



WFP Somalia

Country Brief

May 2024

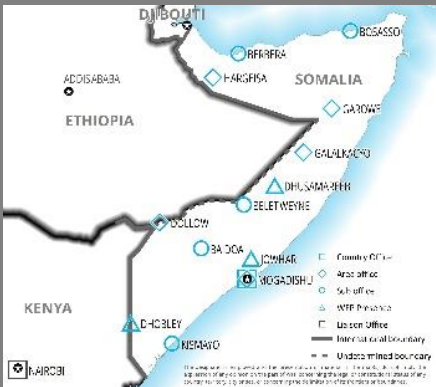


Operational Context

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.



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

2.9 million people assisted in May.

USD 18.6 million assistance delivered via cash-based transfers in May.

2,466 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed in May.

USD 171 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (June – November 2024).

Situation Update

3.4 million people are projected to be acutely food insecure in Somalia this month. The above average rainfall and localized floods, during the *Gu* rainy season (April – June) affected **268,000 people** and damaged livelihood assets. The number of people displaced reached **81,000** as the Shabelle river overflowed its banks in mid-May, flooding riverine communities in Belet Weyne district. Nevertheless, reduced rainfall and drier conditions have now gradually allowed the resumption of normal life. In Jubaland State, at least **24,000** displaced people have made their way back to their homes. In June, dry conditions and light rains are expected across most parts of the country, indicating an end of the *Gu* rainy season.

Operational Updates

Anticipatory action

WFP activated an anticipatory action response in coordination with the Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SODMA) in April, before the floods. By the end of May, anticipatory cash-based assistance, worth USD 1 million, reached 80,000 individuals in Baardheere, Luuq, Jowhar and Belet Weyne districts to help people prepare for and mitigate the impact of floods. Early warning messages disseminated via radio channels, caller ring-back tones and WhatsApp groups, in partnership with telecommunications service providers, reached 1.9 million people and provided guidance on flood preparation and safe evacuation. WFP and the Logistics cluster strategically propositioned and made available 14 boats which enabled evacuation and delivery of supplies.

Humanitarian food assistance

WFP reached 1.2 million people with humanitarian food assistance in May, distributing USD 5.9 million cash and 1,351 mt of in-kind food items. WFP, in collaboration with SODMA, continues to support the recently launched national Somalia Crisis Recovery Project (SCRp), to improve national and community-level disaster preparedness and response capacities in Hirshabelle and South West States. In May, WFP engaged with stakeholders, including communities and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs at the state level.

Nutrition

In May, WFP provided nutrition support to 423,000 people including children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and those suffering from tuberculosis or HIV.

Results from an assessment gauging how social and behaviour change messaging supported prevention of undernutrition indicated increased awareness on the importance of healthy diets and care practices – evidenced by 90 percent of respondents stating an improved understanding of breastfeeding and young child feeding practices and hygiene and 88 percent reporting shifts in attitudes around decision making between men and women for childcare. Close to half of respondents reported using cash entitlements to buy nutritious food and another 30 percent bought



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	171 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 school feeding in emergency, 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 strengthen 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.
- (Deactivated) Provide mandated emergency telecoms services to the humanitarian & development community through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster.

Picture Credit: WFP/Geneva Costopulos

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additional food such as rice and cereals for the household. Findings from the full impact evaluation study of the cash for prevention of undernutrition pilot will be available in July.

Linking smallholder farmers & home-grown school feeding

In May, WFP achieved a significant milestone by linking smallholder farmer cooperatives to the home-grown school feeding programme in Puntland and Hirshabelle States. By the end of the month, six cooperatives had supplied fresh produce (such as tomatoes, onions, leafy vegetables and watermelon) to 12 schools – enhancing access to safe nutritious meals and stimulating local production. Representatives from 23 cooperatives and 22 schools in Hirshabelle were trained to use WFP's Farm2Go app, a digital tool that seamlessly connects smallholder farmers with local buyers.

Institutional capacity strengthening

WFP, with UNICEF and UNDP, supported the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in organizing a human capital development (HCD) forum bringing together relevant government institutions, donors, civil society organizations and academia to take stock of progress made on HCD, understand impediments and strategize on the way forward. As part of the forum, WFP and UNDP also supported the OPM in coordinating a dedicated governance and institutional development workshop to enhance efficiency of government services and pathways that link and integrate various sectoral development activities in line with the Government's vision of establishing a national HCD strategy.

Enhancing community engagement and inclusion

WFP continued implementing its community engagement action plan across all offices in Somalia enabling stronger engagement with marginalized groups, including communities with minority affiliations and persons with disability. The engagement plan is further complemented by WFP's 2024-2025 disability inclusion entry plan that prioritizes engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities in alignment with UN-wide disability inclusion strategy.

Supporting and enabling the humanitarian community

In May, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) carried 1,890 passengers and over 20 mt of light cargo across Somalia and assisted 71 organizations in accessing 21 locations, including hard-to-reach areas. WFP as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster also completed the purchase of 12 inflatable boats on behalf of the humanitarian community to enhance the emergency preparedness and response capacity of the broader UN system and its partners for flood response in Somalia.

Funding

WFP thanks all donors for contributions towards food insecurity and malnutrition response in Somalia. Over the next six months (June – November 2024), the overall funding gap for WFP Somalia's Country Strategic Plan stands at USD 171 million, amounting to 47 percent of the requirements. Of this, WFP's urgent funding gap for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance is USD 165 million (55 percent of the requirements).

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, & USA.