Operational Context
After nearly three decades of political and economic instability, Somalia is on a positive trajectory with significant progress made since the re-establishment of the Federal Government in 2012. However, the country continues to struggle with recurrent food and nutrition crises, widespread insecurity, political instability, underdeveloped infrastructure, and natural hazards such as drought and floods. Over half of the country’s population lives below the poverty line and gender inequality is the fourth highest globally, with high levels of gender-based violence, child marriage, and maternal mortality. In response to these challenges, the government adopted the National Development Plan (NDP) in 2016. The NDP focuses on recovery and resilience, economic recovery, inclusive politics and strengthening of national security as pathways to achieving long term development and wellbeing of the Somali people.

WFP Somalia Country Office has been operating from Nairobi since 1995 but transitioned to a Liaison Office in February 2015 when WFP re-opened the Somalia Country Office in Mogadishu for the first time in 20 years.

Operational Updates
• The onset of the Hagaa lean season (July-August) has extended the dry conditions experienced in Somalia since mid-June. Change is expected to continue in most regions of the country except for pockets in the south that are receiving off-season rains. The overall performance of the 2019 Gu rainy season (April-June) was below-average but moderate to heavy rains received in parts of the country from mid-May to mid-June improved pasture and water availability. However, the delay of the Gu rains affected planting and germination and as a result, Gu harvest is expected to be 50 percent below average, with significant crop failure in some areas. As such, an estimated 2.2 million people will continue facing acute food insecurity through September 2019 and will require emergency lifesaving assistance. The Somalia Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU) is expected to release the post-Gu assessment findings with an updated food security outlook in early September.

• In July, WFP continued to scale up its assistance to the communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity, reaching over 2.1 million people throughout the country. This represents a 26 percent increase from June and three times the number assisted at the beginning of the year. Nearly two-thirds of the people assisted in July received cash-based transfers worth USD 14.7 million. In addition, 409,000 pregnant and nursing women, and children aged 6-59 months received preventative and curative nutrition assistance, while 256,000 people received support through livelihoods programmes.

• Inter-clan conflict continues to be a major driver of population displacement in Somalia. Since June, a minimum of 4,200 households have been displaced from Mataban and Maxas districts in Hiran region in southern Somalia and are in dire need of emergency lifesaving assistance. In August, WFP plans to provide 3,400 displaced households with relief assistance through cash-based transfers for an initial three months.
Funding

WFP requires **USD 179 million** in the next six months (Aug 2019 to Jan 2020) to continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs).

**Donors**

**ICSP:** USA, United Kingdom, China, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Lithuania, European Commission (ECHO), Japan, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and UN CERF.