



# WFP Somalia Country Brief

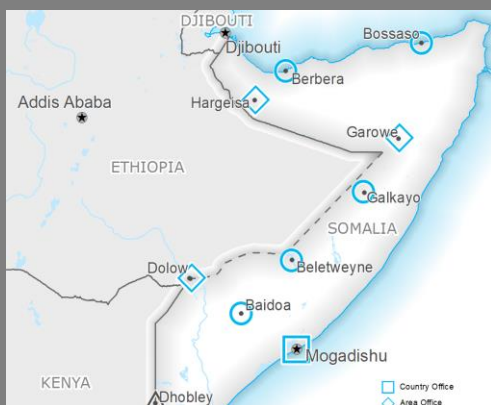
March 2020



## 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)**

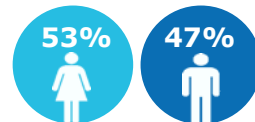
## In Numbers

**US\$ 6.2 m** cash-based transfers made

**5,814mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 143.8 M** six months net funding requirements representing **52 percent** of the total **US\$ 279 m** for the next six months (April-September 2020)

**1.3 m people assisted**  
in March 2020



## Operational Updates

As the world continues with the fight against COVID-19 global pandemic, the Government of Somalia, with support from the international community, has continued to put in place a raft of measures to curb the spread of the disease. Among others, the Government closed all learning institutions, banned international flights into and out of Somalia with some regional administrations announcing dawn-to dusk curfews, and set aside US\$ 5 million to mobilise response. By April 9, Somalia had recorded twelve COVID-19 positive cases, one recovery and one death.

In response to the request of the Federal Government of Somalia's Ministry of Health (MOH), WFP, through the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), airlifted personal protective equipment to federal member states. This donation from Jack Ma Foundation and Alibaba Group will enhance the ongoing efforts of the Government to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the Somali people.

WFP is continuously reviewing its programmes and making necessary adjustments to minimise, as much as possible, risks of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 for recipients of WFP's assistance, including

- Providing two-months assistance (in-kind and cash-based transfer entitlements) under relief, nutrition and livelihood programmes for April and May.
- Suspending the use of fingerprint verifications for all nutrition activities. This move aims at minimising exposure and possible transmission of COVID-19 through finger printing, to already malnourished and vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and children.
- Adding a home delivery feature on the WFP online mobile shopping application, eShop. This is now operational and in use in five locations. It will enable WFP beneficiaries, registered to eShop, to order items online and request for home delivery at checkout, thereby reducing movement and enhancing physical distancing in line with the Government's requirements.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>1.56 B</b>	<b>599.6 m</b>	<b>143.8 m</b>

### 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 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**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.
- Provision of unconditional cash transfers in rural areas to targeted poor and vulnerable households

### Strategic Result 3: Achieve food security

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Malnourished and food-insecure children, adolescent girls, PLWG 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

In March, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 1.3 million women, men and children in communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity in Somalia. Of these people, approximately 509,700 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 through livelihood activities such as rehabilitation of water catchments to harvest water, benefitting approximately 93,500 people.

Local staple food prices remained stable, however, there were slight price increases of imported food items (<10 percent) due to the partially affected inflow of goods, especially from key supply markets and panic buying due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Livestock productivity and income from agricultural labour continued to support the most rural populations to meet their food needs. WFP and partners continue to monitor and respond to the anticipated flooding and desert locust infestation that is expected to cause significant crop and animal productivity losses during the GU 2020 season. To prioritize areas of concern, WFP has also updated the implementation plan from July to December 2020 to increase relief assistance to floods and locust most affected areas.

## Monitoring

Post-distribution monitoring results assessed the effectiveness of WFP's relief interventions across 13 regions in Somalia. Household food consumption score (FCS) results showed a slight reduction in the number of households reporting an ease of access to food from 49 percent in November 2019 to 46 percent in March 2020. A reduction of households employing consumption-based coping strategies to meet their food needs was observed, 10.91 in March compared to 11.75 in November, indicating a progressive reduction in stress levels among households receiving WFP food assistance.

## Funding

WFP requires US\$ 143.8 million in the next six months (April-September 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.