



# WFP Somalia Country Brief

May 2020



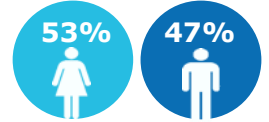
## In Numbers

USD 1.7 m cash-based transfers made

5,810 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 223.8 M six months net funding requirements representing **53 percent** of the total USD 418.7 m for the next six months (June-November 2020)

One million people assisted in May 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.



## Operational Updates

The [food security situation](#) continues to decline with more than 3.5 million people projected to be food insecure (IPC 3 and above) between July and September. The triple threat of economic impacts of COVID-19, floods during the ongoing *Gu* (April to June) rainfall season, and desert locust upsurge are exacerbating the severity of food insecurity in Somalia, leading to exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities, disrupted socio-economic activities and affected livelihoods especially for low-income earners. An [estimated](#) 50 percent decline in remittances will further worsen an already dire food and nutrition security situation for over 40 percent of food insecure Somali families who rely on remittances from relatives and friends living abroad for their livelihood. Additionally, desert locusts' upsurge in northern and central regions, and the risk of expansion to southern Somalia remains of high concern though July 2020. Control measures to prevent the spread of the locusts have been insufficient (especially in areas with limited access).

The Gu harvest has the potential to partially alleviate the negative impacts of the desert locusts on crop production. However, the rains during the 2020 GU season also provided favourable breeding grounds for the desert locusts and therefore, the impact of the locusts on agricultural and livestock production are expected to be notable. GU rains have also subsided in most part of the country and people affected by floods continue to return to their homes but still require life-saving assistance to enable them meet food and nutrition needs.

In response to the increased needs, WFP is preparing a budget revision to increase relief assistance to reach two million food insecure people in 2020. In the context of COVID-19, WFP has adjusted its programming in order to minimise risks of exposure to recipients of WFP's assistance. WFP introduced mobile money transfers in April which allows greater flexibility as it provides a solution for beneficiaries to receive transfers in remote areas and where banking facilities are not present. This contactless modality will help expand programme coverage and reduce travel distances and associated risks for the people receiving cash-based assistance. This option is in use in the Government rural safety-net and it is gradually being rolled out to other programmes. By end of May, WFP had transferred cash entitlements to 12,190 households. Under the school feeding programme, WFP has signed an agreement with Ministry of Education (MOE) in Somaliland to support 40,000 children with take home rations in rural schools in Somaliland in June and July 2020.

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)**

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## 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>672.2 m</b>	<b>223.8 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

WFP has also added a home delivery feature on the WFP online mobile shopping application, eShop, to enable people registered on the application to order items online and request for home delivery at checkout. Over 25,000 people across Somalia have benefited from this service since its inception in April.

In May, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to one million women, men and children in communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity in Somalia. Of these people, 485,000 pregnant and nursing women, and children aged 6-59 months received specialised nutritious foods aimed for presentation and treatment of malnutrition. WFP also delivered life-saving food commodities and cash-based transfer entitlements to 67,650 flood affected people in Galmudug, Puntland and Hirshabelle states.

## Monitoring

In May, WFP carried out follow-up monitoring to 300 households in Banadir region of Mogadishu through remote monitoring. Beneficiaries interviewed were sampled from SCOPE beneficiary registration system. The main objective was to assess the food security situation and establish the impact of COVID-19 on WFP's beneficiaries household who received cash transfers under the Urban Safety Net (USN) programme, approximately one month after beneficiaries received assistance. The household food consumption score (FCS) showed that WFP assistance contributed to a sustained food security situation with 72 percent of the assessed households recording acceptable food consumption score.

The number of households employing livelihood-based coping strategies that deplete assets, decrease production and reduce human capital to meet their food needs reduced to 16 percent in May compared to 24 percent in November 2019 indicating a decline in food shortage in households receiving WFP assistance.

## Funding

WFP requires **USD 223.8 million** in the next six months (June-November 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, Denmark, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, France, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) and UN CERF.