



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP SOMALIA

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Somalia's humanitarian needs are rapidly escalating amid a severe food security and nutrition crisis driven by recurrent drought, conflict, climate shocks, access constraints and economic pressures driven by global shocks. Shrinking resources, macroeconomic pressure and extremely reduced assistance are eroding household resilience and deepening vulnerability.
- An estimated 6.5 million people are projected to face IPC Phase 3 or worse between February and March 2026, nearly double the 3.4 million recorded in early 2025, with over 2 million in IPC Phase 4
- WFP operations are facing severe funding constraints, with food assistance potentially halting by July 2026 without new resources.

IN NUMBERS



1.2 million people assisted in February



5,033 mt food distributed



USD 6.4 million cash transferred



USD 122.2 million (April- September 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: © WFP/CRC/Mohamed Abdirisak Ali

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Somalia continues to face severe food insecurity, with most regions classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as the country moves through the peak of the Jilaal dry season (February–March).
- The failed 2025 Deyr rains caused widespread crop failure, with cereal production estimated at [83 percent](#) below the long-term average, significantly depleting household food stocks. Water scarcity and poor pasture conditions have weakened livestock health and reduced milk availability, further limiting food access for vulnerable households.
- Humanitarian needs remain extremely high, with an estimated [6.5 million](#) people projected to require assistance between February and March. The most affected include agropastoral communities in Bay and Bakool, pastoral households in central and northern regions facing livestock losses, and large internally displaced person (IDP) settlements where high food prices and limited livelihoods continue to widen consumption gaps. Acute malnutrition is elevated nationwide and is expected to worsen until the onset of the Gu rains.
- Economic pressures driven by conflict in the Middle East and global shocks are worsening Somalia's domestic fragility. This has led to supply chain delays, staple cereal prices rising 10-40 percent, fuel costs surging by [108 percent](#), and water costs increasing by 50-200 percent. It has also resulted in reduced household purchasing power, as rising transport, fuel, and commodity costs strain already drought-affected families.
- Humanitarian funding shortfalls continue to constrain response capacity, leading to reduced assistance compared to previous years and leaving significant coverage gaps in high-risk, conflict-affected, and hard-to-reach areas.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Humanitarian Food Assistance

- WFP provided life-saving food assistance to 915,000 people across Somalia in February, delivering USD 5.3 million in cash-based transfers and 4,600 mt of in-kind food to vulnerable food insecure communities.

Early Recovery

- In February, WFP supported 12,000 people with early recovery assistance to rebuild livelihoods amid ongoing droughts. In Jubaland, recovery efforts focused on improving water access, market functionality, and income-earning opportunities. Achievements included rehabilitation of water infrastructure, irrigation systems covering over 21 hectares, feeder roads strengthening market linkages, and support to the Dhobley milk market. Additionally, 550 youths completed market-driven vocational training, strengthening household resilience and community recovery.

Nutrition Support

- In February, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 145,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls to prevent and manage acute malnutrition.
- WFP engaged with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF to strengthen national nutrition systems by aligning policies, improving joint planning, advancing food-fortification priorities, and supporting evidence-based decision-making. This collaboration is particularly important as malnutrition continues to rise and funding constraints place increasing strain on national systems, helping maintain the effectiveness and continuity of essential nutrition services for vulnerable communities.

Social Protection

- WFP provided emergency cash-based transfers to 254,000 vulnerable individuals through government-led systems, addressing urgent needs and reinforcing national social protection capacity.
- WFP continue to work with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management to advance drought-risk financing under the African Risk Capacity (ARC) mechanism, strengthening Somalia's readiness to mobilize pre-arranged financing and rapidly scale government-led support to communities affected by climate-related shocks.

Home-Grown School Feeding

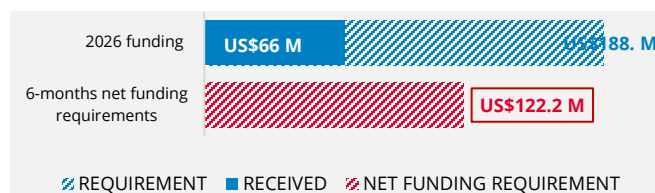
- WFP's school meals programme assisted 117,000 school children in February, providing nutritious meals that support learning and attendance. By sourcing food locally, the programme injected nearly USD 862,000 into the economy, benefiting smallholder farmers and strengthening local food systems.

- WFP supported the Federal Ministry of Education's participation in the 11th African Day of School Feeding in Gaborone, Botswana, by facilitating Somalia's engagement in regional dialogue and advancing national leadership on school meals. In parallel, WFP worked with Federal Member States, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Puntland, Southwest, and Jubaland, to host national-level celebrations for the first time, elevating political commitment to expanding home-grown school feeding. These engagements highlighted the programme's contribution to improved learning and nutrition outcomes and helped catalyze broader government and partner momentum toward sustainable, locally driven school meals systems and increased domestic resource mobilization.

UNHAS and Logistics Cluster

- In February, UNHAS transported 697 passengers and 23 mt of cargo to 20 destinations across Somalia, including hard-to-reach areas, enabling operations for 54 organizations.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster delivered 201 mt of relief supplies to seven hard-to-reach locations and provided storage for 309 mt across six hubs, supporting partners' last-mile delivery through cost-efficient transport, shared storage and strengthened operational coordination.

FUNDING OVERVIEW



- WFP thanks all donors for their continued support in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Somalia. From April-September 2026, WFP faces a USD 122.2 million funding gap, representing 65 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 102 million remains for humanitarian food assistance and nutrition support representing 75 percent of the requirements

Donors:

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