



WFP Somalia

Country Brief

September 2024

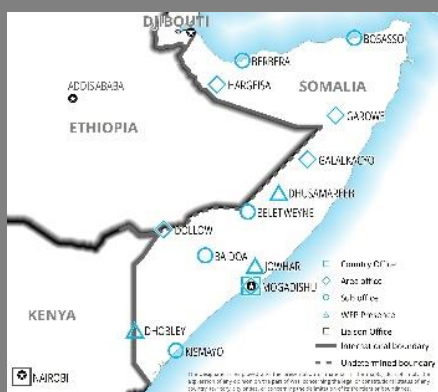


Operational Context

Somalia has an estimated population of 18.7 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: **18.7 million**

Internally displaced persons (IDPs): **3.8 million**

People facing acute food crisis: **4.4 million** (IPC 3 & above between Oct– Dec2024)

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

In Numbers

1.8 million people assisted in September.



USD 13.1 million delivered via cash-based transfers in September.

3,689 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed in September.

USD 261 million net funding requirements across all activities for the next six months (October 2024 – March 2025).

Situation Update

- Currently, **3.6 million** people are experiencing crisis levels of hunger, a figure projected to rise to **4.4 million** between October and December. This is due to anticipated below-average rains, localized flooding in the riverine and urban areas of Hiraan, Gedo, Middle Shabelle, and Lower Shabelle, ongoing conflict, high food prices, and diseases contributing to acute food insecurity and malnutrition.
- The latest IPC analysis indicates an 80 percent chance of *La Niña* conditions, which may lead to drought in Somalia. These forecasts suggest a below-normal *Deyr* rainy season (October-December) and above-normal temperatures particularly in northern and central regions, resulting in severe soil moisture loss, poor crop and fodder productivity, and further deterioration of food security in vulnerable communities.
- The situation is critical for children, with **1.6 million** under five at risk of acute malnutrition amongst which **403,000** are expected to suffer from severe malnutrition. Compared to the same season last year, this represents a 14 percent increase in Global Acute Malnutrition and 21 percent increase in Severe Acute Malnutrition. To avert further deterioration of food security and nutrition outcomes across the country, sustained humanitarian assistance, including anticipatory action, is urgently needed.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian food assistance

- WFP provided humanitarian food assistance to 1.1 million people in September, which included USD 12 million of cash-based transfers and 2,300 mt of in-kind food. WFP and its partners have been conducting full-household registration to optimize resource allocation and service delivery, ensuring that assistance reaches those most in need. In September alone, WFP and its partners registered 147,000 households across Mogadishu, Dolow, Galmudug, Puntland, and Somaliland.

Nutrition

- 533,000 children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls received nutrition support in September. Of these, 248,000 received nutrition support to treat moderate acute malnutrition, while 285,000 received preventative support including cash-based transfers worth USD 189,000 provided under the maternal and child health and nutrition intervention.
- WFP conducted meetings with the Ministries of Health for Puntland and Somaliland, and its partners in the field to develop action plans for implementing SCOPE in nutrition programmes. SCOPE is WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform and its use in nutrition programmes aims to enhance the quality and effectiveness by strengthening programme delivery and improve pipeline management of the specialized nutritious food (SNF).

Gender Transformative Programming & Community Engagement

- WFP conducted a validation workshop on gender analysis of climate risk insurance with key stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, and development partners. The analysis highlighted vulnerabilities women face due to

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	261 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, as well as early recovery and emergency livelihood support to crisis-affected people such as returning refugees, IDPs and people living with HIV.

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/Patrick Mwangi

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climate shocks, emphasizing the need for gender-responsive strategies in disaster risk management through a multisectoral approach.

Climate-Smart Food Systems

- WFP completed the three-year KOBCIYE project, which aimed to build the capacity of smallholder farmers to improve the availability and accessibility of food at household levels. The project benefited 31,800 people, and established 52 farmer producer groups across Puntland, Galmudug, and Jubaland States, providing them with farming equipment. Nearly 30 hectares of wasteland were reclaimed and utilized for crop production including watermelons, tomatoes, onions, beans, maize, and sorghum. To address climate change-induced water scarcity, the project supported farmers to build two boreholes with storage tanks in Abduwak and Hobyo, and rehabilitate five shallow wells with solar-powered systems, improving water access for more than 2,400 people.
- The KOBCIYE project also prioritised women's financial inclusion, establishing over 10 village savings and loan association groups. Supported women were able to save over USD 3,000 and access loans. Additionally, 1,320 women farmers received financial literacy training.

Home-Grown School Feeding Programme

- With the resumption of the academic school year in September, WFP provided school meals to 70,000 children through its home-grown school feeding programme. Food utilised in schools was procured from local markets injecting nearly USD 500,000 into the local economy and benefiting smallholder farmers and retailers. However, due to resourcing constraints, WFP has had to scale down its home-grown school feeding by 54 percent beginning 2024/25 academic year and suspend the school feeding programme in the Southwest, Somaliland, and Banadir regions. Adverse impacts from programme suspension have started emerging with schools in Somaliland already reporting a 29 percent decline in enrolment and 34 percent decline in attendance, disproportionately affecting girls.

UNHAS

- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) collaborates with the Somalia Civil Aviation Authorities and airport management to ensure coordinated efforts in providing safe and secure air transportation for the humanitarian community in Somalia. In September, UNHAS transported 1,267 passengers and 43 mt of light cargo and conducted 299 flights to 20 locations in Somalia. UNHAS stationed an additional Dornier aircraft in Mogadishu to meet the rising demand for services in the South-Central regions.

Funding

- WFP thanks all donors for contributions towards addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia. Over the next six months (October 2024 – March 2025), the funding gap for WFP Somalia's Country Strategic Plan stands at USD 261 million, amounting to 65 percent of the requirements. Of this, WFP's urgent funding gap for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance is USD 234 million (71 percent of the requirements).

Donors:

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