



World Food Programme

WFP Somalia Country Brief

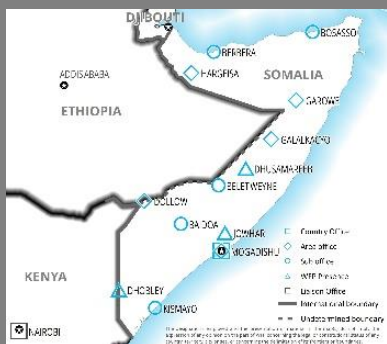
December 2023



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.



In Numbers

3.2 million people assisted in December.



USD 19.3 million assistance delivered via cash-based transfers in December.

3,293 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed in December.

USD 362.2 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (January 2024 – June 2024).

Situation Update

Hunger and malnutrition continue to remain high in Somalia: [4.3 million people](#) face crisis-level or worse food insecurity between October and December 2023, with a million facing emergency-level hunger. [1.5 million](#) children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2023 with 331,000 children likely to face life-threatening severe acute malnutrition. The devastating *El Niño*-induced floods – which affected [2.4 million people](#) and displaced over a million – have added to the burden of drought recovery and prolonged conflict in Somalia. The floods have also partially or completely damaged [220 schools](#) and curtailed schoolchildren's access to education. Impacts of floods on livelihoods have been equally disastrous with an estimated [160,000 animals lost and 60,000 farms damaged](#) in Jubaland State alone. [Reduced rainfall](#) and receding river water levels are contributing to a decline in flood risk, gradual [return of displaced people](#) to their homes and stabilization of food supply chains and local markets, facilitated by improved road access.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian Food Assistance

Responding to substantial humanitarian needs, WFP, in December, reached 1.6 million people with humanitarian food assistance. In total, WFP distributed USD 16.5 million cash and 2,604 mt of in-kind food items. WFP has continued to coordinate with Somali Disaster Management Agency (SODMA), Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, district authorities, and food security partners for streamlined delivery of emergency relief assistance and deconflicting of assistance. Further in December, WFP provided technical support to SODMA's strategic planning exercise to enhance the Agency's capacity to position itself in the lead role for coordinating disaster and crisis response in the country.

Assistance to Flood-affected People

WFP is providing emergency assistance to flood affected people as a part of its humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support. In December, 310,000 flood-affected people in Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Puntland, South West, and Jubaland States received food assistance via cash transfers. Additionally, 187,000 flood-affected people received one-off delivery of high-energy biscuits. WFP reached an additional 76,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, children under five and those suffering from tuberculosis or HIV in flood-affected districts with malnutrition prevention support.

WFP collaborates with the Government, humanitarian agencies and clusters to streamline humanitarian efforts and ensure assistance is delivered efficiently to those affected by floods. In December, WFP engaged closely with SODMA, OCHA, UNICEF, FAO, IOM, and other stakeholders to identify flood impacts and food security gaps to inform selection of assistance modalities and caseloads. Further leveraging on existing data sharing agreements, WFP coordinated with IOM for effective targeting of flood-affected people for food assistance delivery in Afmadow, Baidoa, Luuq, and Dolow Districts.

Population: **17 million**

Internally displaced persons (IDPs): **4.2 million**

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

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

WFP Country Strategy

Country strategic plan (2022-2025)

Total requirement (in USD)	Allocated contributions (in USD)	Six-month net funding requirements (in USD)
4.7 billion	1.7 billion	362.2 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

Activities:

- 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 HGFS.
- 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/Abdirahman Yussuf Mohamud

Contact info: Muriel Calo (muriel.calo@wfp.org)

Country Director: Elkhidir Daloum

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/somalia

Twitter: @WFPSomalia

Nutrition

In December, WFP provided nutrition support to 201,000 people including children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and those suffering from tuberculosis or HIV. WFP completed a nation-wide nutrition coverage survey of its moderate acute malnutrition treatment and prevention programme. The results will inform the development of an action plan for improved nutrition programme coverage in Somalia.

School Feeding Programme

WFP's school meals have been a critical enabler of human capital development and an effective mechanism safeguarding schoolchildren's access to nutritious food and education even during times of crisis – reaching 180,000 schoolchildren in December. However, going forward, school-based programmes face a shortfall in funding which will likely lead to a reduction in support provision. WFP is working closely with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education at federal and state levels to secure additional resources.

Climate-smart food systems and resilient livelihoods

In December, WFP completed the construction and rehabilitation of 13 shallow wells, solar water pumps across 16 farms, 12 greenhouses, and installation of drip irrigation systems for 12 farms in Puntland State to contribute towards improved community assets and resilience building. WFP established 280 village savings and loans associations, enhancing rural communities' financial stability in Hirshabelle, Southwest, Galmudug and Puntland States.

Integrating Gender and Protection into Programming

In December, WFP completed a dedicated training of trainers session in Garowe to complement the school-based programme's nutrition-focused social and behavior change communication (SBCC) messaging with information on importance of gender equality in education and recognizing and overcoming girl's access challenges to education. This initiative brought 63 participants together from 19 schools. Additionally, WFP, in collaboration with humanitarian partners in Somalia and Interaction, initiated a conflict, food insecurity and protection study to inform the development of a robust protection strategy.

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 362.2 million, amounting to 66 percent of requirements. Of this, WFP's urgent funding gap for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance is USD 323.6 million.

Donors

Australia, Austria, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, China, Church of Latter-Day Saints, Denmark, European Union, Federal Government of Somalia, Finland, France, Germany, Global Partnership for Education, King Salman 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.