

WFP Somalia Country Brief February 2024

World Food Programme



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.

Somalia has shown promising results in terms of food security. It has demonstrated improvement since the peak of the drought in 2022-2023 and averted famine in 2023. The Government has been able to strengthen social protection systems and be more assertive about security and economic growth. Additionally, resilience and anticipatory action have shown positive results during the 2023 floods. However, despite all these efforts, a significant portion of the population still faces crisis and is predicted to face high levels of acute food insecurity in 2024.



Population: 17 million	Internally displaced persons (IDPs): 3.8 million
People facing acute food crisis: 4 million (IPC 3 & above between Jan – Mar 2024)	National global acute malnutrition rate: 15 percent (serious)

In Numbers



2.8 million people assisted in February.

USD 24.5 million assistance delivered via cash-based transfers in February.

3,884 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed in February.

USD 363 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (March–August 2024).

Situation Update

The latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Food Security and Acute Malnutrition assessment results for January to March 2024 show that heavy rainfall, floods, and the lingering effects of drought have left 4 million Somalis (21 percent of the population) facing acute food insecurity (IPC 3+). Projections for the April to June 2024 period indicate a slight decrease in the number of people facing acute food insecurity to 3.4 million people due to anticipated "normal to above average" *Gu* rains. This is an improvement from the same period in 2023 where about 6.5 million people across Somalia faced Crisis or worse of which 1.9 million people were categorized as emergency. An estimated 1.7 million children aged 6-59 months are likely to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2024, including 430,000 who are likely to be severely malnourished.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian food assistance

Delivery of humanitarian assistance enables WFP to reach the most food insecure people, including those in conflict-affected areas. In February, WFP reached 1.8 million people with USD 21 million cash transfers and 2,649 mt of in-kind food.

Following the humanitarian country team approval of the integrated response framework (IRF) for Somalia which aims to implement first line response during acute crises for immediate lifesaving, WFP participated in operational meetings with OCHA, emergency managers from UN agencies, and the Inter Cluster Coordination group to put the framework into action. Ten districts were selected because of their high vulnerability, stemming from significant infrastructure damage, community displacement, and loss of livelihoods due to climatic shocks.

Nutrition

In February, WFP provided nutrition support to 465,000, people including children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and People Living with HIV and Tuberculosis.

WFP supported the Federal Ministry of Health with development of the WHO roadmap for the management and prevention of acute malnutrition in Somalia. The roadmap outlines the process for revision and testing of the new WHO guidelines for management and prevention of acute malnutrition including pilots in selected districts starting in late 2024.

WFP, UNICEF and WHO will work closely with Federal Ministry of Health throughout the process.

Social Protection

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	1.9 billion	363 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 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, hungerreducing 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

Contact info: Muriel Calo (muriel.calo@wfp.org) Country Director: Elkhidir Daloum Further information: <u>www.wfp.org/countries/somalia</u> Twitter: @WFPSomalia WFP is supporting the Government in registering and building a Unified Social Registry (USR), a national data repository of poor and vulnerable households built as a platform for dynamic data sharing. By end of 2023, total registrations have reached up to 2.9 million people. In January, the Government developed and tested a shock response Proxy Means Testing (PMT) module which envisions using USR data to identify the flood affected households among those already registered under the national safety nets programme – in a bid to support improved beneficiary targeting.

School Feeding

In February, a School Meals Donor Conference led by the Somalia Ministry of Education Culture and Higher Education and cohosted by the Governments of France and Finland, was held in Mogadishu with the aim to showcase the impact of school meals, foster partnerships for the expansion and sustainability of the program and mobilize resources.

Joint Resilience Programme

WFP launched a new Joint Resilience Programme (JRP) in Puntland and Galmudug States in collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development and line ministries. The JRP builds on the success of earlier joint resilience programmes in Somalia and aims to empower local stakeholders and community members to enhance community welfare, boost livelihoods, and mitigate shocks. This includes strengthening community management, establishing vital infrastructure and facilities such as schools, health clinics, and WASH facilities, and developing productive community assets.

Climate-Smart Food Systems

WFP's co-operating partner, Salaam Development Centre (SDC) hosted an exhibition for the EU-INTPA project (KOBCIYE) in Garowe, highlighting the project's successes, trade-offs, and next scale up phase through presentations, videos, and cooperative demonstrations. The event was attended by Puntland Vice President, key ministers, the Chairman of the Puntland Highway Authority, Garowe's Deputy Mayor, community leaders, Kobciye beneficiaries and representatives from WFP, UN, and I/LNGOs. Smallholder farmers, including women and youth, showcased and sold their products to the public. The Vice President concluded the event with commendations for the stakeholders, including the EU, WFP and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) and WFP's partners-acknowledging the project's significant achievements in food systems in Puntland.

Funding

WFP thanks all donors for contributions towards food insecurity and malnutrition response in Somalia. Over the next six months (March – August 2024), the overall funding gap for WFP Somalia's Country Strategic Plan stands at USD 363 million, amounting to 68 percent of requirements. Of this, WFP's urgent funding gap for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance is USD 308 million (72 percent of the funding requirement).

Donors

Australia, China, Canada, Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, Denmark, European Union, Federal Government of Somalia, Finland, France, Germany, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, NORAD, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Somalia Humanitarian Fund, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UN CERF, United Kingdom, and USA.