



WFP Somalia

Country Brief

May 2025



Operational Context

Somalia faces complex challenges of protracted conflict, limited social services and escalating climate shocks. In a country with an estimated population of 19.3 million, 5.98 million people are likely to require humanitarian assistance, driven by food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to basic services. Frequent and severe climate extremes, alternating droughts and floods, have devastated agriculture and livelihoods, deepening vulnerabilities across the country.

Poverty remains widespread, with 54 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Youth, comprising 75 percent of the population, face limited opportunities, contributing to displacement. Education access is low, with millions of children out of school, many exposed to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, early marriage, and family separation. Women and children (almost 80 percent of the internally displaced) face heightened protection risks in overcrowded, under-resourced settlements.

Security remains fragile. Government-led offensives continue against non-State armed actors. In January 2025, the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) replaced the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), supporting Somali-led stabilization and peacebuilding efforts.

Amid these challenges, Somalia's National Transformation Plan (2025–2029) charts a path toward stability through governance reform, sustainable economic growth, human capital development and climate resilience. WFP aligns with this framework, delivering life-saving assistance while strengthening long-term resilience under its Country Strategic Plan (2022–2025).



Population: **19.3 million**

Internally displaced persons (IDPs):
3.9 million

People facing acute food crisis:
4.6 million (IPC 3 & above
between Apr–Jun 2025)

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

In Numbers

1.1 million people assisted

US\$ 7 million delivered via cash-based transfers

2,044 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed

US\$ 266 million net funding requirements for the next six months
(July – December 2025)



Situation Update.

- **4.6 million** people are likely to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse, including 784,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) between April and June. Malnutrition remains critical, with **1.8 million** children under five projected to suffer from acute malnutrition, including 479,000 with severe acute malnutrition.
- Drought conditions in Somalia varied **between January and May 2025**. Early in the year, drought affected much of central and northeastern regions. In April, gradual rainfall brought some relief to the south, while the north remained dry due to below-average and poorly distributed Gu rains. By May, localized Gu rainfall improved soil and vegetation in most southern and central regions. However, persistent dryness and inconsistent rainfall in some regions highlight the need for continued monitoring and support. Despite some improvement, food security and malnutrition remain fragile.
- **Looking ahead**, while the June to August 2025 *Hagaa* (dry) season is forecast to bring localized coastal rains, especially in Lower and Middle Juba, Lower Shabelle, and parts of northern coastal Somaliland, inland and central areas are expected to remain mostly dry. With the *Hagaa* season generally delivering minimal rainfall, pasture and water sources are likely to decline, especially where *Gu* rains were insufficient.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian food assistance:

- WFP provided lifesaving food assistance to 776,000 people in May with cash-based transfers amounting to US\$ 5.3 million and in-kind food distributions of 1,608 mt.
- WFP together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) concluded the Strengthening and Linking of Early Warning Systems programme under the Somalia Crisis Recovery Project. The project supported the formation of disaster management committees at federal, state and community levels and expanded early warning systems through digital and community channels. Simultaneously, it also supported SoDMA through investments in real-time geospatial analysis tools, inclusive training and institutional support; and integration of regulatory frameworks, standard operating procedures and contingency plans – laying strong foundations for nationally led and risk-informed disaster risk management.

Nutrition support:

- In May, WFP provided nutrition support to 149,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls through the distribution of 436 mt of specialized nutritious commodities.
- WFP maintains a strong partnership with the Scaling Up Nutrition Secretariat, hosted in the Office of the Prime Minister (SUN-OPM), and collaborates on national priorities to advance evidence-based nutrition planning. WFP is providing technical support to SUN-

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 | 2.3 billion | 266 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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OPM for a Fill the Nutrient Gap study which will assess the cost and affordability of nutritious diets across Somalia. WFP is also supporting the development of the Somalia Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy (2025–2030), aligned with the National Transformation Plan 2025-2029 to promote integrated, nationally owned and data-driven nutrition programming.

Home-grown school feeding:

- In May, 90,000 schoolchildren benefitted from WFP’s school meals programme. Meals contributed US\$ 972,000 to the local economy through the procurement of locally sourced food, supporting smallholder farmers, strengthening local food systems, and helping to keep children in school.
- WFP has joined the Anticipatory Action Task Team under the Education Cluster to explore how adaptive school feeding strategies can be utilized to maintain educational continuity during lean seasons or periods of crisis. This initiative is aligned with anticipatory action efforts aimed at mitigating high dropout rates even during shocks.

Food systems:

- In May, WFP supported 13,000 smallholder farmers through the provision of agricultural and market support activities.
- WFP co-chaired a high-level meeting of the UN Climate and Resilience Pillar Working Group with the Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development and UN partners to review 2024 achievements and align 2025 priorities. The session highlighted gains in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable water management and community-based adaptation. WFP reaffirmed its leadership in advancing food system resilience through integrated asset creation and climate-smart programming, underscoring its commitment to Somalia’s climate-security agenda and locally led, inclusive solutions.

UNHAS and Logistics Cluster:

- In May, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) facilitated the transportation of 803 passengers, airlifted 11 mt of non-food items and medical cargo, supported 50 organizations and operated flights to 17 destinations across Somalia.
- To sustain life-saving operations, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster delivered 119 mt of humanitarian cargo including food, medicine, WASH items and shelter kits to eight hard-to-reach areas on behalf of nine partners.

Funding

- WFP thanks all donors supporting efforts to address food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia. For the next six months (July–December 2025), WFP Somalia faces a **US\$ 266 million** funding gap across all its activities, representing **68 percent** of the requirements. The urgent funding shortfall for life-saving humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support stands at **US\$ 234 million, 73 percent** of the requirements.

Donors

Austria, 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.