



# WFP Somalia Country Brief

April 2020



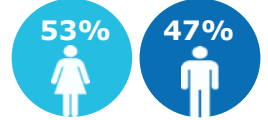
## In Numbers

USD 11.7 m cash-based transfers made

11,209 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 153.8 M six months net funding requirements representing 43 percent of the total US\$ 360 m for the next six months (May-October 2020)

1.85 m people assisted in April 2020



## Operational Updates

The food security situation is declining in the face of a triple shock. More than 2.7 million people are projected to be food insecure (IPC 3 and above) between April-June with the number expected to increase to 3.5 million between July-September. The expected impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security outcomes, the ongoing flooding situation and the risk posed by the desert locusts to the current *Gu* crop production are likely to leave many Somali families struggling to meet their food and nutrition needs. Data from the Somalia Nutrition Cluster shows a 13 percent increase in monthly new admissions of acutely malnourished children between January and March 2020 compared to the first-quarter average monthly admission for 2016-2019 (FSNAU). This could be attributed to the declining food security situation across Somalia as well as periodic disease outbreaks including acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

Intensified rainfall within Somalia has led to riverine flooding along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers and flash floods in low lying areas. The floods have affected about 550,000 people, of whom more than 217,000 have been displaced.

In response to these shocks and stressors, WFP plans to reach about 1,250,000 people across Somalia with lifesaving relief assistance, including 3,717 floods-affected households (i.e. 22,302 people) whom WFP has already provided with life-saving food commodities in Jowhar, Hirshabelle state and in Qardho district in Puntland. Collective and sustained humanitarian assistance through September 2020 is needed to prevent Crisis (IPC 3) or Emergency (IPC 4) food security outcomes.

In April, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 1.85 million women, men and children in communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity in Somalia. Of these people, 519,000 pregnant and lactating women, and children aged 6-59 months received preventative and curative nutrition assistance.

## 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: 2.7 million (IPC 3 & above, April-June 2020)

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

## 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>664.6 m</b>	<b>153.8 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

## Monitoring

WFP carried out follow-up monitoring to assess the food security situation of WFP beneficiaries who received conditional assistance while engaging in asset creation activities for improved livelihoods. A total of 525 beneficiary households were sampled across 11 regions in Somalia. The household food consumption score (FCS) showed that WFP assistance contributed to a sustained food security situation with 66 percent of beneficiaries recording acceptable food consumption score compared to 62 percent and 64 percent in August 2019 and December 2019 respectively.

The number of households employing consumption-based coping strategies to meet their food needs increased to 11.2 in April compared to 8.1 in December 2019, indicating a rise in stress levels among beneficiaries when faced with food shortage. This decline in food security could be attributed to cumulative impacts of the desert locusts on crops and the negative impacts of COVID-19 on household economic capacity. As such, poor households are compelled to engage in severe coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs.

## Funding

WFP requires US\$ 153.8m million in the next six months (May-October 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.