

WFP Somalia Country Brief October 2025



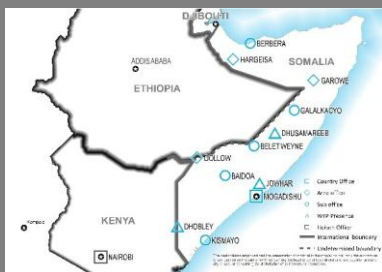
Operational Context

Somalia faces complex challenges of protracted conflict, limited social services and escalating climate shocks. With an estimated population of **19.3 million**, 6 million people are likely to require life-saving 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, who make up 75 percent of the population, face limited opportunities, contributing to displacement. Education access is low, with over 3.3 million children (65%) 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.

The country's security remains fragile. Since January 2025, the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) has been involved in Somali-led efforts for stabilization and peacebuilding.

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: 4.4 million (IPC 3 & above between Oct–Dec 2025)	National global acute malnutrition rate: 14.3 percent (serious)

In Numbers

1.7 million people assisted

USD 17 million delivered via cash-based transfers

3,807 mt of in-kind food assistance distributed

USD 137 million six months net funding requirements (December 2025 – May 2026)



Situation Update

- Somalia is experiencing a worsening food security and nutrition crisis. Forecast for the [2025 Deyr rains](#) indicate below average rainfall, with a delayed start and higher-than-normal temperatures. These challenging conditions are expected to intensify drought in the north, hinder recovery efforts in the south, and heighten the risk of crop failure, livestock losses, and water scarcity. There remains a risk of localized flash floods despite the generally dry outlook.
- Somalia's climate outlook remains concerning, with La Niña and a negative Indian Ocean Dipole expected to prolong erratic rainfall and drought. Nearly [4.4 million](#) Somalis, almost a quarter of the population, are projected to face acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or worse), and [1.85 million](#) children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition. WFP and partners urgently require additional resources to scale up drought response, protect gains, and address ongoing climate volatility into early 2026.

Operational Updates

Humanitarian Food Assistance

- WFP provided life-saving food assistance to **1.2 million** people across Somalia during October, delivering USD **14.7 million** in cash transfers and **2,729 mt** of in-kind food to vulnerable communities.
- Funding constraints have forced major reductions in WFP's assistance. By November, WFP's assistance will drop to 450,000 and will reach less than 1 in 10 people in need of food assistance. From November 2025, WFP's cash-based transfers (CBT) will decline by over 80 percent to just under 100,000. This will disproportionately impact people in IPC4 in areas where only CBT can be delivered due to access constraints. By March 2026, all food distributions (CBT and in-kind) will end.
- With WFP covering over 90 percent of Somalia's food security response, urgent and sustained funding is essential to prevent millions from falling into hunger.

Nutrition Support

- In October, WFP provided specialized nutrition support to **399,000** children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to prevent and manage acute malnutrition. Due to funding cuts, WFP's malnutrition treatment programmes will be reduced to just 90,000 in December 2025.
- To maximize impact amid significant funding gaps, WFP and UNICEF have launched a joint plan for November 2025–March 2026, prioritizing regions with the highest rates of malnutrition and vulnerability. The partnership will deliver integrated services through co-located nutrition sites, ensure equitable coverage across regions, and harmonize tools and monitoring systems, helping vulnerable families access essential nutrition support despite limited resources.

Social Protection

- In October, WFP provided emergency cash-based transfers to **383,000** vulnerable individuals through government-led systems, addressing urgent needs and reinforcing national social protection capacity.

WFP Country Strategy

Country strategic plan (2022-2025)		
Total requirement (In USD)	Allocated contributions (in USD)	Six-month net funding requirements (in USD)
3.9 billion	2.3 billion	137 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-UNICEF/Arete/Ahmed Luzako
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- With WFP’s technical support, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA) formalized Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to define roles and strengthen coordination for climate shock response, an important step toward building an integrated, shock-responsive social protection system (SRSP). Building on these SOPs, SoDMA brought together MoLSA, donors, and WFP to operationalize a transparent SRSP trigger model. This model provides a clear mechanism for activating and targeting shock responses, laying the groundwork for a nationally coordinated framework that ensures timely support to those most at risk.

Home-Grown School Feeding

- During the month of October, WFP’s school meals programme assisted **103,000** schoolchildren, providing nutritious meals that support both learning and well-being. By sourcing food locally, the programme injected nearly USD **767,000** into the local economy, supporting smallholder farmers and strengthening local food systems.
- Demonstrating a strong commitment to child nutrition and education, WFP partnered with the Banadir Regional Administration to relaunch the school meals programme in Mogadishu. This joint initiative will provide daily meals to over 3,000 children across six public schools for the 2025-26 school year, helping students stay focused, healthy, and in class. Joint planning, school visits, and strategic dialogue have formalized this partnership, underscoring a shared commitment to giving every child the opportunity to learn and thrive.

Integrating Gender into Climate and Risk Finance

- WFP Somalia has developed the country’s first Gender-Smart Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Toolkit, setting a new standard for inclusive disaster risk management and climate finance. By embedding gender considerations throughout programme design and delivery, the toolkit strengthens community resilience to climate shocks, and advances gender equality. It offers practical guidance for integrating gender perspectives into risk analysis, targeting, budgeting, and monitoring, while building local capacity for gender-responsive action. WFP is working closely with government, UN agencies, and NGOs to promote adoption and integration of the toolkit, advancing Somalia’s national priorities and WFP’s commitment to inclusive, people-centred solutions.

UNHAS and Logistics Cluster

- In October, UNHAS transported 745 passengers and 19 mt of medical and non-food cargo to 18 destinations across Somalia, including hard-to-reach areas, enabling operations for 45 organizations.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster delivered 135 mt of essential relief supplies, including WASH, Health and Nutrition to seven hard-to-reach locations and provided storage for 255 mt of goods across six strategic sites ahead of the rainy season.

Funding

- WFP thanks all donors for their continued support in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia. From December 2025 to May 2026, WFP faces a USD **137 million** funding gap, representing **66 percent** of overall requirement.
- WFP’s funding requirements have been revised to reflect the needs of prioritized populations in greatest need, allowing WFP to focus available scarce resources on critical life-saving interventions. Despite this reprioritization, an urgent shortfall of USD **130 million** remains for humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support representing **78 percent** of the requirements.

Donors

Ajram Foundation, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Federal Government of Somalia, France, Germany, Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), Japan, JAWP, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UN SDG Fund, United Kingdom (FCDO), USA, Zoetis Foundation.