WFP/Geneva Costopulos

WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Navigating Targeting and Prioritisation

WFP Targeting and Prioritization Best Practices in East Africa

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

> This paper presents a regional outlook of targeting and prioritisation across Eastern Africa, with a focus on best practices and the potential unintended effects of prioritisation on the food insecure left behind, WFP operations and staffing and, ultimately, how this might affect WFP's mandate of "Saving Lives and Changing Lives".

59 M
Food Insecure in Eastern Africa
IPC Phase 3+ or equivalent

10 M
IPC 4+ or above

As of the last quarter of 2023, approximately 59 million people (nearly 20 percent of the population in East Africa) were suffering from acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+ or equivalent).

Five countries in Eastern Africa among the most severe food crises in the world: **Ethiopia**, **Somalia**, **South Sudan**, and **Sudan** account for 81 percent of the acutely food insecure population in the Region.

WFP's five largest operations in the Region (**Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda**) provide food assistance to 30 million beneficiaries.

- Prioritisation will affect a total of 10 million beneficiaries in these countries

- These are households with low resilience to shocks and these changes in assistance will likely lead to a 30 percent increase in hunger

- 6 million children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition

Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda, have all opted to **reduce the number** of beneficiaries they serve. Only 12.7 million beneficiaries will be reached in 2024 due to prioritisation.

SOMALIA	ETHIOPIA	UGANDA	SUDAN
74% Reduction	**48%** Reduction	**31%** Reduction	**9%** Reduction

When it is impossible to reduce the number of beneficiaries due to widespread vulnerability and other factors, country offices (COs) opt to keep the same caseload of refugees while **decreasing the size or length of the rations provided.**

The countries that opted for this approach are **Burundi**, **Djibouti**, and **Kenya** and each of them applied a specific rationale.

In the most severe cases, when funding cuts heavily impact the ability of WFP to continue its operations, **COs are forced to reduce both the caseload and the rations.** Two COs in the Region are currently facing this scenario: **Rwanda** and **South Sudan.**

- **Somalia and Ethiopia** will record the highest funding cuts in 2024 (**down 58 and 50 percent** compared to funding levels planned in 2023, respectively); **South Sudan** will see a decrease in funds by 38 percent.

- Major operations such as **Somalia and South Sudan**, will see a **reduction of staff** ranging from 17 percent (**Somalia**) to 46 percent (**Sudan**).

- **Procurement of food items was slashed in half in 2023** and the projections for 2024 are not likely to increase considering the lack of funds.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

RWANDA

Olive Ngirabatware has been in the Mugombwa camp in Rwanda since 2014 and is from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and has ten people in her household. She receives food assistance from WFP but says that the food is not enough for her family.

> When food is finished, I go to the nearby market and ask for food loan. I receive 70,000 Frw per month for the entire family. I buy rice and maize meal, salt, vegetable oil only for 15 days because prices are very high. Other 15 days I try to look for casual work or borrow food from traders. Sometimes we go to sleep without food. I wish I could get a place to go and leave the camp and be able to work and get food for my children.

WFP/Aristide Gatera

Contents

1. FOOD INSECURITY IN THE REGION

By the end of 2023, 58.8 million people (nearly 20 percent of the population in Eastern Africa) are expected to suffer from acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+ or equivalent). Of those, almost 10 million people are in IPC Phase 4 or above[1]. Due to macroeconomic challenges, protracted conflict and insecurity, the effects of the 2020-2023 prolonged drought and the fallout from the conflict in Sudan, **Ethiopia**, **Somalia**, **South Sudan** and **Sudan** remain among the most severe global food crises.

Compared to November 2019 food insecurity in Eastern Africa has increased by 95 percent. The economic fallout of COVID-19 since 2020 coupled with the ripple effects of the conflict in Ukraine exacerbated existing fragilities in 2022, when needs were the highest ever recorded.

An estimated 79.4 million people were food insecure in November 2022; while the peak in the same year was 82 million due to the compound effect of conflict, climate shocks and macroeconomic instability. Facing increased needs and thanks to sustained funding, WFP doubled its beneficiaries in the past eight years (from 19 million in 2015 to 47 million in 2023).
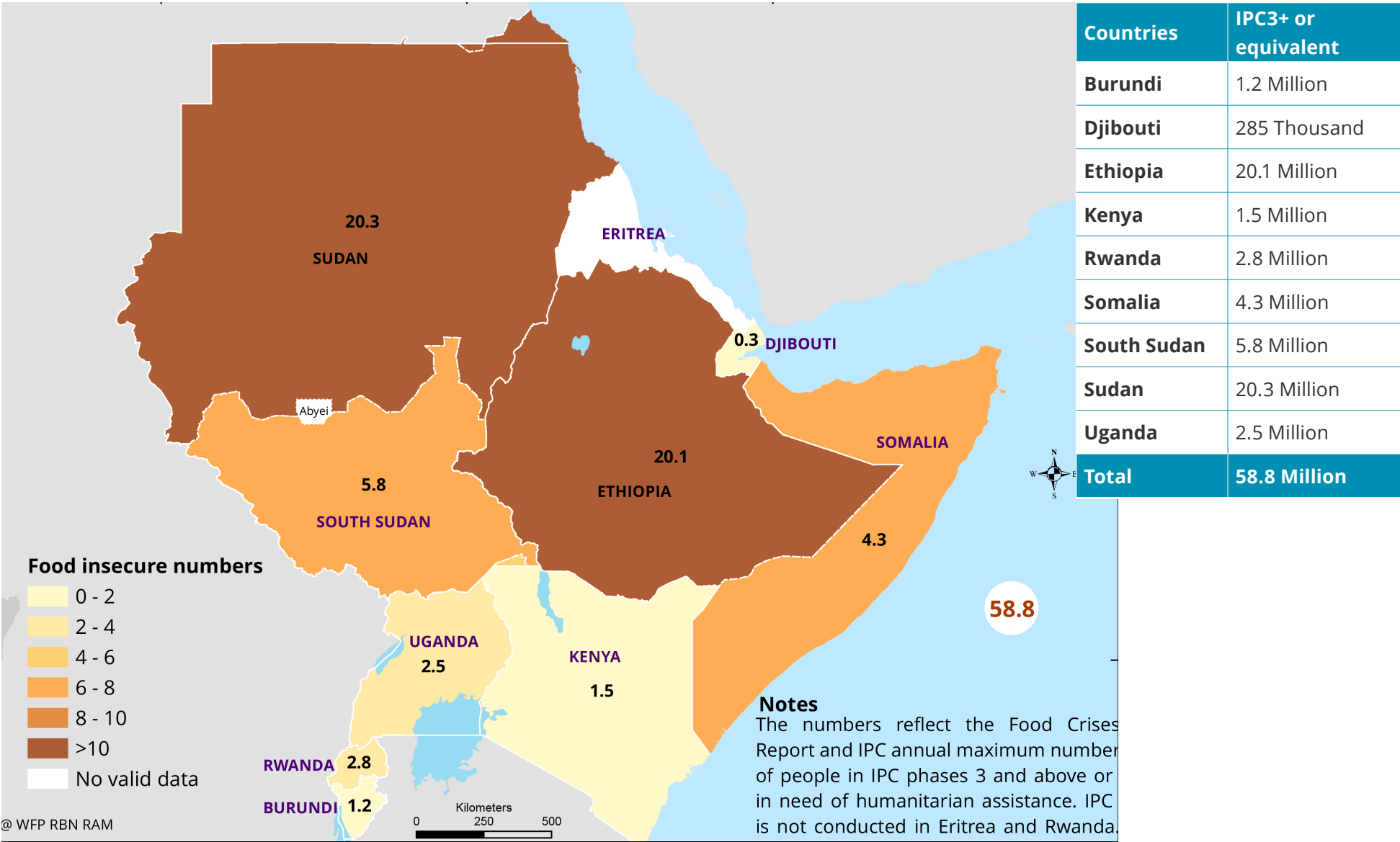

Figure 1 - Millions of IPC Phase 3 or above people since 2019

Humanitarian assistance contributed to averting the looming 2022 food security crisis and today, 62.6 million people are estimated to be food insecure in the Region – a reduction of 20.5 percent compared to a year ago. However, the gains against hunger achieved so far may be short-lived. Faced with sharply falling donor contributions and persistently high needs, all WFP COs in the Region plan to re-elaborate their targeting strategies and design appropriate ways to prioritise those most in need.

WFP/Hugh Rutherford

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1   The estimated number of acute food insecure under IPC 4 (Emergency) is conservative as it is not possible to breakdown the overall figure for Ethiopia (source: 2023 HRP) and Uganda (source; FEWS Net).

Map 1 – Regional Food Security Situation as of November 2023

Countries	IPC3+ or equivalent
Burundi	1.2 Million
Djibouti	285 Thousand
Ethiopia	20.1 Million
Kenya	1.5 Million
Rwanda	2.8 Million
Somalia	4.3 Million
South Sudan	5.8 Million
Sudan	20.3 Million
Uganda	2.5 Million
Total	58.8 Million

Food insecure numbers
- 0 - 2
- 2 - 4
- 4 - 6
- 6 - 8
- 8 - 10
- >10
- No valid data

@ WFP RBN RAM

20.3 SUDAN

ERITREA

0.3 DJIBOUTI

Abyei

SOMALIA

5.8 SOUTH SUDAN

20.1 ETHIOPIA

4.3

58.8

UGANDA 2.5

KENYA 1.5

RWANDA 2.8

BURUNDI 1.2

Kilometers
0   250   500

Notes
The numbers reflect the Food Crises Report and IPC annual maximum number of people in IPC phases 3 and above or in need of humanitarian assistance. IPC is not conducted in Eritrea and Rwanda.

2. FUNDING PROJECTIONS

Needs have been steadily increasing since 2019, which saw a corresponding growth in contributions received to date.
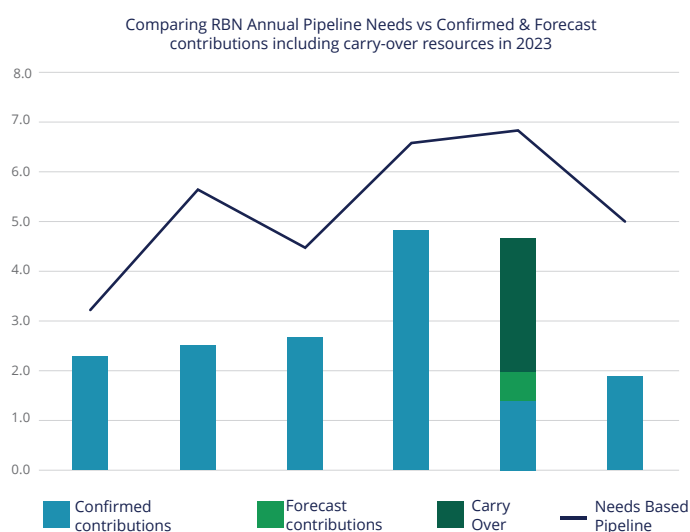
Facing compound shocks, including the peak of the prolonged drought across the Horn of Africa and the risk of famine in Somalia, the Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa received USD 4.7 billion in confirmed contributions in 2022 against a needs-based plan of USD 6.6 billion – which accounts for an 83 percent increase compared to contributions received in 2021.

The level of confirmed contributions in 2023 remained almost unchanged compared to 2022, largely due to the carry-over of resources which had resulted from

Comparing RBN Annual Pipeline Needs vs Confirmed & Forecast contributions including carry-over resources in 2023

Legend: Confirmed contributions | Forecast contributions | Carry Over | Needs Based Pipeline

Figure 2 - Needs vs Confirmed and Forecasted Contributions

high levels of contributions confirmed toward the end of 2022. However, at this stage, it seems that the projected levels of resourcing for 2024 will decrease significantly and be similar to 2019 funding levels – even though needs are nearly two-thirds higher.

Sudan, **Ethiopia**, **South Sudan** and **Somalia** account for 81 percent of the acutely food insecure population in the Region (including 20.3, 20.1, 5.8 and 4.3 million food insecure people, respectively). Despite the high needs, lack of funds forced WFP in these countries to re-elaborate its targeting strategy to provide assistance based on resources available rather than on needs.

As Table 1 shows, **Somalia** and **Ethiopia** are expected to receive the most severe funding cuts in 2024 (down 58 and 50 percent compared to funding levels planned in 2023, respectively). **South Sudan** is expected to face a 38 percent decrease in funds compared with 2023. Due to the ongoing conflict, planned funds for the operation.

In **Sudan** will increase in 2024 (up 31 percent compared to 2023). However, soaring needs will outpace the USD 730.6 million prioritized needs-based plan, especially if one considers that the initial needs-based plan for 2024 totalled more than 1 billion USD. This has eventually forced WFP Sudan to plan for prioritisation strategies, which will reduce the number of people benefitting from WFP assistance and have implications on WFP staffing (refer to section 2.1.3 and section 4 for more details on the **Sudan** prioritization plan and its implications).
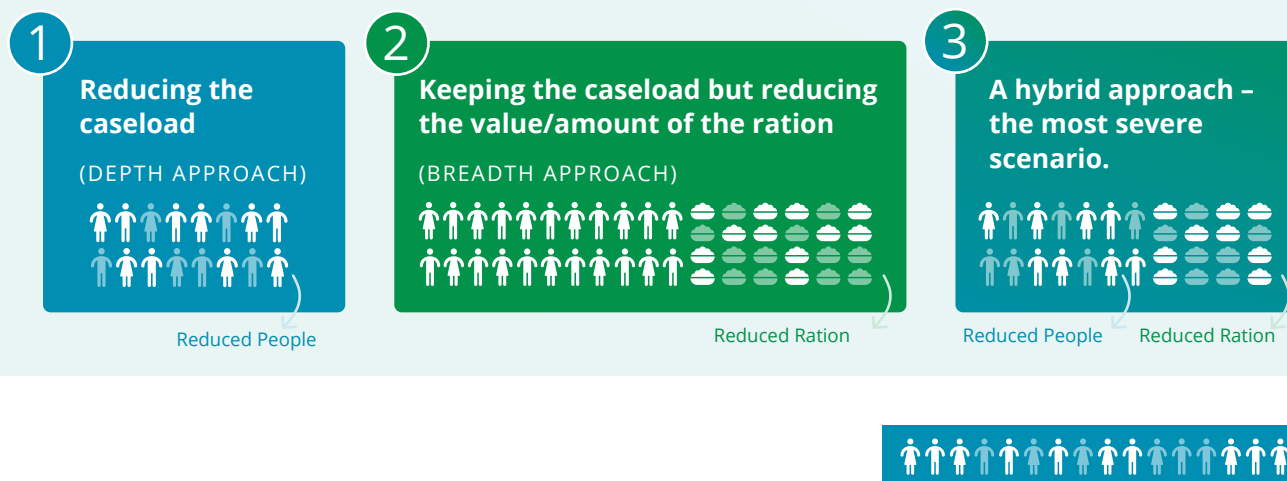
Table 1 - RBN Funding Projections 2023-2024

Countries	2023 Needs Based Plan (NBP)	2024 NBP	2024 Prioritized NBP	Change in 2024 Prioritized NBP from 2023 NBP	
	(USD M)	(USD M)	(USD M)	(USD M)	(%)
Ethiopia	1,741.1	1,320.0	867.0	- 874.1	- 50%
Sudan	557.5	1,098.8	730.6	173.1	31%
South Sudan	1,337.5	1,228.9	830.0	- 507.5	- 38%
Somalia	1,495.7	1,064.3	635.0	- 860.7	- 58%
Uganda*	244.6	271.9	271.9	27.3	11%
Total	5,376.4	4,983.9	3,334.5	- 2,042.0	-38%

*No prioritization of the 2024 Needs-based Plan in USD was done by Uganda CO. Other countries have been excluded for the same reason.

3. PRIORITISATION APPROACHES IN THE REGION

In the past few years, the needs of vulnerable populations in the Region have not been met by adequate funding, forcing WFP to narrow down its caseload or the value and amount of assistance it provides. When we look at the provision of General Food Assistance (GFA), countries have been operationalising targeting and prioritisation using three main methodologies:
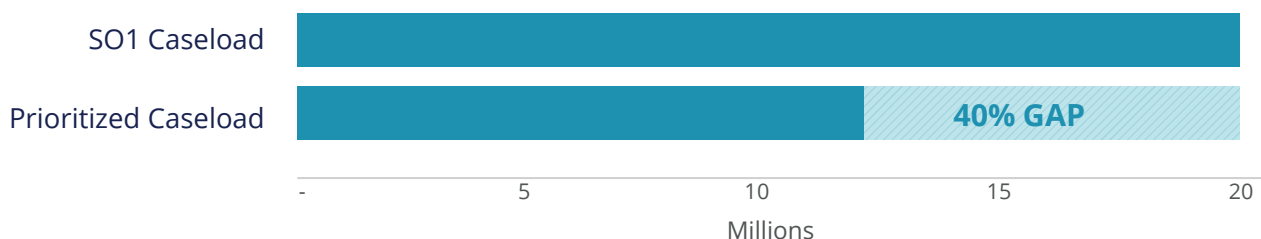

3.1. REDUCING THE CASELOAD: The Depth Approach

The larger operations in the Region are those that have already been hit and will continue to be most affected by funding reductions. **Ethiopia**, **Somalia**, **Sudan**, and **Uganda**, have all opted to reduce the number of beneficiaries they serve following prioritisation models that vary from status-based/blanket assistance to more complex vulnerability-based data-driven models.

As we can see from Figure 2, the total needs-based caseload for 2024 for the four countries is 21 million beneficiaries. Due to prioritization only 12.7 million will benefit from WFP assistance in 2024, leading to a gap of 40 percent. Across the four countries, **Somalia** will see the largest reduction with 74 percent of beneficiaries taken out of life-saving assistance, followed by **Ethiopia**, with 48 percent of beneficiaries taken out of the assistance. **Uganda** and **Sudan** will report a 31 percent and 9 percent reduction in beneficiaries assisted, respectively.

Approaching such a reduction in caseload calls for tailor-based prioritisation methodologies that are context-specific, conflict-sensitive, and agile. Each of the four countries developed their approach based on their contextual needs and funding projections.

Figure 3 - WFP beneficiaries planned under SO1 and prioritize caseload, 2024

3.1.1. ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia continues to face complexities, including the aftermath of the 2020-2022 conflict in the north and the ongoing impacts of the historic 2020-2023 drought in the pastoral south and southeast. While active conflict has ended in Tigray, it has intensified in Amhara and while the severity of the drought has eased, it will likely take a long time for people affected to recover their livelihoods. With **20.1 million people food insecure and an approved 2023 budget of USD1.3 billion, Ethiopia is one of the largest operations in Eastern Africa.** Despite this, funds are not adequate to meet soaring needs.

Geographical prioritization in **Ethiopia** is based on the national multi-agency seasonal food security assessment, WFP's Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA), IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), and regional government assessments. Currently, four regions (Tigray, Amhara, Afar, and Somali-region) are undergoing the targeting and prioritisation process.

Once areas of interventions are identified, beneficiary identification and selection follow a data-driven, community-based approach. Evidence-based eligibility criteria are drawn from household-level food security assessments and are then validated by community-based committees.

Families that meet a minimum number of vulnerability criteria are entered into a beneficiary registration database and given a unique QR code, which allows them to receive food at the next distribution.

Verification protocols have been established to identify potential instances of incorrect inclusion or exclusion of beneficiaries. The QR codes and the corporate card tracking tool are being used to verify food recipients at distribution sites and to produce distribution reports which can be analysed in real time.

2023		8 Million
2024	**3.2 Million**	

WFP will target 3.2 million beneficiaries in 2024, which is a reduction from 8 million people targeted in 2023. Refugees benefitting from WFP assistance will increase to 1 million following the increase in the number of refugees observed since the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan.
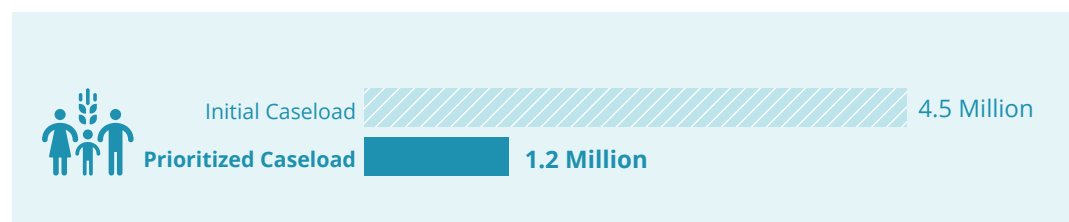

WFP/Geneva Costopulos

3.1.2. SOMALIA

In **Somalia**, **4.3 million people are acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above)** and are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. Among them, **over 1 million people are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)**. The prevalence of acute malnutrition remains alarmingly high, with around 1.5 million children estimated to be acutely malnourished during the period from August to December 2023, including 331,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition[2].

Somalia CO's current strategy includes both geographical targeting and community-based targeting for beneficiary selection and can be outlines described as follows:

1. Following the IPC analysis, WFP Somalia engages in the Seasonal Assistance and Response Planning (SARP) process which aims to identify seasonal implementation plans at district and village levels. The basis of the process involves detailed consultations amongst key stakeholders, including the Government, cooperating partners, the food security cluster, and other partners

2. During the SARP, a robust contextual analysis uses current and forecasted livelihood vulnerabilities based on the IPC seasonal assessment projections and other vulnerability data (such as access, security and risk and exposure to climatic risks). The final product of the SARP is a proposed monthly beneficiary caseload at the village or settlement location levels.

3. Following the preceding two stages of the targeting process, **the current beneficiary selection approach is an iteration of a community-based approach**. During this process, communities are given a set of pre-determined targeting criteria that can be used as a basis to identify the most vulnerable alongside locally identified criteria of vulnerability. This process is managed by cooperating partners who then hand over the final list of beneficiaries to WFP which then processes them into SCOPE.

This process has been identified by Donors as limited and prone to aid diversion. Therefore, new methodologies are the basis of current discussions addressing post-delivery aid diversion (PDAD).

Initial Caseload		4.5 Million
Prioritized Caseload		**1.2 Million**

Considering access constraints and operational requirements, unconditional relief assistance will prioritize 70 percent of the caseload of populations in IPC4 and 60 percent of the IPC3 caseload in 2024. **The overall number of households assisted will decrease from 4.5 million to 1.2 million – that is a 74 percent reduction in the overall caseload.**

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2   IPC. 2023. About 4.3 Million People Likely to Experience High Levels of Acute Food Insecurity; 1.5 Million Children Likely to Suffer from Acute Malnutrition. Mogadishu.
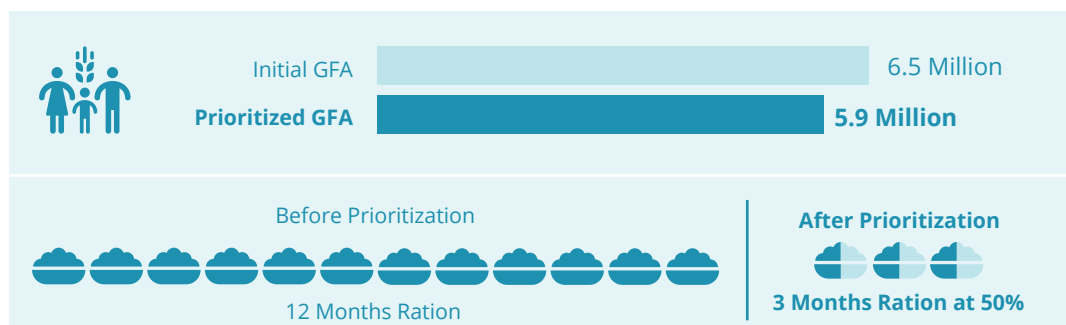
3.1.3. SUDAN

WFP **Sudan** implements a comprehensive two-tiered targeting strategy at both geographic and household levels to ensure the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations are prioritised and assisted. Geographic prioritization is based on the latest IPC, with a particular focus on the 55 localities classified in IPC Phase 4. Of the 6.3 million people in IPC Phase 4, over 70 percent (4.5 million) are in access-constrained areas while 1.7 million are in more accessible areas. Areas classified as IPC Phase 3 whose localities have a high concentration of IPC Phase 4 households will also be prioritized.

Once locations are identified from geographical targeting, households are selected via three different targeting methodologies adapted to the operating environment:

1. **Blanket targeting**, in which all households in a defined area are eligible for assistance. This methodology is only used in areas where active and intense fighting is taking place and where humanitarian needs are both acute and highly uniform, reducing the risk of inclusion errors (e.g., Khartoum and West Darfur).

2. **Status-based targeting**, in which households receive assistance based on their status as forcibly displaced. Status-based targeting is conducted to assist newly displaced IDPs who live in common shelters, settlements, public gathering points, schools etc.

3. **Community-based targeting** is used to reach newly displaced IPDs living in host communities; households hosting newly displaced IDPs, as well as residents, based on their vulnerability to food insecurity. By using evidence-based vulnerability criteria rooted in demographics and socioeconomic characteristics, households are selected by community committee panels, under the oversight of either a WFP or Cooperating Partner focal point.

Initial GFA	6.5 Million
Prioritized GFA	**5.9 Million**

Before Prioritization — 12 Months Ration

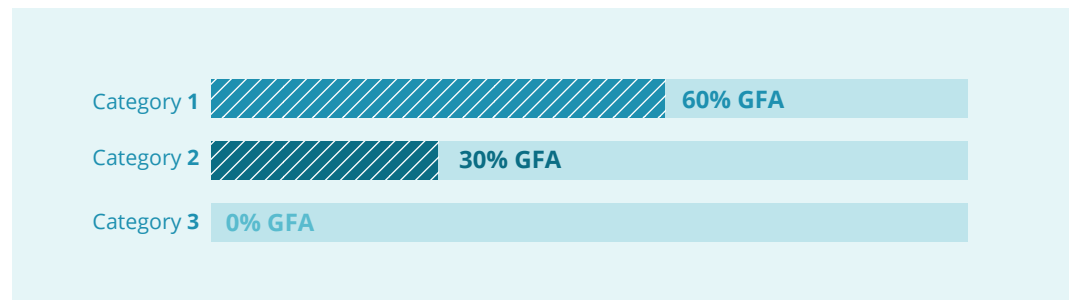After Prioritization — **3 Months Ration at 50%**

The funding cuts from the initial 2024 needs plan of 1 billion USD to the reduced plan of USD 730.6 million triggered prioritisation in Sudan, which will result in **600,000 beneficiaries being removed from the total GFA caseloa**d and an overall decrease in the total beneficiaries count from 6.5 million to 5.9 million. Prioritization will also be implemented through a lean season response in those States less severely affected by the conflict and that are more economically productive (e.g., Northern, River Nile, Al Gazira, Sennar and Gedaref, and most of the Kassala State). **Households with agricultural capacity will receive 3 months of rations at 50 percent instead of the current ratio of 12 months.** This change would affect an estimated 857,000 beneficiaries.

3.1.4. UGANDA

In 2022, WFP **Uganda** assisted 1.8 million people by targeting the largest refugee population in Africa (1.5 million refugees), and one of the most affected and poorest subregions, Karamoja. Since 2020, WFP Uganda has been facing funding challenges and it is prioritizing its caseload based on food security and nutrition conditions.

In Karamoja, WFP is targeting districts according to their food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) and the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels; high-risk sub-counties are identified separately, following stakeholder discussions. Refugees are targeted and prioritised according to a data-driven and vulnerability-based model that categorises refugees into three categories:

Category **1**   **60% GFA**

Category **2**   **30% GFA**

Category **3**   **0% GFA**

a. **Most vulnerable**	b. **Moderately vulnerable**	c. **Least vulnerable**
(14 percent of the population, who are provided with 60 percent of the GFA ration),	(82 percent of the population, which is provided with 30 percent of the GFA ration), and	(4 percent of the population, who are excluded from assistance).

Given that ration levels have been the lowest recorded in history, WFP Uganda is currently reworking its prioritisation approach to increase the number of most vulnerable people to 25 percent of the population. To further reduce the number of people receiving food assistance while increasing the number of beneficiaries participating in livelihoods and resilience programmes, WFP Uganda is trying to target the least vulnerable refugee population with a self-reliance programme that will help them transition from GFA to self-reliance. By doing so, the number of refugee population removed from GFA will increase from 4 percent to 10 percent.

WFP/Arete/Siegfried Modola
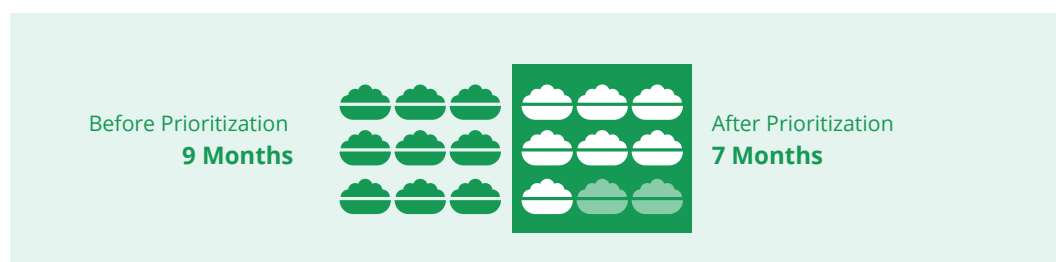
3.2. REDUCING THE RATIONS: The Breadth Approach

When it is impossible to reduce the number of beneficiaries due to widespread vulnerability, context-specific issues, and/or specific programme objectives country offices opt to keep the number of beneficiaries of WFP assistance unchanged while decreasing the size or length of the rations provided. The countries that opted for a "breath approach" are **Burundi**, **Djibouti**, and **Kenya** and each of them applied a specific rationale.

3.2.1.   BURUNDI

According to April 2023 IPC Acute Food Insecurity, 2.3 million people (19 percent of the total population analysed) are facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in **Burundi**. Around 105,000 people are classified in IPC Phase 4 (1 percent of the population analysed) and around 2.2 million people (18 percent of the population analysed) are classified in IPC Phase 3. Continuous conflicts in the Eastern DRC present a high risk of displacements, including an influx of new asylum-seekers. Currently, **Burundi** hosts more than 80 thousand Congolese refugees and nearly 60 percent of them reside in one of the historical 5 camps and a camp that has been newly opened.

Targeting in **Burundi** is done geographically and through a status-based approach. Provinces classified as IPC Phase 3 or above will be prioritized as well as IDPs, returnees and acutely malnourished individuals.

Before Prioritization
9 Months

After Prioritization
7 Months

In the context of insufficient resources, support for refugees, returnees and IDPs will continue to be the main priority for WFP – which implies no reduction in the beneficiary caseload. Yet, if the planned contributions will be significantly lower than expected the CO will need to opt for a prioritisation of it is activities leading to **in-kind rations and duration of assistance reduced from 9 to 7 months.**
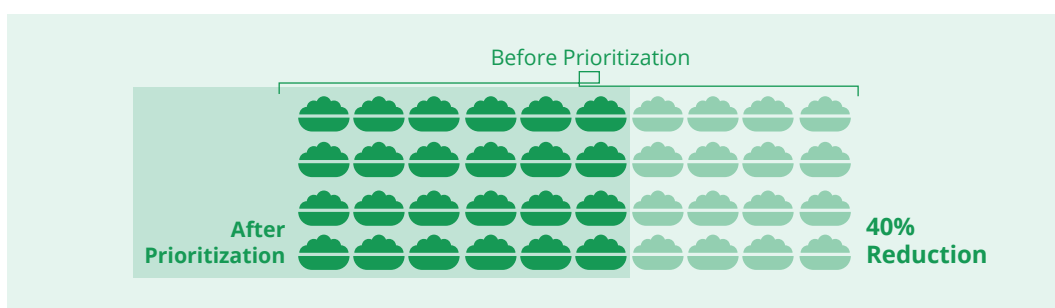
WFP/Arete/Fredrik Lerneryds

3.2.2. DJIBOUTI

According to the latest IPC analysis (June/July 2023), 24 percent of **Djibouti**'s population (that is 285,000 people), are acutely food insecure (IPC Phase 3 or above); of those 100,000 people are categorized under Emergency (IPC Phase 4). The number of acutely food insecure people increased by 48 percent increase compared to 2022.

In 2023, the CO's RAM team developed a targeting guideline document, which was jointly validated with the national government through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarities (MASS). The targeting process comprises two distinct steps:

1. Geographical targeting, where priority areas are determined based on the IPC analysis classification,

2. Selection of households by using pre-defined criteria that have been identified by WFP and validated with partners (including the Ministry of Social Affairs and community leaders). Based on the validated set of criteria, vulnerable households will be identified and registered for available food assistance activities.

When considering the possibility of a reduction in planned contributions, WFP Djibouti has planned a prioritisation strategy that sees a 40 percent ration cut applied to the assistance provided to refugees and migrants in 2024. Moreover, in rural and drought-affected areas in-kind assistance will be cut by 45 percent. In addition, the duration of assistance will cover only six months. The transfer amount for CBT interventions in the country has been fixed by the government at 10,000 FDJ (56 USD), representing around 30 percent of the minimum daily requirements in terms of kilocalories – that is a ration cut of 70 percent.
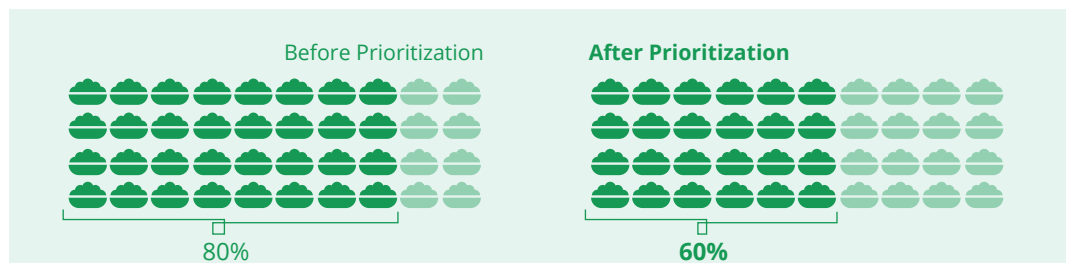

WFP/Arete/Siegfried Modola

3.2.3. KENYA

Between July and September 2023, coinciding with the Agropastoral harvest and Pastoral lean season, about 2.8 million people in **Kenya**'s Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) were classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse), of which nearly 500,000 people in IPC Phase 4.

WFP **Kenya** has developed a Country Targeting Strategy that will apply a multidimensional approach to targeting in line with WFP's mandate, harnessing innovative, integrated, risk-informed programming to a "changing lives to save lives" agenda. In the refugee context of **Kenya**, blanket assistance is currently based on status. For the local populations, the WFP targets geographical areas classified in IPC Phase 3 and above for relief assistance and prioritises counties with food-insecure populations in IPC Phase 4.

Before Prioritization — 80%

After Prioritization — 60%

If confronted with limited resources, WFP Kenya is planning to prioritise by reducing the ration provided to refugees from 80 percent to 60 percent until December 2023. The current resourcing forecast covers about 30 percent of the cost of the 2024 implementation plan for the refugee programme at the current 60 percent ration rate. Likely, rations will further reduce to 50 percent if the resource envelope does not improve.
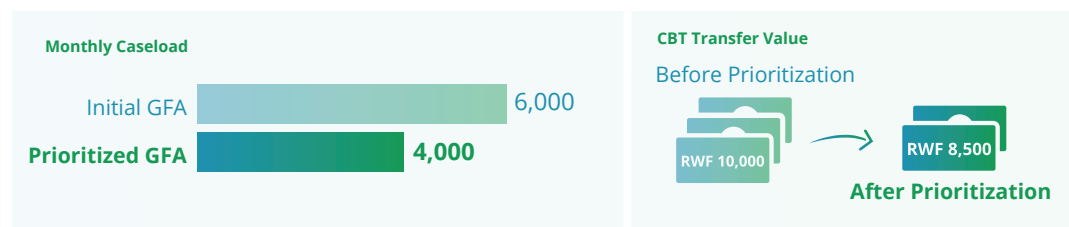

WFP/Kabir Dhanji

3.3. THE HYBRID APPROACH: Reducing the caseload and the rations – THE MOST SEVERE

In the most severe of cases when funding cuts heavily impact the ability of WFP to continue its operations, COs are often forced to reduce both the caseload and the rations. In the Region, only two COs are currently facing this scenario: **Rwanda** and **South Sudan**.

3.3.1. RWANDA

Overall, according to the latest food security assessment, 20.6 percent of households in **Rwanda** are food insecure (18.8 percent are moderately food insecure and 1.8 percent are severely food insecure). As of 30 September 2023, **Rwanda** was hosting 135,733 Burundian and Congolese refugees and asylum seekers in five refugee camps and one transit centre. Refugees in **Rwanda** are primarily reliant on humanitarian assistance: 94 percent of camp-based refugees depend entirely on general food assistance. The overall economic vulnerability of refugee households is bad, with 88 percent classified as highly economically insufficient; resilience is low, with half of the refugee population relying on livelihood coping strategies to make ends meet.

Monthly Caseload
Initial GFA — 6,000
Prioritized GFA — 4,000

CBT Transfer Value
Before Prioritization
RWF 10,000 → RWF 8,500
After Prioritization

Lack of adequate funds will affect both in-kind and cash-based assistance. In collaboration with the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR, WFP will strive to reduce the time during which asylum seekers are entitled to costly in-kind food assistance, which could result in a planned average monthly caseload of 4,000 instead of 6,000. In addition, WFP Rwanda was also forced to reduce the CBT transfer value for refugees and returnees to RWF 8,500 per person per month from the current RWF 10,000. The ration cut is quite severe considering that the cost of a full ration at the marketplace averages at RWF 13,600. This measure has already been announced and will take effect in November 2023.
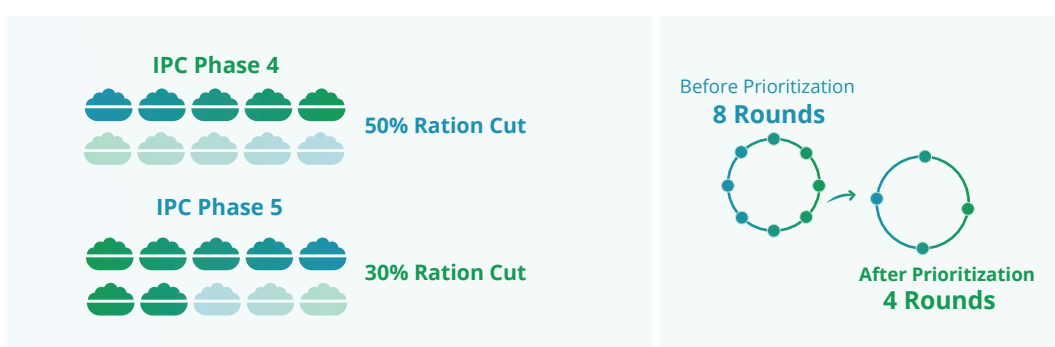
The expected savings from the actions described above would still leave a potential funding gap ranging between USD 5 to 7.3 million. Since the transfer value cannot be reduced further without compromising food security outcomes, the CO does not see that the gap could be addressed by any other means than reducing the overall caseload eligible for GFA – by approximately 30,000 households to match the expected reduced funding availability.

3.3.2. SOUTH SUDAN

For relief assistance, WFP **South Sudan** targets counties according to their relative food insecurity based on the IPC, ranking them into four categories of severity according to the proportion of severely food insecure households. This is further reviewed for conflict sensitivity to ensure assistance does not exacerbate high levels of sub-national violence. The second and third levels of geographical targeting are undertaken at Payam (sub-county) and Boma (community) levels based on local assessment data including from the Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS). Planned caseloads are assigned based on the estimated number of IPC Phase 4 and IPC Phase 5 households. Household targeting is done through a boma-level targeting committee based on locally relevant criteria to identify households that are considered the poorest.

IPC Phase 4 — 50% Ration Cut

IPC Phase 5 — 30% Ration Cut

Before Prioritization **8 Rounds**

After Prioritization **4 Rounds**

Given the limited resources available, **IPC Phase 3 counties will not be prioritised for assistance excluding 2 million households from assistance**. Rations will generally be reduced to 50 percent of consumption needs while maintaining 70 per cent in locations where IPC Phase 5 conditions persist. **The number of rounds of assistance will be reduced to between 4 and 8 rounds per year within the lean season**. For refugees and IDPs, a shift from status-based to vulnerability-based targeting will be explored with UNHCR and other partners. School meals and resilience activities will be reduced and concentrated in areas of highest need.

WFP/Eulalia Berlanga

4. EFFECTS OF PRIORITISATION

At the moment, WFP's five main operations in the Region (**Ethiopia**, **Somalia**, **Sudan**, **South Sudan**, and **Uganda**) provide food assistance to 30 million beneficiaries. Prioritisation will affect a total of 10 million beneficiaries in these countries: effectively 1 out of 3 beneficiaries will lose access to life-saving assistance due to prioritization.

WFP assistance acts as insurance during crises: households are less likely to fall into poverty traps or get into debt cycles unless they receive some assistance.

These are households in IPC Phase 3 or above with low resilience to shocks and will likely lead to a 30 percent increase in hunger, with worse outcomes expected at the peak of their respective lean season. Six million children under five are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition with potential effects on their mental and physical development due to insufficient food intake.
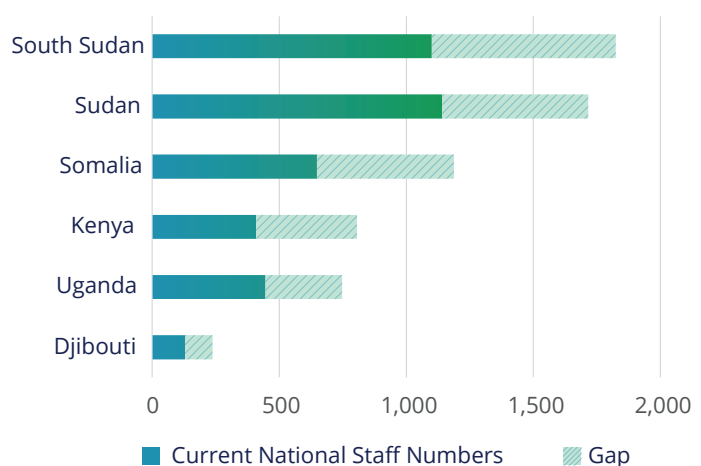
Increased competition for scarce resources will further drive intra- and inter-community conflict with protection-related consequences as disproportionally young girls and women are excluded from assistance. Countries like **Somalia** (where currently, 70 percent of recipients of WFP assistance are women) are of particular concern.

Figure 4 - Staff Reduction Due to Prioritisation

Prioritisation will not only affect beneficiaries but WFP operations and staff as well. Major operations such as **Somalia and South Sudan** will see a reduction of staff ranging from 17 percent (**Somalia**) to 30 percent (**South Sudan**). Smaller operations will also be affected: **Djibouti** will be forced to reduce its staff composition by 16 percent, **Uganda** by 33 percent and **Kenya** by 3 percent.

Not only will reduced resources and the related prioritization efforts translate into fewer people receiving the assistance, but the lack of adequate funds is also likely to reduce local and regional procurement, which, in turn, will jeopardize WFP's efforts in providing food to the beneficiaries in a timely and cost-efficient manner from the developing countries.

For example, in 2022 Country Offices across the Region purchased approximately 1.1 million MT of food (worth USD 756 million) to reach those most in need. This year, only half of that amount has been purchased and the projections for 2024 are not likely to increase considering the lack of funds. Despite harvests in the Region improving, WFP is forced to buy less, which implies feeding fewer people as well as doing less to directly support local economies.

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