



WFP Somalia

Country Brief

March 2024

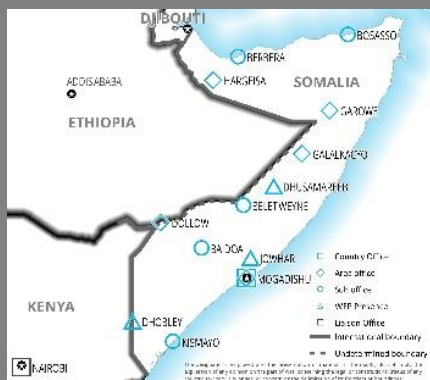


Operational Context

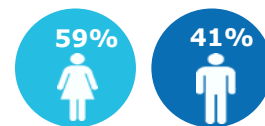
Somalia has an estimated population of 17 million. Poverty is widespread, with seven out of ten Somalis living on less than USD 1.90 a day. Recurrent climate-induced shocks, insecurity, protracted conflicts, environmental degradation, limited investments, and poor infrastructure continue to impact food 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.



In Numbers



3.1 million people assisted in March.

USD 31.7 million assistance delivered via cash-based transfers in March.

4,743 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed in March.

USD 228 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (April–September 2024).

Situation Update

[Latest Integrated Phase Classification \(IPC\) Food Security and Acute Malnutrition assessment](#) show that 4 million people face crisis-level or worse food insecurity between January and March 2024. Available forecasts suggest that the total rainfall from April to June in the upcoming *Gu* rainy season is likely to be [normal, with some areas experiencing above-average precipitation](#). Consequently, flooding in April and May is likely to occur, driving displacement and disrupting livelihoods. However, this marks the third season in a row with average to above-average rainfall, which should aid in the gradual recovery of agriculture and livestock. Factoring this in, the latest IPC projections for the April to June 2024 period indicate 3.4 million people facing acute food insecurity – signifying improvement particularly in rural areas where enhanced pasture and water for agriculture is foreseen. High levels of malnutrition persist in Somalia with 1.7 million children under five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2024, including 430,000 children likely to face life-threatening severe acute malnutrition.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian food assistance

Humanitarian assistance delivery enables WFP to reach the most food-insecure people, including in conflict-affected areas. In March, WFP reached 2 million people with USD 31 million cash transfers and 3,205 mt of in-kind food, including 232,000 people served under an expansion of the Government-led Shock Responsive Safety Net for Human Capital Project.

WFP continues to foster a strong and collaborative working relationship with UNHCR. Through a new partnership agreement, the two agencies are working towards effective support to refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees. The efforts include information/data sharing to enable prompt and efficient assistance. Within this agreement, WFP is leveraging on its expertise on cash-based transfers to cover food and nutritional needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees for period of six months.

Nutrition

In March, WFP provided nutrition support to 537,000 people, including children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and those suffering from tuberculosis or HIV. WFP is actively engaged with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) secretariat at the Office of the Prime Minister to complete a food fortification study, focusing on overall demand and supply of fortified food in Somalia.

Social protection

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)**

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	228 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 HGSE.
- 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 is a partner of choice for the Government on social protection. In March, WFP engaged with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to support the development of a national social protection strategy geared towards long-term human capital development in Somalia.

Promoting gender integration

WFP completed a comprehensive two-day master training for its field-level partners in Southwest and Jubaland, with a focus on gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The trainings equipped field-level partners with enhanced knowledge and skills to enable integration of gender equality principles, PSEA, and GBV prevention into programme design, implementation, and monitoring.

Climate-smart food systems

In March, WFP piloted a rollout of its Farm2go app in Hirshabelle. This app provides a digital solution to connect smallholder farmers with local buyers, enhances agricultural best practice knowledge, and introduces a digital way of conducting business for smallholder farmers. WFP also signed a partnership agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to strengthen institutional capacity in implementing land reforestation initiatives, promoting afforestation and establishing a robust monitoring framework.

Supply chain

The WFP-led Far Reaching Integrated Delivery project has facilitated the airlift of a diverse range of essential medical supplies, including 113,360 doses of vaccines, from Mogadishu to Dhusamareb in support of ongoing polio eradication initiatives in Somalia. In addition, WFP engaged with the Ministry of Health Directorate of Procurement and Supply Chain Management (PSM) to promote seamless logistics coordination among key PSM member organizations for enhanced procurement and supply chain management practices.

Funding

WFP thanks all donors for contributions towards food insecurity and malnutrition response in Somalia. Over the next six months (April–September 2024), the overall funding gap for WFP Somalia's Country Strategic Plan stands at USD 228 million, amounting to 56 percent of requirements. Of this, WFP's urgent funding gap for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance is USD 208 million (63 percent of the funding requirement).

Donors

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