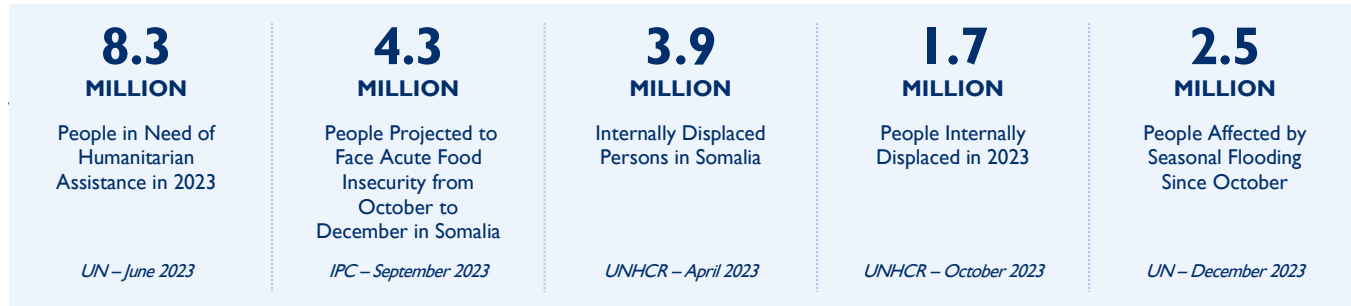


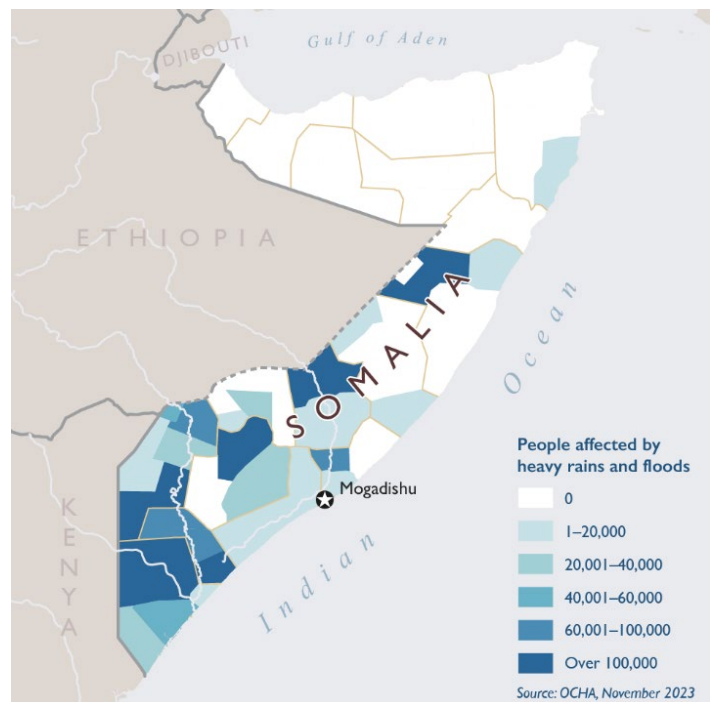
Somalia – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 11, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Heavy rains and flooding across Somalia have resulted in at least 118 deaths, displaced an estimated 900,000 people, and affected approximately 2.5 million people, the Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) and the UN report.
- Despite access challenges, at least 23 organizations, including USAID/BHA partners, are providing nutrition and other services in flood-affected areas.
- Health actors have recorded an uptick in confirmed cholera cases in flood-affected districts since early October, bringing the cumulative number of cases recorded in 2023 to more than 15,500, including 43 cholera-related deaths.



¹ FY 2024 funding for the Somalia Complex Emergency will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding toward the response in FY 2023, refer to Horn of Africa Fact Sheet #12 released on September 30, 2023, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

El Niño Rains, Subsequent Floods Result in Deaths and Displacement as Relief Actors Mobilize Response

Ongoing October-to-December *deyr* rains fueled by El Niño conditions and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole have triggered widespread riverine and flash flooding in Somalia. As of December 10, heavy rains and flooding had affected approximately 2.5 million people in Somalia, resulted in at least 118 deaths, and displaced nearly 900,000 people, according to SoDMA and the UN. In addition, flooding had resulted in the destruction of nearly 21,000 shelters across 36 districts countrywide. The flooding has most severely affected internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities along southwest Somalia's Juba and Shabelle rivers, particularly in the Bay, Gedo, and Middle Juba regions, the UN reports.

Notably, as of December 4, flash or riverine floods had affected more than 800 IDP sites hosting nearly 104,000 households—approximately 592,000 people—in Baardheere, Baidoa, Banadir, Belet Weyne, Buur Hakaba, Diinsoor, Jowhar, Gaalkacyo, Garbahaarey, Xudur, Kismayo and Waajid districts, according to the UN. In addition, flooding has destroyed 65 percent of the farms located along the Juba River in Gedo, negatively impacting agricultural livelihoods, the UN reports. USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to provide health, nutrition, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to flood-affected households and to monitor new displacements in Banadir, Bay, Gedo, Hiraan, and Middle Shabelle regions.

The floods have damaged airstrips, bridges, and roadways, destroyed critical infrastructure such as WASH facilities, disrupted market supply chains, heightened the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, and inundated farmland, according to the UN and WASH Cluster.² Damage to transportation and other critical infrastructure has also hampered relief efforts in flood-affected areas. Affected populations need emergency food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance. WASH Cluster partners have reached more than 456,000 flood-affected people—nearly 19 percent of the nationwide total—with WASH services as of December 5, including the construction of latrines, the provision of hygiene kits, and the rehabilitation of shallow wells. Furthermore, Protection Cluster partners report that the destruction of shelters, including sanitation facilities, has resulted in increased protection risks, particularly among pregnant and lactating women (PLW), with more than 6,000 PLW reportedly affected by flooding in Baidoa alone.

In response to the flooding, 15 USAID/BHA partners are responding to urgent food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH needs in flood-affected areas. USAID/BHA partners are providing health and nutrition services at evacuation sites and through mobile teams, constructing latrines, delivering safe drinking water through water trucking, and dispatching rescue boats to assist individuals stranded by the floodwaters. In addition, the UN released \$25 million on November 9, including \$15 million from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund and \$10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund. Humanitarian actors have also deployed at least 35 boats to deliver supplies and evacuate thousands of people who have been trapped by floodwaters in at least 10 locations in Hirshabelle and Jubaland states. Of those relief actors aim to evacuate, approximately 8,000 are stranded families in Lag Dera basin, an area where the Juba and Shabelle rivers join that had been inaccessible since late November. As of December 10, humanitarian partners, along with authorities and local civilians, have assisted at least 836,000 people, or approximately 34 percent of those affected by heavy rains and flooding, according to the UN.

² The WASH Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

Nutrition Partners Face Operational Challenges Due to Flood Damage

In response to the severe rains and flooding, relief actors providing nutrition assistance have scaled up malnutrition screening activities and pre-positioned nutrition treatment supplies across flood-affected districts, according to the Nutrition Cluster. However, flooding has hindered the movement of civilians to access resources and the ability of humanitarians to deliver assistance, as roads remain impassable in heavily affected areas, particularly in Bakool, Bay, Gedo, and Mudug regions. Relief actors reported that nearly 50 nutrition facilities remained inaccessible due to floods as of December 5. Nutrition partners are facing significant logistical challenges accessing rural communities and IDP sites in flood-affected areas and urgently require additional support from the Logistics Cluster to transport supplies by air to otherwise-inaccessible locations—including towns in south-central Somalia—that are running low on stocks, such as ready-to-use therapeutic food. Relief actors warn that PLW and children ages five years and younger are unable to access nutrition services, even in facilities with supplies in stock, due to a lack of trained personnel and impassable roads.

In Bay, flash floods have affected nearly 341,000 IDPs and 148,000 host community members, according to the Nutrition Cluster. Flooding has affected more than 30 nutrition sites in the region, including inundating at least 20 sites, partially destroying seven sites, and rendering six sites inaccessible for several weeks in October and November. Relief actors in Bay are relocating and repairing affected nutrition sites and had started to resume services in November, using donkey carts to transport nutrition supplies to sites that are otherwise inaccessible due to damaged roads. Following flooding in Gedo, at least 11 health and nutrition facilities had been forced to relocate, eight mobile teams were unable to provide services, and three facilities were only accessible via donkey cart as of late November. In Mudug's Gaalkacyo town and the surrounding area, floods have displaced approximately 31,000 people and prevented access to health and nutrition centers as of November 17.

Despite challenges, at least 23 organizations, including USAID/BHA partners, have been providing nutrition services in flood-affected areas of Somalia, including screening approximately 158,000 children ages five years and younger for moderate and severe acute malnutrition and admitting nearly 14,000 children for treatment in affected areas since flooding began, according to a December 5 Nutrition Cluster report. Additionally, partners reached nearly 11,000 PLW with individual counseling on optimal infant and young child feeding practices.

Cholera Cases Increase as Floods Threaten to Exacerbate Outbreak

Cholera, an endemic disease in Somalia, has continued to spread since October as the ongoing *deyr* rains threaten to drive increased infectious disease transmission in flood-affected communities, health and WASH actors report. The number of new cholera cases in Somalia increased by 33 percent in all districts from October 1 to 15, when heavy rains began, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Between January 1 and November 19, WHO recorded more than 15,500 cumulative confirmed cases, including 43 related deaths countrywide. Health and WASH partners are scaling up cholera preparedness and response activities as El Niño-related heavy rains and resulting floods threaten to exacerbate the ongoing cholera outbreak and increase the spread of other waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea. Heavy rains have limited access to WASH facilities since October, and flooding had damaged an estimated 8,500 latrines—approximately 6,700 in Jubaland and 1,000 in South West State—as of November 11. This has resulted in the contamination of water sources due to exposed sewage, increasing the risk of acute watery diarrhea and further cholera transmission, according to the WASH Cluster. Following a multi-cluster joint assessment conducted October 23-24, in Hiraan Region's Beledweyne town, relief actors reported that more than 95 percent of the town's

IDPs had no access to a latrine and 65 percent lacked access to safe drinking water as of late October. Relief actors recommend prioritizing the construction of new latrines and increasing WASH assistance in areas prone to flooding to prevent further spread of waterborne diseases.

USAID/BHA Supports Flood Preparedness Activities Across Somalia

USAID/BHA support for meteorological forecasting and flood mitigation activities has contributed to improved preparedness for the recent severe flooding. During the months leading up to the *deyr* rains, USAID/BHA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provided early warning information and assisted with the construction of flood defense infrastructure, including river embankments and dykes in Beledweyne that were heavily damaged by previous flooding in May. The Somalia Water and Land Information Management (SWALIM) project, managed by FAO, issued two high flood risk warnings for the Juba and Shabelle rivers on November 4 and 13. The SWALIM warnings urged communities, local authorities, and partners to activate evacuation plans and identify safe routes to higher ground in Beledweyne—due to a steady increase in water levels along the Shabelle River—and in Middle Juba’s Bu’aale District after heavy rainfall in Gedo and highland areas of neighboring Ethiopia caused the Juba River to overflow. These flood preparedness measures supported on time evacuations for 90 percent of Beledweyne’s population, including IDPs, when flooding began in November, FAO reports.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

People reached with food assistance through USAID/BHA partner WFP in October



61,500

People who benefited from outpatient consultation services in October by USAID/BHA partner UNICEF

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Somalia, USAID/BHA supports six partners, including the UN World Food Program (WFP), to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced High Energy Biscuits, sorghum, and vegetable oil—to populations in greatest need. USAID/BHA partners also provide cash transfers to food-insecure households, enabling them to purchase food from local markets where available, as well as in-kind food aid.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports eight NGOs and three UN agencies, including IOM, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and WHO, to improve access to health care services across Somalia. USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies, support mobile health units, and train community health workers to address urgent health needs, often integrated with nutrition and WASH programming. U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partners also support essential health interventions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and other conflict-affected populations in Somalia.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners are leading efforts to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Somalia. Working with nine NGOs and three UN agencies, USAID/BHA supports community-centered and



517,000

Children younger than five years of age reached with SAM treatment January–October by UNICEF

evidence-based programs aimed at decreasing malnutrition-related illnesses and mortality by strengthening prevention efforts, as well as the identification and treatment of wasting, particularly among children and PLW. USAID/BHA nutrition partners in Somalia implement life-saving nutrition services within the national health systems and integrate nutrition assistance with food security, health, livelihood, and WASH interventions to prevent excess mortality and improve resilience among households affected by persistent climate shocks.



26,000

IDPs reached with GBV awareness-raising activities including flood preparedness through State/PRM partner UNHCR in October

PROTECTION

While partners integrate protection concerns into all USAID/BHA- and State/PRM-supported activities, USAID/BHA also supports eight implementing partners responding to conflict- and extreme weather-generated protection needs in Somalia. Partners are undertaking gender-based violence (GBV) case management support, training social workers and community-based case workers, and providing dignity kits—containing items to address the specific needs of women and girls—to GBV survivors. Implementing partners are also providing mental health and psychosocial support services to conflict-affected communities in Somalia. In addition, State/PRM supports implementing partners in Somalia to provide protection services to IDPs and refugees.



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USAID/BHA partners providing WASH support to vulnerable populations

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming across Somalia to prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks and to avert acute malnutrition in children and mothers. State/PRM reaches IDPs and refugees with critical WASH activities. USAID/BHA supports 11 NGO partners and three UN agencies providing critical WASH assistance, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, providing safe drinking water to people in need, and rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict. USAID/BHA partners also train local health workers to prevent and treat suspected cholera cases in their communities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Populations across Somalia struggle with a confluence of persistent food insecurity, recurring climatic shocks, and reduced access to livelihoods. These ongoing challenges, exacerbated by persistent conflict and resultant displacement, contribute to sustained humanitarian needs and an ongoing complex emergency. USG humanitarian assistance is designed to remain flexible and respond to needs as they arise, providing support to crisis-affected populations across the country.
- USAID/BHA continues to respond to humanitarian needs as populations recover from the most severe drought on record in the Horn of Africa in the last 70 years due to five consecutive below-average rainy seasons between 2020 and 2022. While rains in 2023 have alleviated drought conditions, populations across Somalia still face high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, as well as health and WASH concerns. Moreover, El Niño-induced heavy rainfall and associated flooding in late 2023 have destroyed

critical infrastructure, displaced households, heightened the risk of waterborne disease transmission, and led to the loss of livelihoods. USAID/BHA partners are providing multi-sector assistance to meet the needs of flood-affected populations.

- Intercommunal conflicts in Somalia—related to al-Shabaab attacks and resultant military operations—continue to contribute to displacement and food insecurity, while restricting access to livelihoods. Sustained life-saving assistance, coupled with interventions aimed at building resilience, is critical to help conflict-affected households meet their basic needs and rebuild assets.
- On October 30, 2023, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. Shane L. Dixon renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Somalia for FY 2024 in response to the ongoing complex emergency, including climatic shocks and protracted conflict.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)