



WFP Somalia

Country Brief

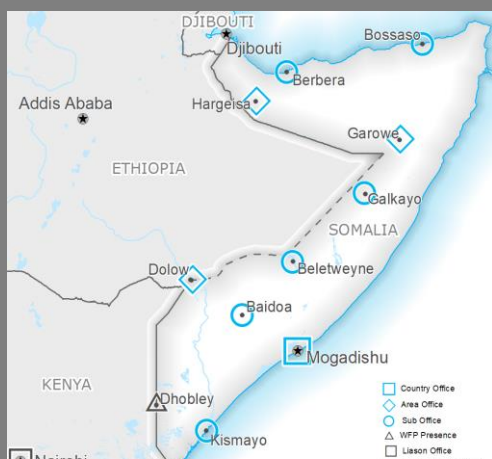
February 2020



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 revised the 2016 National Development Plan and adopted the ninth National Development Plan (NDP-9, 2020-2024) in December 2019. The NDP-9 has four pillars encompassing security and rule of law, inclusive politics, economic development, and social development 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.



Population: **12.3 million**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
2.6 million

People facing acute food crisis: **1.3 million** (IPC 3 & above, Jan-June 2020)

National Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate: **13.1 percent (Serious)**

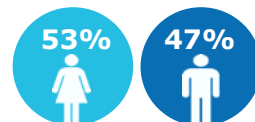
In Numbers

USD 3 m cash-based transfers made

4,654 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 179.4 M six months net funding requirements representing **63 percent** of the total **US\$ 285.3 m** for the next six months (March-August 2020)

1 m people assisted
in February 2020



Operational Updates

Gu is the main agricultural season in Somalia and the only cropping season in the northwest (i.e. Gu/Karan). The start of the long rains (2020 Gu season-March/April), coinciding with pasture regeneration and the Gu cropping season will enable a new wave of breeding for the desert locusts, and possibly further spread of the locusts. In areas where the swarms land, significant losses to crops and pasture are likely to be felt, resulting to Gu season harvest and losses of animal production.

The expected above average long rains (Gu season) can partially alleviate the negative impacts of the desert locusts on crop production. However, the rains also provide favourable breeding grounds for the desert locusts. In addition, the risk of floods is high therefore poor households, already facing food insecurity (IPC 3 and above), are likely to be the most affected by the infestation and floods causing a further deterioration of their food security situation and leaving them in urgent need of humanitarian food assistance.

With availability of funds, WFP, working to save and change lives, is planning to provide food and nutrition assistance to about 700,000 Somalis (May-December) in the event that food production is severely affected by locusts' infestation.

WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 1 million women, men and children in communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity in Somalia, in February. Of these people, about 445,000 pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-59 months received preventative and curative nutrition assistance. WFP also contributed towards boosting communities' resilience to crisis, by rehabilitating water catchments to harvest and preserve water for animals use and irrigation of vegetable gardens to boost diet diversity.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.56 B	496.1 m	179.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food and nutrition insecure people in areas affected by natural or human-caused disasters have access to adequate and nutritious food, and specialized nutritious foods to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of a shock.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provision of unconditional food and/or cash-based food assistance, specialized nutritious foods and gender-transformative nutrition messaging and counselling to crisis-affected people through well-coordinated food security and logistics during humanitarian responses.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food-insecure people in targeted areas are better able to withstand shocks and stresses throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provision of conditional and unconditional food and/or cash-based food assistance and nutritional messaging to food-insecure people through reliable safety nets, including school meals.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Malnourished and food-insecure children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls and ART/TB-DOT clients in areas with persistently high rates of acute malnutrition have improved nutritional status throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provision of specialized nutritious foods and nutrition messaging to children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) and ART/TB-DOT clients to systematically treat and prevent malnutrition and to stimulate positive behaviour change.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 4: National institutions, private sector actors, smallholder farmers, and food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations benefit from more resilient, inclusive and nutritious food systems by 2021.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provision of services, skills, assets and infrastructure for the rehabilitation and strengthening of food supply chains.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National institutions have strengthened policies, capacities and systems for supporting food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations by 2021.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provision of technical support for the strengthening of national policies, capacities and systems.

Strategic Result 8: Enhance Global Partnership

Strategic Outcome 6: The humanitarian community is better able to reach vulnerable people and respond to needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provision of air services for the humanitarian community

WFP participated in a regional workshop on nutrition, HIV, school feeding and food systems to augment regional experiences on current and emerging issues and allow countries to learn from one another. The new joint WFP/UNICEF global initiative that aims to increase the learning outcome, health and nutrition of children and adolescents by 2024 was discussed. Building on the years of joint programming, WFP and UNICEF have developed a concept note to scale-up joint nutrition resilience programming which seeks to promote access to integrated school health, nutrition, education and WASH, was discussed.

Through complementary activities, this global initiative offers WFP an opportunity to contribute towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): striving for zero hunger (SDG 2), health and well-being (SDG 3), universal and equitable education (SDG 4) and sustainable partnerships (SDG 17), among others.

To promote a family-led initiative for the use of the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) to support efforts for early detection and treatment of acute malnutrition, WFP participated in the launch of a regional BAND TOGETHER against hunger campaign that was organised by Action Against Hunger (ACF). Early detection and treatment will contribute to reduction of child mortality due to acute malnutrition.

WFP continued to work with the government by supporting its efforts to strengthen policies, capacities and systems to improve the government's ability to support the education sector. Building on the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) process that started in September 2019, in February 2020, WFP shared a draft concept note and terms of reference with the Federal Government of Somalia for the development of a school feeding programme (SFP) strategy and policy that adheres to the NDP-9. SABER, a government-led, self-assessment process will help the government gauge its policy and implementation capacity of the SFP, a step towards national ownership of the SFP.

Funding

WFP requires USD **179.4** million in the next six months (March-August 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, France, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and UN CERF.