiran Region. The flooding of the Shabelle River resulted in 22 deaths as of May 14 and generated significant displacement in Hiran’s Beledweyne and Buloburte districts, as well as parts of the Middle Shabelle Region’s Jowhar District. In Beledweyne—the worst-affected district—floods displaced more than 240,000 people and damaged nearly 18,600 buildings in May. While flood waters in Beledweyne had receded as of July—allowing an estimated 90 percent of displaced persons to return to their homes—floods had also destroyed critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, inundated crops and farmlands, and killed thousands of livestock, further threatening food security and livelihoods among populations already facing severe drought. As of June, floods had displaced an estimated 369,000 people in Somalia since January, the UN reports.



ASSISTANCE

¹ 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.

² 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.

- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) has provided more than \$755 million to non-governmental organization (NGO) and UN agency partners delivering emergency assistance and approximately \$5.8 million for early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) interventions in Somalia. USAID/BHA funding in Somalia supports the delivery of emergency food assistance, health care services, nutrition treatment, and safe drinking water, among other life-saving programs.
- With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) has continued its emergency food and nutrition operations in response to severe acute food insecurity and malnutrition outcomes in conflict- and drought-affected areas of the country. WFP reached more than 4 million Somalis—the largest caseload the agency has ever served in the country—with life-saving food assistance each month from August to December 2022, helping to mitigate against the risk of Famine in the country.
- Amid widespread climatic shocks like drought and flooding, USAID/BHA partners have responded with critical multi-sector assistance to affected populations. One USAID/BHA partner, in response to the devastating flooding in Beledweyne in early May, delivered nearly 11,000 gallons of safe drinking water to more than 5,300 flood-affected individuals as of mid-June. The NGO also registered approximately 3,000 households for multipurpose cash assistance during the same period.

USAID/BHA Funding in Somalia ³			
	Emergency ⁴	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$813,854,799	\$4,900,000	\$818,754,799
FY 2023	\$755,439,943	\$5,800,00	\$761,239,943

³ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 21, 2023. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

⁴ Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.