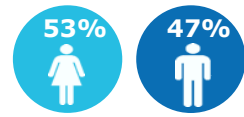




WFP Somalia Country Brief December 2024



In Numbers

1.5 million people assisted

US\$ 12.4 million delivered via cash-based transfers

3,338 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed

US\$ 299 million net funding requirements for the next six months (January – June 2025)

Situation Update

- Approximately **4.4 million** people in Somalia are currently facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Between August 2024 and July 2025, around **1.6 million children** are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition. Of these, an estimated 403,000 children are expected to experience severe acute malnutrition (SAM), a life-threatening condition that demands urgent intervention and specialized care.
- The 2024 deyr rains have been significantly **below average**, severely affecting pasture conditions, particularly in southern and central Somalia. The early cessation of these rains has exacerbated the situation, leading to poor vegetation growth, and further degrading the already vulnerable livelihoods of pastoral and agropastoral communities.
- An estimated **5.98 million** people are projected to require humanitarian assistance in 2025. The **jilaal dry season** (January to March) is expected to be exceptionally harsh, with extreme temperatures worsening already poor pasture conditions and further reducing water availability. These conditions are likely to deepen food insecurity across affected regions.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian food assistance

- In December, WFP provided essential humanitarian assistance to 864,000 people, delivering cash-based transfers totalling US\$ 10 million and distributing 2,094 mt of in-kind food.
- To improve targeting of aid, WFP and its partners continued with the full household registration process, which began in August 2024 to ensure assistance reaches the most vulnerable, improve efficiency, and strengthen accountability. As of December, registrations and verifications have been completed for 170,000 households across Somalia, achieving 85 percent of the target.

Nutrition

- WFP provided vital nutrition support to 502,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG) through cash-based transfers amounting to US\$ 777,000 and the distribution of 1,215 mt of specialized nutritious commodities. This included treatment for moderate acute malnutrition for 222,000 children and PBWG, as well as malnutrition prevention support for 280,000 children and PBWG.
- To complement nutrition efforts, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, trained 107 health workers on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) in Galmudug, Puntland and Jubaland to improve malnutrition detection and management. In addition, 27 storekeepers in Puntland were trained in nutrition commodity management. These coordinated efforts aim to improve the delivery of nutrition services and achieve better malnutrition outcomes.

Climate-smart food systems:

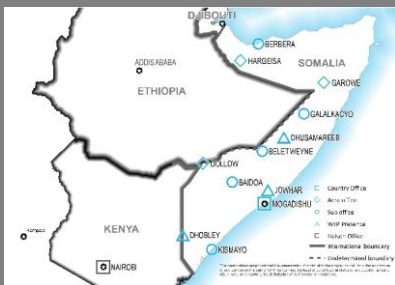
- WFP strengthened the capacity of 80,000 people to build their resilience to the impacts of shocks and climate change through cash assistance and delivery of early warning messages.

Operational Context

Somalia has an estimated population of 18.7 million. Poverty is widespread, with seven out of ten Somalis living on less than US\$ 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 when famine was averted 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 2025.



Population: **18.7 million**

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

People facing acute food crisis: **4.4 million** (IPC 3 & above between Oct– Dec 2024)

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

WFP Country Strategy

Country strategic plan (2022-2025)

Total requirement (In US\$)	Allocated contributions (in US\$)	Six-month net funding requirements (in US\$)
4.7 billion	1.9 billion	299 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 home-grown school feeding.
- 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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- The December Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP Steering Committee meeting marked significant progress in advancing the Climate-Smart Food Systems initiatives. The meeting focused on reducing food system vulnerabilities to climate change, increasing agricultural productivity, and promoting sustainable farming practices, water management, and crop diversification. Key outcomes included evaluating projects, identifying scaling opportunities, and strengthening collaboration on climate-resilient seeds and digital tools for climate risk management. The meeting also stressed enhancing women's participation in cooperative governance for sustainability.

Gender Transformative Programming:

- WFP commissioned the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) study to assess the empowerment levels of women in Somalia's agriculture, recognizing the critical role gender equality plays in building a resilient agricultural sector. The study revealed a WEAI score of 0.695 (1= full empowerment), highlighting empowerment gaps due to cultural, social, and structural barriers. These challenges leave women overburdened and limit their leadership roles, despite their key contributions to agriculture. The study recommended the need to improve women's access to productive assets, decision-making, group membership, and autonomy in agricultural production, and address unpaid care work and asset ownership through Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) to shift entrenched social norms.

Complaint and Feedback Mechanism:

- To ensure responsiveness and transparency, WFP operates a call centre to safeguard the rights, dignity, and safety of crisis-affected people, providing a safe and accessible system such as a toll-free hotline for feedback, helping the people served with the ability to seek critical programme information, voice concerns, lodge complaints, and report issues. Throughout 2024, WFP received 92,000 calls, a significant increase from 42,000 in 2023, with a 99 percent of cases ranging from complaints to requests for assistance being resolved. Enhanced community engagement has increased awareness of the feedback mechanism, entitlements, and assistance durations, strengthening trust between communities and WFP and encouraging greater use of the call centre.

Logistics Operations

- As part of WFP's ongoing commitment to the timely and safe delivery of humanitarian supplies, the Logistics Cluster, through On Demand Services (ODS) and WFP Kenya Logistics, successfully facilitated a cross-border road delivery from Kenya to Somalia for UNICEF. A total of 188.25 mt of humanitarian cargo was delivered through the three border entry points, providing crucial support to UNICEF's mission.

Funding

- WFP thanks all donors supporting efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia. For the next six months (Jan – June 2025), WFP Somalia's Country Strategic Plan faces a US\$ 299 million funding gap, representing 71 percent of the requirements. The urgent funding shortfall for life-saving humanitarian relief and nutrition assistance stands at US\$ 283.7 million, 80 percent of the requirements.

Donors

African Development Bank, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Federal Government of Somalia, France, Germany, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), Japan, Private donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA.