

# WFP Somalia Country Brief October 2023



# **Operational Context**

Somalia has an estimated population of 17 million. Poverty is widespread, with seven out of ten Somalis living on less than USD 1.90 a day. Recurrent climate-induced shocks, insecurity, protracted conflicts, environmental degradation, limited investments, and poor infrastructure continue to impact food systems, hindering availability and access to nutritious foods and adequate nutrient intake. Malnutrition is driven by chronic food insecurity, poor infant and young child feeding practices, diseases, limited access to clean water, sanitation, and health. While social protection is evolving, scale and coverage remains low. The school gross enrolment rate is low (32 percent) in primary school and drop-out rates are high and prevalent nationally.

The Government's 2020-2024 National Development Plan (NDP) addresses poverty and food security, among other priorities. The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021–2025) responds to the NDP peace and development priorities. WFP has reflected these concerns in its 2022-2025 country strategic plan to support the achievement of goals by the Government. On 15 May the President of the Federal Government of Somalia was elected to office. This milestone points to a stabilizing political situation, giving Somalia an opportunity to make progress on urgent national priorities including reducing the increased risk of famine. WFP engages with partners through its Somalia country office in Mogadishu and 14 operational offices across Somalia.



Population: 17 million

Internally displaced persons (IDPs): **3.7 million (UNHCR)** 

People facing acute food crisis: 4.3 million (IPC 3 & above until Dec)

National global acute malnutrition rate: **15 percent (serious)** 

## **In Numbers**

**USD 20 million** in assistance delivered through cash-based transfers in October.





**2,883 mt** of in-kind food assistance distributed in October.

**1.7 million** people assisted in October.

**USD 361 million** net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (November 2023 – April 2024).

# **Situation Update**

Somalia's prolonged humanitarian crisis is marked by severe, recurrent climate shocks such as droughts, floods and tropical storms, compounded by conflict and insecurity. 4.3 million people are facing crisis-level or worse food insecurity between October and December 2023, with a million facing emergency-level hunger. 1.5 million children under five years are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2023 with 331,000 children likely to be facing life-threatening severe malnutrition. With the country suffering the aftereffects of drought, the onset of the *El Niño* climate event has induced torrential rain and flash floods in the country, swamping communities along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, impacting lives of 1.2 million people and displacing 450,000 people. Access challenges remain notable. Third quarter of 2023 alone saw 68 access incidents relating to insecurity, conflicts, and damaged transport routes impacting aid delivery.

# **Operational Updates**

## **Humanitarian Food Assistance**

WFP delivers assistance and prioritizes cash-based transfers to ensure individuals have dignity and choice and local economies are stimulated. In October, WFP reached 1.2 million people with humanitarian food assistance totalling USD 14.9 million cash and 2,382 mt of food. In partnership with UNHCR, WFP registered 2,000 refugees in Somaliland for inclusion in regular humanitarian assistance programmes. WFP is also engaging IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF to deliver integrated crisis response to flood affected populations.

## Flood Anticipatory Action

Following the Somali Disaster Management Agency activation of the 2023 *Deyr* flood anticipatory action national protocol on 6 October, WFP activated a flood anticipatory action response, disseminating early warning messages on flood preparation and safe evacuation to 440,000 people across at-risk communities in Jubaland, South West State and Hirshabelle States, delivering preemptive cash transfers to 219,000 people in these areas totalling USD 2.7 million, and dispatching specialized nutritious packages to 25,000 children under five years and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to prevent malnutrition.

Boats were also prepositioned along the Juba and Shabelle rivers to support evacuation and delivery of supplies.

## Nutrition

In October, WFP reached 155,000 people including children under five years, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and those suffering from tuberculosis or HIV.

In support of the nation-wide nutrition coverage survey, WFP completed a training-of-trainers programme to build the capacity of the Federal Ministry of Health in overseeing survey quality. Training also done for enumerators and survey supervisees.

# **WFP Country Strategy**

# Country strategic plan (2022-2025)

Total requirement (in USD) Allocated contributions (in

Six-month net funding requirements (in USD)

4.7 billion

1.7 billion

361 million

#### Strategic result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic outcome 1: Food-insecure and nutrition- insecure people, in disaster-affected areas, have access to adequate and nutritious food and specialized nutritious foods that meet their basic food and nutritional needs, during and in the aftermath of shocks.

# **Focus area**: Crisis response

 Provide integrated food and nutritional assistance, including emergency home-grown school feeding, to crisis-affected people.

#### Strategic result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic outcome 2: Vulnerable people in targeted areas have improved nutrition and resilience, and benefit from inclusive access to integrated basic social services, shock-responsive safety nets, and enhanced national capacity to build human capital, all year round. Focus area: Resilience building

#### **Activities:**

- Provide conditional and unconditional food and/or cash-based food assistance and nutrition-sensitive messaging to food-insecure people through reliable safety nets, including HGSF.
- Provide an integrated nutrition support and malnutrition prevention and treatment package to targeted vulnerable people.

# Strategic result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic outcome 3: National institutions, private sector, smallholder farmers, and food-insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations in Somalia benefit from climate-smart, productive, resilient, inclusive, and nutritious food systems by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience building

## **Activities:**

 Provide an integrated package of livelihood support activities, services, skills, assets and infrastructure to households and communities to strengthen their resilience and food systems.

# Strategic result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic outcome 4: National institutions and government agencies in Somalia benefit from strengthened capacities, policies, and systems by 2025.

Focus area: Resilience building

# **Activities:**

 Provide technical support to national and subnational actors that strengthens capacities to develop and implement peacebuilding, hunger-reducing national policies.

## **Strategic result 8: Enhance Global Partnership**

Strategic outcome 5: The humanitarian community in Somalia is better able to reach vulnerable people and respond to needs, throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis response

## Activities

- Provide air transport services (passengers and light cargo) to the humanitarian community.
- Provide mandated logistics services to the humanitarian community through the coordination mechanism of the Logistics Cluster.
- Provide on-demand services to the humanitarian and development community.
- Provide mandated emergency telecoms services to the humanitarian & development community through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.

Picture Credit: WFP/Patrick Mwangi

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WFP also contributed towards capacity building by completing an Integrated Phase Classification Acute Malnutrition training for 88 staff of the Ministry of Health, WFP, UNICEF and field partners in Hargeisa, Mogadishu and Garowe.

WFP partners with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) network to support multistakeholder engagement to address malnutrition. In Puntland State, WFP is collaborating with the SUN secretariat at the Office of the Vice President to support SUN Business Network to enhance private sector investments in improving access, availability, and affordability of nutritious food.

# School Feeding Programme

The School Meals Coalition (SMC) of member states drives actions to urgently improve and scale up school meal programmes to ensure that every child has the opportunity to receive a healthy, nutritious meal in school by 2030. With support from WFP, the Government of Somalia signed up for the Coalition.

In October, WFP facilitated the involvement of the government in the inaugural high-level SMC Global Summit ministerial meeting in Paris. WFP is also providing technical support to the government in establishing foundations for a National School Feeding Programme as a flagship safety net initiative in Somalia.

# **Human Capital and Social Protection**

Building on its partnership with Global Systems for Mobile Association (GSMA), and aligned with gender inclusion priorities, WFP completed a digital literacy refresher training in Hargeisa focusing on using mobile money and additional financial literacy skills to enable optimal use and access of digital financial services among women.

WFP partnered with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to support a social protection pathway to nutrition study to review existing evidence and propose analytical and operational frameworks for stronger interlinkages for social protection and nutrition.

# Climate-smart food systems and resilient livelihoods

WFP organized trade fairs for six farmer cooperatives in Baidoa to enhance smallholder farmer's market-operation knowledge and strengthen business linkages between stakeholders to improve sales and optimize contracting and transactions. Complementary training sessions on agricultural value addition were also provided to four cooperatives.

WFP together with FAO and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation supported the organization of World Food Day & Somali Farmer's Day event where WFP support for the Somali National Water Resource Strategy and water-related interventions to achieve Zero Hunger was reaffirmed.

# **Funding**

WFP thanks all donors for their contributions to the food insecurity and malnutrition response in Somalia. Over the next six months, the overall funding gap for WFP Somalia's Country Strategic Plan stands at USD 361 million, amounting to 63 percent of requirements. Of this, WFP's urgent funding gap for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance is USD 307 million.

## Donors

Australia, Austria, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, China, Church of Latter-Day Saints, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, Humanitarian Aid and Relief centre, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Monaco, NORAD, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA and World Bank.