



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Somalia Country Brief, August 2020



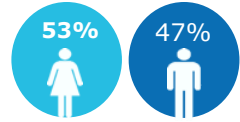
In Numbers

US\$ 8.3 m cash-based transfers made

13,567 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 214.6 M six months net funding requirements representing **51 percent** of the total **US\$ 421.3 M** for the next six months (September 2020-February 2021)

1.64 million people assisted in August 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.

In February 2015 WFP re-opened the Somalia Country Office in Mogadishu for the first time in 20 years. WFP has presence across Somalia with four operational Area Offices (Mogadishu, Garowe, Dolow and Hargeisa) and eight deep filed location offices,



Population: **12.3 million**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): **2.6 million**

People facing acute food crisis: **3.5 million** (IPC 3 & above, July-September)

National Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate: **11.8 percent (Serious)**

Operational Updates

On top of a projected **30-40 percent** below the long-term average (1995-2019) Gu 2020 cereal harvest in July, there is a poor rainy season forecast for the Deyr 2020 (October-December). This is likely to worsen the food security outlook through early 2021. An estimated **3.5 million** people are projected to be severely food insecure (IPC 3 'Crisis' and above) between July-September. Sustained large-scale humanitarian assistance to prevent further destitution and to protect the gains already made in enhancing access to food is required.

WFP Somalia continued to save lives through food and cash-based transfer (CBT) assistance, reaching 1.64 million women, men and children in the communities most affected by acute food and nutrition insecurity. Of these people, approximately 650,400 received CBTs equivalent to US\$ 8.3 million. Preventative and curative nutrition assistance reached 584,000 pregnant and nursing women, and children aged 6-59 months. Another 18,018 people received cash vouchers in Dolow through the food assistance for assets programme. This enabled them to access food while rehabilitating and creating productive assets such as growing nutritious fruits and vegetables for family use.

In April and May, WFP trained mothers and caregivers on the family Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC). The training equipped them with skills and knowledge on the use of MUAC, placing them at the center of screening to detect the earliest signs of malnutrition in children. By the end of August, 82 percent of WFP's cooperating partners had transitioned from community health workers-led MUAC screening to mother-led MUAC screening. This has resulted in mothers being at the forefront in promoting the health of their children. This has also limited any unintended infections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

After nearly six months of COVID-19-related school closures in Somalia, the Government reopened schools starting 15 August. Before the closures, WFP provided hot meals (breakfast and lunch) to 165,000 school going children under the WFP school feeding programme (SFP). These meals enabled the children to meet their food and nutrition needs and contributed to improved school enrolment and attendance for better education achievements. During the new academic year (2020/21), WFP has been forced to scale down its school feeding programme due to a funding shortfall, only retaining 62 percent of the previous coverage.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
1.88 B	795.8 M	214.6 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 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 transitioned from in-kind to cash-based transfers through Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) in Somalia; implementation is already ongoing in Banadir and Gedo regions. The HGSF model enables schools to purchase food items to prepare hot meals from local markets and retailers, contributing to the local economy.

In support of the Government’s response to emergencies, WFP moved 542 mt of supplies (178 mt of COVID-19 and 340 mt flood-related response) to 15 field locations in Somalia. WFP provided lifesaving food assistance to over 64,000 people affected by the floods in Dolow and Mogadishu.

The WFP eShop mobile application enabled 18,438 people to order food online for home delivery across Somalia with a total E-Sale of US\$ 830,955.

Monitoring

To assess the performance of WFP’s Maternal Child Health And Nutrition (MCHN) programme, a nutrition outcome survey assessed diet patterns of children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and nursing women, and their participation in Specialised Nutritious Food (SNF) distributions.

Compared to 2019, the results show an improvement in the quality and quantity of diets consumed by children and pregnant and nursing mothers. For example, 16 percent of children under the MCHN interventions (crisis response focus) consumed a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) i.e. they met the minimum diet diversity and the minimum meal frequency. This is an increase from 9 percent in 2019. Similarly, 42 percent of pregnant and nursing women met the Minimum Diet Diversity (MDD) threshold an increase from 32 percent in 2019.

Additionally, 93 percent of MCHN beneficiaries participated in an adequate number distributions, indicating a high level of adherence. These improvements are attributed to the integration of nutrition-Sensitive Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) which encourages uptake of recommended dietary practices among caregivers and pregnant and nursing women and strengthened community mobilization and sensitization.

Funding

Overall, WFP Somalia is facing a funding shortfall of **US\$ 214.6 million** from September - February 2021. To continue providing lifesaving food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), WFP urgently requires US\$ 148.4 to address a 67 percent shortfall under Activity 1 (Relief) and US\$ 33.5 to address a 54 percent shortfall under Activity 1 and 3 (Nutrition) for in-kind commodities and cash-based transfers.

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.